



René and Marianne Lako
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Running the race together Heb. 12:1



"If you can't help a hundred people, then just help one".
mother Teresa ...



Sterre Lisanne



Zoey, Sterre and Esmee



Porter



Marianne and Rene

Dear family and friends,

Has it really been more than a year since we left West Africa? And it's almost February? Months since we sent you our last newsletter?

Our year 2009 started rather difficultly. Leaving Sierra Leone was only part of what we were working through. We faced many challenges and needed to refocus on God and each other; deal with consequences of some decisions, etc. Yet looking back over the past year we can say: "God has been faithful" and has been with us every step of the way.

Priorities needed to be put back into place and with good counsel and family and friends believing in us, we have grown stronger as a couple through it all.

Extra blessings. One of the blessings we can look back on is that during this year we could be nearby during our eldest daughter's pregnancy. The last couple of months of the pregnancy were difficult and "Sterre" announced herself almost 6 weeks early. It was a privilege to be in the room when she was born. It was a joy to be able to be around, help out and also get to know Zoey and Esmee better. It was also great that I, Marianne was able to fly to the States for Porter's 1st birthday (frequent flyers miles are wonderful!).

What is next? We will be leaving the Netherlands on February 3rd to fly to Texas. We have some business to take care of there and will still be in contact with organizations looking at continued international work and ministry. Over the past three months our hearts have been drawn to Haiti (even before the earthquake) and we have active applications in process.

Please pray that the Lord will open the right doors. We have to admit it's a bit scary to just pack up and leave. It feels a little like Abraham going to another land not knowing exactly where he would end up. We feel it's the next step with God, a step of faith, another step on our journey....

At present our income is still based on donations. We will inform you as things develop. We appreciate your help and your prayers.

In closing, we want to thank you; we could not do this without you.

René & Marianne