

Newsletter Geanne in Africa

Hi everyone!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" – Psalm 118:1

Warm greetings from Germany. It is time to give you another update again, while so much has happened since I wrote my last newsletter in March. I would like to tell you a little about the last few months. I must be honest that it is not so easy for me to do so. I said goodbye to Melusi and am now in Germany and the Netherlands for the next months until we get married. It is still often chaos in my mind, as it feels like I am living between three worlds and trying to settle while it is a lot of new impressions, people and a new culture. But I know and experienced so much of the goodness of God. He has been so faithful and trustworthy. So I want to give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.



Farewell to Melusi

As I told you in the last newsletter, we have decided to get married this year and I would say goodbye to Melusi for now. The week after Easter I flew to South Africa to spend seven weeks there. Even though it was hard to say goodbye and leave my home there, it was still a meaningful and blessed time. I could meet a lot of people and had precious talks. I such went on outreach, led worship and cooked a few times in the kitchen. We went walking on the mountain, played games, had fun with the mission kids and we ate together many times. I realized how special the relationships are that I built in Melusi with my Melusi family and also the people in the township. Little Geanne grew so much and mama Maria came dancing out of the car when she saw me again. One the gogo's said that she needs to have a talk with Harry, because he can't just take me away from South Africa. Precious moments that I won't forget. In between of all the appointments and time spent with people I sorted out my house. That was a bigger job than I thought. So many decisions: what do I take, what do I give away or throw away? One of the hardest things while doing that, was to give my cat away. She was important to me and it was not so easy to say goodbye to her. In the last week we had a special service in church to say goodbye and we had an evening with the team. That were really moments were we could worship together and celebrate the goodness of God and what He has done in Melusi and my life in the past eight years. Of course we cried and it is hard to leave the people that became my family. But I wanted it to be a time as well where we could sing of God's faithfulness and praise Him for He is good.



Siyamthanda

In my last week in Melusi we did have another farewell. One we did not expect and never wanted to have. Even though it is a sad story, I would like to share with you as it is a reality of our lives in South Africa and I would like to ask you to pray with me. In the first week that I was back in South Africa, I went on outreach to Dlamini as we usually do on Wednesday's. As I figured out from mama Maria, one of the ladies who is sometimes part of the biblestudy ended up in hospital. She has a teenage daughter, Siyamthanda. As I was concerned about her being home alone without mom, we went to find her. The ladies in the village said that she had been hanging out with bad friends, since her mom was no longer at home. When we found her and as I started talking to her, she started crying. She was lost and broken. It broke my heart too, but little did I know that this was our goodbye. I would never see her again. The week after we found out that a body was found next to the township. It turned out to be Siyamthanda. She was murdered. It was so painful and gave us so many questions. Some days later, her mom passed away in hospital so we ended up burying both of them at the same day. This story made me so aware again how much we should pray for Dlamini, the part of the township we minister to every Wednesday. It is such a dark place, full of evil. But Jesus says that His light shines in the darkness and that the darkness could not overcome it. Do you pray with me for the salvation of the people in Dlamini?

Saying goodbye and looking forward

And then came the moment that I really had to say goodbye to Melusi and the team. On Friday morning 2 June Peter took me to the airport. It was a difficult moment to really say goodbye to the team and to leave Melusi. It has been my home for the last eight years. That was painful. But I was also looking forward so much to see Harry again and to carry on with our plans and our future together. It is a mix of so many emotions at the moment. The next months we will prepare our wedding and we will get married in October. After that we will stay for more or less a year in Germany. Then we would like to go in missions together as we both believe God calls us to do that. We are praying and believe that God will show us the way.



Practical information

For now this will be my last newsletter as for the next year we will stay in Germany. But we would love to keep you updated next year about our plans and what will happen. I will keep the list with email addresses and will send you an update next year once we know a little more. In case you would not like to remain on the list, please send me a message.

Next to that we will also stop all financial support as from the 1st of July. On the 16th of July I will share my farewell service in Hervormde Gemeente Barneveld. I will tell share something in the service and afterwards we will have time to meet each other.



Thank you!!

As I started this newsletter, I would like to end it the same way: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. I give thanks. Thanks for my eight years Melusi. Thanks for God's goodness and faithfulness. I give thanks. Thanks for joy and strength. Thanks for the many times I could see Him working. Thanks for the hard times in which I could learn to trust Him deeper. Thanks for the family He gave me and the many lessons He taught me by living in community. Thanks for His countless blessings. And I want to give thanks to you. Your support over the years meant more than I could say in words. Thank you for walking the road with me, for supporting me financially and most of all for your prayers. They carried me and gave me courage. I hope we will stay in touch and I am looking forward to let you know what will happen.

Blessings, Geanne



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