Hallo almal!

'n Baie geseende nuwe jaar wens ons julle almal toe! Hier by ons het die jaar glad nie goed afgeskop nie! MAAR...dit laat soveel ruimte vir verbetering toe! Alles kan nou net beter gaan!

Die HIV baba-kliniek het op oujaar vroeg bymekaar gekom, en ek het doeke en kleertjies vir die 15 babas uitgedeel , wat met soveel blydskap ontvang is! Baie dankie aan almal wat deel gehad het aan die lekkerte! Die weesbabas het nie doeke nie (wel, geen baba het 'n doek hier nie – want dis net te duur!), en dit was soveel pret en vreugde om vir die klein goedjies doeke aan te sit – dit was soos popspeel!

Oujaar het die Villagers vaarwel geroep deur 'n "overnight" te reel by Kanjanji met 'n middernagdiens en "praise en worship" regdeur die nag. Ek en Lourie was genooi na die naburige (50km!) plaas waar die omgewing se tabakboere 'n oujaarsaamtrek gehou het. Elkeen het 'n bordjie eetgoed saamgeneem en so is ons pik en proe die oujaar uit!

Die Nuwejaar het aangebreek en ons was almal op ons poste, ongeag die deurnag makietie. Die lande is vol groente, en ons moet oes om mark toe te neem. Die pampoen wat Pego vashou is ook van ons land af. Kyk na die hope tamaties op die stoep! Ons het laatmiddag al die wesies by die kersboom gekry en toe die persente uitgedeel wat nog steeds met die pos aankom. Mama Kalaluka het Kersvader gespeel, want Lourie het probeer en dit was 'n vreeslike tranedal! Baie van die ou kleintjies van die Villages af, het nog nie 'n witmens gesien nie- veral nie een met sulke WIT hare soos Lourie sn nie!

Die nag van die eerste, rondom elfuur ,het die pastoor ons kom opklop met die nuus dat sy seun se vrou in kraam gegaan het. Lourie het hulle toe hospitaal toe gejaag en die baba is toe op 7 maande gebore...'n klein dogtertjie (nog 'n naamgenoot van my!) Ons is weer die volgende oggend hospitaal toe met die hele familie, maar na ons terugkeer het die hospitaal laat weet die baba is oorlede. By Kanjanji aangekom, was alles in rep en roer ... een van ons jong werkers, Bazra (Andrew), het selfmoord gepleeg deur gif

Kanjanji Children's Village
His heart, His hands, His little children

Hello to you all!

We all wish you a happy and a prosperous new year. May God bless you!

The new year at Kanjanji did not start off too well, but let us be positive, things can only improve from now on!

On new year's eve we had all the babies from the HIV-baby clinic together and we handed out clothes and nappies for the 15 babies and you would not believe the happiness with which these presents had been received. Thanks again to everyone involved, you have brought so much happiness to the carers of these orphans because these babies just do not have the luxury of having nappies around here. Nappies are just too expensive for them.

The villagers said goodbye to 2008 in a very traditional way by having an "overnight" as they call it. That involves a midnight church service followed by praise and worship right through the night, and a breakfast the next morning. We did not join in as we were invited to a New Years Eve party on a farm about 50km from here.

The first day of 2009 was just like any other day at Kanjanji because the gardens were full of ripe vegetables which had to be picked and crated for the market in Choma. This big pumpkin was the first one we picked and look at the pile of tomatoes on the porch. Late afternoon we had all the children together and we handed out presents which are still arriving in the post. And you thought Royal Mail is slow!

That same night we were awakened by the pastor telling us that his daughter in law, who was 7 months pregnant, was in labour and she was having difficulties and believe it or not, they were considering taking her in to hospital, 15km away, by bicycle! It is so sad, but a bicycle is luxury over here! So off we went, with our vehicle, in the middle of the night. The baby was delivered the next morning and off we went again to take the family to see the new born baby, but sadly, she was way too premature for these primitive conditions, and died a few hours later.

