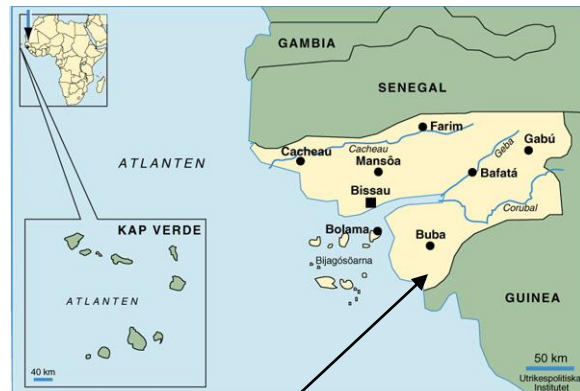


# NEWSLETTER 2017-12-16

## *from Gun and Ulf Fransson in Cacine, Guinea-Bissau*



*The school in Cacine with the footballground*



*Cacine*

Our eldest son Johan wanted to show the rest of his family, where he lived and went to school in Bissau 1984-86, meet old friends, come to Ingoré where six scouts from Bodafors volunteered in 2001 and of course to meet Valberto and see the activities in Cacine. The grandson Noel, 4 years and the granddaughter Shaula, 7 years had a desire to pick coconuts

At Arlanda we checked in 12 bags of 23 kg. An old sewing machine with pedal and an electric one, a lot of accessories, 12 reading tablets and two "stations" with Wikipedia downloaded in Portuguese, life jackets, etc. To the scouts we gave a tent, sleeping bags, sleeping mattresses etc. We were told that it was a transport strike in Morocco, so the plane to Bissau would not leave in time. One day delay. There was a transportstrike in Casablanca, but we got hotel and food. Tired we slept till the next morning. The Hassan II Mosque impressed the grandchildren. So big! At night we met Titus and Marucas from Ingoré and they took us to the Old Mission Station in Bissau. Titus had prepared good food. We slept a couple of hours and then they took us to Ingoré. There Titus works with Youth Center Esperança with education in English. We donated 6 reading tablets with a



*Titus, Ulf, Johan, Shaula, Noel and Helena*

Several children followed us to look at this beautiful girl. Titus's home is open to all, so many come to visit. The food was a positive surprise for us all and very good.

"station". What a success! A new world opened to the youth. It was school holidays, but we visited Adonai School, where Johan and the other five painted the school and had activities for the students in 2001. A well functioning school with 200 students and about 6 teachers. We visited the weekly market on Tuesday and it was huge. Shaula with her bright hair attracted attention.



*The "gang" at Adonai school in the shadow of a palm tree*



Back in Bissau. The scouts visited us. Ezequiel, Henrique and José, who were in Sweden in 2005. We had some equipment with us as a gift to the scouts in Guinea-Bissau. Now they had submitted the application with all documents to the WOSM (World Scout Movement in Geneva). In August, Ezequiel and another leader went to

Baku, the World Conference for WOSM, to receive a diploma and banner at the welcome ceremony for becoming a scout country. We started 2001 by supporting them, keeping courses, writing documents, etc. It took 16 years, but now they are in the scout family !!



Then it was time for the departure to Cacine. We traveled with an overloaded car altogether. An adventure for the kids to experience Africa. Valberto, Robinho and Father Daniel met us in Mapata and then continued the journey on the roads that needed Jeeps. Today, the journey only took 7½ hours (250 km). What a welcoming of our friends in Cacine, Bidamone, Idrissa, Alia, neighbors, etc. The children immediately became shepherds together with Robinho and Soriba. It was necessary get them in the goat's house for the night. From the family Zenzéns house they could see the monkeys jump in the palms. Bananas grew in the garden



*Shaula is watching the books in the library.*

We visited the school and left 6 reading tablets and a



station with Wikipedia to the library. It immediately became a success. Students can, without being connected to Internet, retrieve information from Wikipedia. A new world has been opened! During the spring of 2017, 668 students have studied at Bethel School from pre-school class to grade 11. Every day food is served to pre-school class and up to grade 4. It is a gift from WFP (UN World Food Program). All the time, the school developed for 20 years. Wishes for the future: Training of volunteers, 3 new classrooms to work only during daytime, introduction of year 12, equipment for the student's home. We walked down the

harbor with all the wooden canoes. The older students at the school will also fish from the wooden canoe for the school to get fish. There are constantly new experiences for Shaula and Noel like huge trees and termites.



