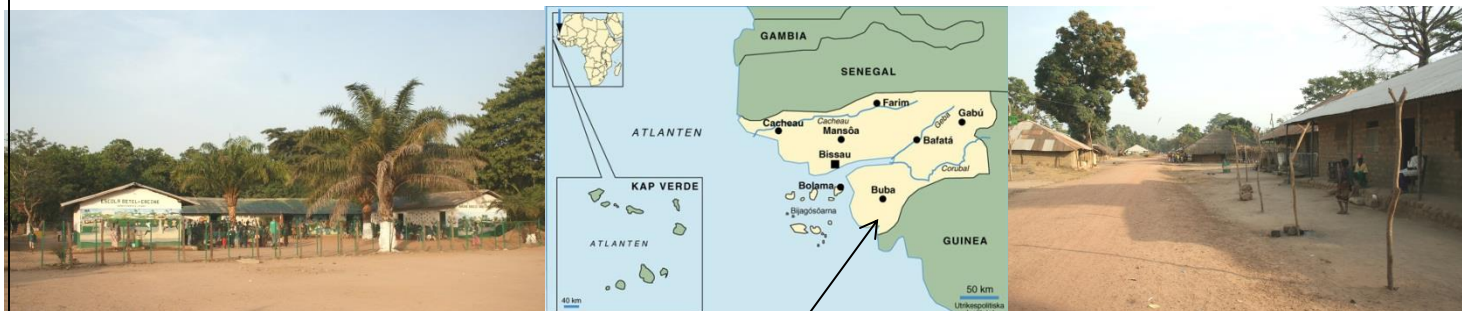


NEWSLETTER No. 1 2014-03-19

from Gun and Ulf Fransson in Cacine, Guinea-Bissau



Betel school in Cacine

Cacine

One of the village roads in Cacine

Hello again all africa interested friends!

January 21, it was time again for a trip to Guinea-Bissau. The same planning as last time, Royal Air Maroc changed our departure, so two days in Casablanca. Now we know the Medina and where to buy everything. This time, three scout leaders from Bodafors joined us: David Eriksson, Rickard Karlsson and Emil Gustavsson. Cecilia Gerhardsson from Naessjoe had tried to come before, but now she managed. Scout leader Ezequiel da Silva and our contact Amancio Indi met us at the airport in Bissau in the middle of the night. This time there were both electricity and water when we arrived (sometimes it functions). Friday was the day for acclimatization, exchange, tourist market and the market.



Swedish and Guinean Scoutleaders



Compasses handed over

We are welcomed by the Scouts!

On Saturday we participated in one scoutmeeting, we all had our scoutuniforms. We brought a lot of gifts to the Scouts in Bissau as tents, cups, backpacks and compasses. The main reason this day was the leadership meeting in the afternoon. Now they reported that the Constitution was just ready to be sent to Nairobi, the Office for the Boy Scouts of Africa. We hope that everything is ready for the World Scout Conference in autumn in Slovenia. There, Guinea-Bissau scouts will become a part of the World Scout Movement. Hopefully!

On Monday morning the journey to Cacine started. Amancio drove us and our luggage of 280 kg. Valberto met us in Quebo and took us in his car to Cacine. The trip went surprisingly well. We felt like coming home. Everybody got their rooms and Emilia had cooked for us. The luggage was allocated. Oh, we had brought a lot of very strange things. Glasses, football clothes, computers, cell phones, extra keyboard, guitar strings, potholders, medical equipment and much more.



The students at Escola Betel welcomed us on Tuesday morning

Every time we come we are really surprised. This time the school had been expanded with a medical clinic and an additional building with two classrooms and a storage room. The school had started a vegetable cultivation and it provides a good nutritional supplement for the school meals. Students are taught garden care as well. The school has expanded to nearly 600 students!



The new school building to the left

Ulf and Cecilia started in the library with adding up the logistics of the new cataloging system Dewey. This summer everything will be ready with index blocs and all other equipment.