Back at Kanjanji we heard the terrible news that one of the

te drink. Die rede blyk toe druk vanaf sy skoonouers te wees. Bazra het 2 vrouens , maar hy weier om die nuutste een as sy vrou te neem, waarvoor hy ‘n groot lobola moet betaal. Hy reken dit was nie sy kind nie. Blykbaar het sy ma toe gesê hy gee haar te veel probleme, hy moet die lobola betaal en klaarkry, en daar en dan het hy besluit dis nou genoeg. Hy was maar 20. Sy begrafnis was Sondag, en ek en mama Kalaluka moes tientalle ruikers maak – wel ja, van Afrikanertjies en mielieblare en als wat ons in die hande kon kry! Lourie moes ‘n spesiale toespraak(met ‘n tolk natuurlik) maak, omdat ons Bazra se eerste werkgewers was. Ja..ons moes toe ook ‘n bydrae maak tot die begrafnis. Gelukkig vir ons, was Bazra se familie baie wel-af en besit een van die “local markets” in Choma. Dit het natuurlik veroorsaak dat dit ‘n geweldige groot begrafnis was.. behalwe vir al die Villagers, was daar seker meer as ‘n duisend mense. Wel, dit was baie hartseer en die rou en hartseer van die mense is so sonder pretensie, ons kon nie help om saam te huil nie. Behalwe vir die jong lewe wat nou daarmeeheen is, het ons nou nog TWEE wesies op ons lys...Bazra se twee kindertjies.

Nou ja, dis ‘n gewoel en gewerskaf van ‘n ander aard hier op Kanjanji. Ons het nou ‘n onderwyseres om voltyds die graad o’s te behartig. Die rivier het afgekom, omdat ons ongeveer ‘n duim reen elke 2e dag kry! Dit veroorsaak dat die plaaslike skooltjie onbereikbaar is, en die kinders bly dan sommer hier om “besig” gehou te word. Die mielies staan mooi op die lande – hier staan ek tussen die mielies! Die onkruid groei ongelukkig net so, indien nie vinniger, as die mielies nie! Die plek lyk natuurlik soos ‘n paradys en ons eet mangoes tot ons lê! Oral langs die pad verkoop die mense sampioene wat wild groei – van daardie groot plattes.

Nogmaals baie dankie aan almal wat so aan ons gedink het met Kersfees. Dit was wonderlik om al julle pakkies, kaartjies, sms’e en oproepe te ontvang! Ek en die kinders het ‘n kersboom van al die kerskaartjies gemaak!

Onthou om op die webtuiste te gaan kyk na die fotos. Dit sal volgende week gelaai wees. www.kanjanji.com

Baie seen vir julle.

Lourie, Gisela en al die kinders van Kanjanji

boys, who has been working for us for the last 8 months, has committed suicide by drinking pesticide. The reason was too much pressure from the parents of a girl who was allegedly impregnated by him as well as the trouble he was getting from his wife and his parents in law. Andrew refused to accept the fact that that was his child and everything was just too much for him. The funeral was on Sunday and was attended by hundreds of people as Andrew’s family is well known in the community. Mrs Kalaluka and I had to make quite a few wreaths with what was available, like marigolds and maize leaves. Lourie even had too say a few words, as Andrew’s employer, at the burial. We just could not help shedding tears with these people as their grief was just so heartbreaking. Apart from the fact that such a young life was so sadly lost, we have two more orphans to care for now!

Things are starting to happen at Kanjanji now, as we are starting a preschool class for the young ones. Because of the lots of rain we are getting, rivers are coming down so the local school is sometimes unreachable, so many of them would come around to the farm.

The maize is looking very good at the moment as you can see on the picture but the weeds are also thriving in these wet conditions. It looks like paradise over here at the moment and we are having lots of mangoes, which are plentiful this time of year. You also get a lot of those huge big mushrooms which are picked in the bush by the locals. We want to thank everyone who remembered us this Christmas and it was so nice to receive all your parcels, presents, cards, e-mails, mobile messages and calls. The children and I stuck all the cards to the wall, in the shape of a Christmas tree, as you can see on the picture.

May I remind you to visit our website which will be updated early next week! www.kanjanji.com

Lots of blessings!

Lourie, Gisela and all the children at Kanjanji