

Heli News 7

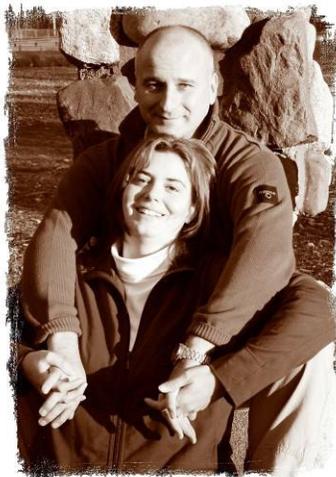
December 2005 from Germany!

Dear Friends and Family,

Today we accomplished something very important: we loaded the container with our personal belongings, boxes with clothes, books Tanja's medical equipments and not to forget our four-wheel-drive car. The container is on its way to Bremerhaven, a German city at the North Sea, from where it'll start December 31 with a ship towards Madagascar, where it should arrive January 28th. In the harbour of Toamasina we will unload everything, pass it through customs and bring it to our new home. Hopefully we will see all of our belongings again, probably around the beginning of February. It sounds easy, when we write, we loaded a container, but it was an unplanned adventure: At 10am everything and everybody was ready, next to the road. 11:30 am we recognized, that they forgot to send the container. Till 3 pm we kept calling and at 6:30 pm we finally started loading. As the company did a mistake they sent us a double size container, but we have to pay only the normal prize. Praise the Lord. It was exciting and exasperating, but it is over. From now on, please pray daily with us, that EVERYTHING arrives safe and sound and completely in Madagascar and that we won't have problems with customs.



Gerd: Since our last newsletter I could fly more hours than necessary and expected. Every single one I flew without paying and for my old company, where I used to work for 1 year as a mechanic. "Thank you, Hahn Helicopter!" You contributed a lot that I will be bringing help through the air for people in the bush of Madagascar from January on.



Tanja: Arriving in Madagascar is very exciting for me as I will start to find out, what my place will be there, especially as a midwife. Since we had to move so often, I couldn't work as I wished to during the last years. It was hard for me, but I did it cheerfully, well knowing, that in Africa one day, I won't be without work. During the last weeks we met different people who were missionaries in Madagascar. They ensured me, that it will be easy for me to find work. Please pray with me for finding God's spot for me there!

During the remaining 4 weeks in Germany we will organize lots of paperwork while saying "Good Bye" to our friends and family. Leaving this time will be for longer than ever before. Leaving people, but also many things, those are so usual and granted here, and will be so different soon. We want to say "Thank you" that you are sharing our call and way and letting us go. For our close friends and of course our families it is the same sad part like for us. But it will be rewarded! We heard lot about our future home and we are looking forward to helping and serving the Madagascar people. January 8th 2006 we will celebrate a sending service at 10 am and have a open house afterwards. After lunch Ernie tanner, the founder of Helimission will talk for a while and while having coffee and cake we can talk and say Good bye. We are looking forward to see you that day! Please let us know by January 2nd if you will participate. Everything takes place at our church in Hanau, Hindemithstraße 14.



In November we spent 3 weeks in Grand Rapids as planned to visit our friends and church. We had a great time getting to know each other better and meeting new people. At the end we also had to say Good Bye for a long time. Our church sent us as their missionaries too, like our German church will do in January. We had a wonderful, blessed open house one Sunday evening. In July a couple will visit us in Madagascar and we think it is awesome and encouraging! Thank you, River of God Church!

During the last months in 2005 different newspapers wrote reports with pictures about us. The newspaper in our hometown will write every 3 months about us from now on. We pray that God will touch hearts for new supporters. It is more difficult than ever before to encourage people to donate regularly. But we trust and know it will be possible to receive all we need. During the last 13 months we didn't receive a fixed income, but we always had enough. Sometimes "last minute" and by smaller or bigger miracles, but we had no lack at all. Since we gave up our apartment we never paid rent again, all the time in America we had a car for free and just buying gas was our part. We didn't take it granted, but we see our Lord providing for our needs.

From January on we need regularly a certain amount of money to pay our rent, groceries, fuel, and what else we can purchase in Africa. We still pray and need more supporters. But we trust, that by the time we need it, God will provide it. Perhaps you would like to consider contributing a small amount of it?

Now the years of training and preparation are almost over, years of change for us. Many of our plans needed to be changed, we had to follow ways, we didn't plan and like at first, moving regularly, leaving friends we just made. Looking back from today's perspective we can say with satisfied and grateful hearts, that we had wonderful years of training. Not every single part of these years was wonderful, but we had no promise for that anyway. At a church around the corner in Grand Rapids they had a sign: "God didn't promise a calm passage, but a safe landing." We feel like safely landed, at least for the moment. January 20th we start with a new part of our life, a new flight. Part of it feels like arriving at our goal but actually it is also starting. We are excited and we hope you are, too. We will keep sending our newsletter every 3 months and shorter monthly reports. On our webpage you will find new pictures every once in a while. More then before we hope for your emails, calls, visits, donations and prayers. We hope to see you at the sending service in January and spent some time together.

With saying "Merry Christmay" and "A happy New Year" we say "Good Bye" from Germany and we will write again from Madagascar soon.

In Jesus Love - Yours,

Gerd & Tanja

Something funny at the end
When we moved the first time years ago, somebody gave us a card, and we had no clue how true it would be one day!
"If you would go to where the pepper grows..... God would be there, too!"



That is a German saying for going to a place far away. Actually, Madagascar is the country where the pepper grows! Now we are happy to know God will be there with us!