

ONSEEPKANS MISSION

Newsletter March 2014

Dear Friends

We are three months into 2014 and we thank the Lord for his faithfulness towards us. Sometimes we are humbled when we fail Him so much, but He never fails us.

Gardening

In previous newsletters we reported about our vegetable garden and that we have a young man that takes charge of the work, Eugene Visser. Eugene left us during December 2013 to join the work of Moreson Mission, helping with their outreach programs to the schools and their work amongst the black youth of the Khayelitsha township. As a result of Eugene leaving us, we had to take a new direction in our method of gardening after realising that the conventional method does not work for us. We experienced numerous difficulties with weeds, insects and the hot sun in the summer time burning plants and drawing moisture from the ground. We started planting different fruit and other trees in rows with vegetables in between, hoping that in time the trees will provide enough shade to protect the vegetable plants. During January we enjoyed our first Mango fruit and during March our first date fruit from trees that were already established on the property. We also came in contact with the "Back to Eden" gardening method and started implementing it in our garden. If you are interested, please visit the website at www.backtoedenfilm.com. At our mission we cannot afford to pay for labour in the garden. After school in the morning the children help in the vegetable garden, pushing wheel barrows full of goat manure around or planting seed in the seedling trays. Our garden is a necessity, since the only other option is to travel 500 km to buy fresh vegetables at the nearest big town. Since we started with the garden, we realised that the success of the garden could have an impact on the people and communities around us and we hope to assist them with implementing successful and



Our milking goats



Our children helping in the garden

sustainable gardens. We value your prayers for our garden.

Goats

After much prayer and seeking the Lord's guidance, we decided to take a new direction in our goat farming. We sold all our meat goats and continue to farm only with our milking goats. We decided to continue with two breeds of milking goats, Sanaan and Bunte Deutze Edelziege.

Irrigation plots

From previous newsletters you will recall that after much prayer and negotiations with the Department of Environmental Affairs, the department started a project to clean the irrigation plots of the previously disadvantaged upcoming farmers by cutting off the Prosopis trees at ground level and spraying the remaining stumps with poison. The project is still continuing, and a number of irrigation plots have already been cleaned down to ground level. The next step will be to try and work the ground to remove the stumps that are left in the ground. Please pray for the means to achieve this goal.

Congregation

The spiritual work is continuing amongst our congregation members, we have services every Sunday, bible study meetings every Wednesday and house visits every Tuesday evening. At a recent house visit the people at the house thanked us for visiting them. They told us that there is no minister, pastor or priest that do house visits in Onseepkans for many years now. Please continue to pray for the work and that souls will be saved for our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank you for your continued prayer and support. May our Lord Jesus richly bless and keep you.
Gerhard & Elmane le Roux

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