



# Newsletter Hilde van der Draai

June 2013

## Prayers:

**\* Pray for our students and their families which are in insecure places in the country.**

**\* Pray for my colleagues that they might feel encouraged and that my new colleagues shall feel comfortable during their stay in the college.**

**\* A container from Iteams arrived in Uganda, pray that this month all the materials shall arrive in South Sudan.**

## A River of Mercy

At the end of April I went for a short break to Uganda. Together with a friend I went to the Rwenzori Mountain. The mountainous environment was a real refreshment to me. I had time to pray and reflect. While I was watching the river flowing from the mountain I was amazed by God's mercy and love for us. God's mercy is unending and so powerful, flowing over us like the river is flowing over every stone, no matter which shape it has..



In Uganda I visited the project I have been working with before. It was good to meet friends and children from the project. I also had an inspiring meeting with a lecturer from a university in Kampala, who has exactly the same vision for a Christian training program for early-childhood teachers. We are looking forward to work together in the future, for the benefit of our program in South Sudan and her program in Uganda.

After my time in Uganda, I was happy to be united again with my friends and colleagues at the college in South Sudan.

The beginning of this new term has been a bit hard for us. We lost a colleague/friend who was with us in the college since the beginning of this year. Some of my colleagues also lost closed relatives. I am thankful that in the midst of grief, God is giving us strength to go on with the mission! We are encouraged by the commitment of our students. I am very thankful for all the support I receive from my family and close friends.

## We have new colleagues!

Melodie came from Canada to be with us for two weeks in June. She is teaching our students strategies for Assessment and Evaluation. Her professional input has been an inspiration as well for the students as for me. Simone from Switzerland is already staying in South Sudan for some years. She has agreed to be our part-time lecturer. She will teach her first course in July. I am looking forward to spend time with her!

## Mount Meru University has accredited our Program!

During my time in Uganda, my colleague Daniel went to the university in Tanzania to discuss some of our programmes. The meeting went very well. The In-Service Certificate Program, for untrained teacher who will receive training during their holidays, has been accredited! This means that the students will receive a certificate from a university, which will be a great advantage for them. The first students from this program will graduate this year in November. We feel very blessed that our work has been valued and acknowledged by the university.



Picture: These 5 students will receive their certificate in November this year.

**International  
Teams**

International Teams (Ermelo)  
Bank Account: 1556 67 777  
T.n.v. Van Der Draai Soedan

Voor meer informatie kijk op: [w. www.assistinchrist.org](http://www.assistinchrist.org)

## Teacher Students Training

The Primary Teachers had a holiday in May, so our teacher-students came for a course to the College. To combine new knowledge with new teaching strategies has been challenging and enjoyable for the students and myself!

I developed competence-cards, to help the students to reflect on their own skills. The students were also able to play a game with the cards.



The major topic in the course that I was teaching in May was the social emotional development of children. The students learned how to observe children in this area and how to give them guidance in order for them to grow in Christian characters. The students came up with real examples from children in their schools. They discovered the importance for children to have a good relationship with their parents, teacher and other children. So many children lack this relationships in this country and this has a direct impact on their development.

## Diploma-Student's Commitment...

During the holidays in May, some students went back to their villages and relatives. When we asked them to share with us their experiences, their stories were shocking for us. I will share some stories with you, in the hope that you will also discover the commitment of our students in the midst of all danger and difficulties.

Our first year student Longiromoi was volunteering as a teacher in his village during his holiday. One day his village was attacked by soldiers. He decided to stay in the school to protect the learners. People were shot and the whole village was burned. Although he lost all his properties, he is thankful that his wife and children were able to run to relatives in another village. He managed to save his documents by paying money to a soldier. After everything had happened he made up his mind and came back to ECC to continue with his studies!

Our second year student Rebecca went to the village of her aunt. While she was there, the village received a threatening letter. Through her classmates we received the information that she was in that specific village. We started to pray for her. She decided to travel to ECC, while she had to use a very insecure road on which many incidents had happened during that week. We are so thankful for God's grace and protection upon her life. Rebecca reached the college safely.

At the beginning of the new term, we were surprised to see our second year student Chol in our college. He did not come for the first term, due to family issues. He told us the complete story. When Chol got married, he had never paid the dowry. The family of his wife



was now demanding the cows. It is a culture to keep the cows in different places and with different relatives. For around three months he was walking from village to village to collect his cows. When he finally got all the cows, he handed them over to his family-in-law and could continue with his studies.