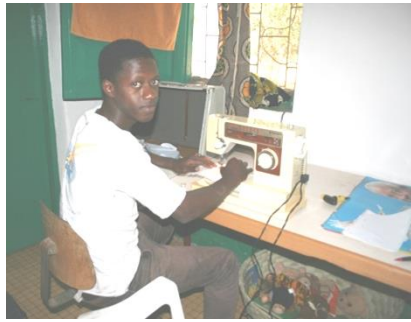
Gun gave "pianolessons" in the mornings to an energetic student Francisco. He walked 14 km every day for these lessons. In the evenings she gave English lessons. The students had learnt a lot since last time because of Sofia and Martin. Sorriba learnt how to sew on the sewing machine, that now worked. He learnt very quickly!



Ulf in the library



Fransisco plays the piano



Sorriba is sewing and repairing garments



Gun and students in English

David, Richard and Emil got to help with preparing for casting floors in new school building. The guys and Cecilia led games with the kids at school and it was extremely appreciated! Children are not accustomed to adults organizing games. At home, they have to help with all the duties.



David, Richard, Emil and Cecilia lead games.



Driving wheelbarrow was popular!



David and Emil in clearance work

Each week, students learn how to brush their teeth and now it was under Swedish leadership. The toothpaste was as a foam around their mouths and it apparently did the trick. The result was brilliant. White teeth.



Newly brushed teeth!

NOTE! Each child has their own toothbrush with names. Together with some students from the school they then cleaned the hospital and it was really needed. Now it has become a tradition to clean the hospital. All for a better health care!



We had a lot in our luggage which would be submitted to the village. "The King" in the village, older men and the football board came to us to receive, among other things, glasses and football clothes. In the room, there were many people, but outside there were few hundreds who wanted to show their delight at the gifts. The football clothes we had received from the NFF (Naessjoe Football Association). They donated nearly new clothes and the payment was that we would photograph them.



Valberto, "The King", homen grande and Football Board

Not just the football team, but the whole village rejoiced over the new clothes. It was like a festival! Now it's just football shoes that are missing (see the photo with plastic sandals). The team now hopes to play in a higher division. We from the homeland of Zlatan, wished them good luck!



The football team in Cacine in their fine new clothes!



Cameconde chapel



Fransisco is playing

Last year the new chapel in Cameconde was ready and the congregation is now growing. It's always fantastic to meet the people there. Lots of joy and singing! Sana normally plays, but now Fransisco had to show his knowledge how to play the keyboard. He got a big applause!



The blocs



Sunday service in Puntí No Jubi

Valberto and his team continue of course with church planting. In Puntí No Jubi, a balanta village far away from Cacine, they have held services many times outdoors. Now it's a small congregation and they have already made blocs for their chapel. In May it will be ready. The womens group in Kulla chapel (near our house) will pay the zink roof.

Before we went home, we had time to visit Titus in Ingoré in northern Guinea-Bissau. There it's a youth center and a school. Titus received half the Swedish group in 2001. We visit Ingoré regularly and we are always heartily welcomed. Great to meet persevering workers. It's a blessing to see God's work in Guinea-Bissau!

The radio station will soon get the last equipment from Brazil. The IT room is in there and it's popular with the IT courses. The mast is 32 meters and we wait for the lightning rod. This summer we expect that it will be ready to start with the broadcastings.

Sana who visited us in Sweden said:
Your visits give us such
inspiration, motivation and encouragement
to our work here in Cacine.
Working together brings so much more!
We look forward to your next visit!



Ulf in front of the radio station with mast and the new "hut"



*The whole gang gathered outside Valbertos house
Gun, Adulai, Rickard, Sana, David, Bah, Valberto,
Sorriba, Ulf
Seated: Emil, Robinho and Cecilia*

We are very thankful to the Lord that we have the strength to go to Guinea-Bissau. Our friends that came with us really have got an experience that will influence the rest of their lives. Back home we will visit churches, organizations and different groups to show slides and talk about Cacine and the work that is so important.

God bless you all!

Valberto and Sana greet everyone they know and thanks for everyone's concern and help!

With best wishes from
Gun and Ulf Fransson



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New website for AAEGB : <http://amigosdasescolas.org/>