



## LePoidevin Prayer Release

**Dear Family and Friends,**

### **ONLY ONE PATIENT?**

**MARCH 2014**

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In Dr Pim's monthly report on the MozMed work in the Moma area he makes a list for each clinic they visit, with information like below:

**Afternoon Clinic: Briganha**

Arrival: 14h10

Ready to start: 14h15

Departure: 17h30

Medical assistant: Sr. Marino (Sr. Pinto absent)

Medical patients attended: 35

Dental patients attended: 10

Next visit: 19/3/2014 pm

On his report for the last visit to Moma, I did a double take. For the afternoon clinic at Briganha, it said, "Medical patients attended: "1". Only one? Why was there only one patient at Briganha, where there are normally around 30?! The reason was right below.

On arrival at the Briganha clinic we found a young 9 year old girl who had just been brought into the clinic, half an hour before our arrival. As Sr. Pinto, the local nurse, had disappeared once again, we were the first to see the child. The child had fallen from quite high, after climbing a mango tree in search of the last mango of the season. On examination she complained of severe pains of the abdomen. On examination I could not find any sign of fractures, but she did have a very tender and tense abdomen and anaemia. Sonography was performed and free fluid was found in the abdominal cavity. We immediately knew that this would be a matter of life and death. Right there we decided to pack up and rush off with the patient to Moma [where there are better medical facilities]. We arrived in Moma an hour and fifteen minutes later and Dr Celestino, the surgical technician, was present to receive the patient. He agreed that the child needed urgent surgery, but as they had no anaesthetic technician, they would be unable to perform the surgery and thus the young girl would have to be sent to Nampula (six hours down a terrible road). We pleaded to be allowed to operate as the girl would not survive a trip to Nampula. Although the patient was unstable, she was operated on successfully. More or less an half a litre of blood was found in the abdominal cavity and a laceration and haematoma [swelling containing blood] of the spleen. The next morning we visited the child, who already looked quite better than the previous day at Briganha. (Photo by Dr Pim de Lijster)



One girl's life saved. Who knows what plans God has for her and why her life was saved that day. But we are grateful that Dr Pim and his team were strategically placed at the clinic at just the right time, and willing and able to do the operation. Thank you to each one of you who pray and give to make us able to be here to transport the medical teams to and from their locations every other week!

### **TURKEY MANAGERS' CONFERENCE**

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Once a year, sometime around April, the managers for the MAF programs in Africa get together for a week-long conference, with folks from headquarters coming to do various sessions on topics that are relevant and important to the

organization and its work. This conference normally takes place in Kenya, but this year the Africa managers met in Antalya, Turkey, with colleagues from the Eurasia countries. It was great time of fellowship and sharing of information and vision. Changes are happening, and it was good to hear of them directly and be able to discuss the future together. Dave came down with a bad case of the flu the week before we left. The day before we were supposed to fly, he was diagnosed with bronchitis and started taking antibiotics right away. He managed the long trip to Turkey, though he was very wiped out on arrival. We are grateful that he improved greatly through the week and was able to attend all the meetings.

## FAMILY UPDATE

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Robbie has been able to get back to pottery making, thanks to the winter thaw, and he's enjoying making beautiful pieces of art. Both Karina and Robbie will be doing an internship in Georgia over the summer, Karina at a sheep farm, and Robbie with his old pottery professor at the college where he spent his freshman year. They are grateful that they can live together during the summer.

Sylvia accepted an internship with a company doing "Cloud Consulting", which means they help companies move their processes and information from binders and hard drives to a central place online. She will work part time until school is out, then add hours during the summer break May-August. She sees great potential for future career possibilities with this company.



Thomas has been blessed to be offered a job through the summer, working full time for a grounds keeping company in Minnesota, near Dave's parents' home. He can live with them, which will be a big help for him.

Annie had a blast at the Turkey conference with two ladies that accompanied their husbands as they came to minister to us with sharing God's word and in music! Annie did crafts, coloring, and games, and also spent some time at the hotel's Kids' Club, playing and doing crafts with the other children there. One day was face painting, and Annie became a puppy. ☺

## FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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- ☞ *Praise: once again, for our dedicated medical teams*
- ☞ *Prayer: for God to provide more doctors to take over when Dr Pim and Dr Hanneke leave*
- ☞ *Praise: that Dave managed the trip to Turkey and for the opportunity to meet and discuss MAF's future*
- ☞ *Prayer: for wisdom for the future and leading the MAF work in Mozambique and around the world*
- ☞ *Praise: that all our kids have internships/jobs through the summer*
- ☞ *Praise: for the ladies that came and gave Anna a fun time in Turkey (which allowed me to be in the meetings)*

Quotes from the conference speaker, Gregg Prickett:

*"When we engage in God's business, the evil one will engage in our business."*

*"God prepares a place for prepared people."*

*"No pain is wasted in God's economy."*

*"The servant is judged not for using his gift poorly but for not using it at all." (From the parable about the three servants who received gifts of gold to use while their master was away.)*

Thank you very much for praying for us and the ministry here!

Gerd, for the LePoidevins

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