Noel reflected when he saw all



thrown plastic bags *In Cacine there are no dumps and no garbage trucks, so it's so messy. In our kindergarten we are Planet Protectors, so I want them to be that too.* Bethel school has cleaning days several times every year in the village.



Back home again, food was served in the middle of the day: rice, beans, sweet potatoes and fish. The children were told that tomorrow we will eat goat. It was one of the our goats slaughtered. Comment: It was really good with goats. The children took everything naturally, as if it was what they were used to. In the afternoons, the big football match started for the kids. Unbelievable with what energy they could play in the great heat, it did not stop them at all.

*Here it was a matter of taking a ride, because you are not allowed at home (they only had to go shorter distances)*



The radio station was running full. Many volunteers work as journalists and travel around the villages and make reports that are sent later. The associations in the village have their programs. The teachers at the school also help with health care programs. We had a transmitter (transmitting equipment), a gift from the Cacine Society with us.



*Valberto receives the transmitter*



*Johan goes through the computers*

Johan contributed by going through all 12 computers, battery replacement, upgrades, etc. He also had some laptops. A volunteer from England would come to work with IT teaching at the radio station. Beside the radio station is a small house with one classroom for sewing machine courses. We had two more sewing machines with us this time. Several of the older students have now learned to sew to receive orders from people in the village. In the evenings, the radio broadcasts start and the light on the radio tower shows the road. Several radio technicians have been given courses and they are now taking care of the radio broadcasts.



*Soriba sköter kvällens sändningar*



*Radiostationen i kvällsbelysning*

Then it was time for an excursion to the village of Cassumba. There is a school for about 200 students, we give some help from Sweden. The village is located next to the sea with a huge white beach and there we should swim. However, it was low tide when we arrived, so we had to go a long way to a river and there we were able to swim. The children in the village accompanied us and swam with us. Then we followed them to the village to pick coconuts, Shaulas and Noel's dream.



*Cassumba village with clay huts*



*Boy in the palm top*



*One skilled Climber*



*Shaulas premier climbing*

Quickly, a boy was already in the top. Without climbing bow he got up and kicked down 12 coconuts. But Shaula and Noel also wanted to climb. It turned out not to be so easy for them, because they were not used to climbing palm trees. But in any case, they came up a bit (with Sorba's help).

One of the teachers in the village husked the coconuts with machete quickly and easily and we could bring them home. The journey went back to Cacine on the rice fields and partly on roads. Evening meal and practice of songs we would perform on Sunday's service in Cameconde chapel. What a reception! Song and drumming heard a long way from the chapel. The joy was really great for them to see Johan, Helena and the grandchildren. Three generations sang in the service!





*The whole "Cacine family" gathered outside Valberto's house*

Our time in Cacine went fast. The children and Helena had really experienced another reality, that they adapted to quickly. Noel and Robinho had become inseparable friends. The language was no problem, they only played with the other children. Noel was concerned that Robinho was so sorry that we were going to travel to Bissau. He came up with a solution (see below). Children's way of solving problems is amazing! A great THANK YOU to all in Cacine who received all of us in a fantastic way!.



*"Robinho, you don't need to be sorry I'll be back soon"*

So it was time to go back to Bissau for a few days' visit. Johan was trying to buy round pallets to take home. Titus and his gang welcomed us with a wonderful dinner with chicken, french fries, mango papaya. Many of our friends came to greet us. A nice visit was when Sana came. He was



*David and Ester 2017*



*Fransisca with her children 1985*

with Valberto visiting Sweden in 2013 and visited even family Zenzén, so the children already knew him. An important-awaited reunion was when we visited Francisca's children's homes. Francisca was our maid 1984-86 and we have always been in touch with her and her children. Now Johan got to meet his old friends again..



*Helena, Shaula, Noel and Sana at the mission in Bissau*

The visit to Guinea-Bissau gave us lot of new positive impressions. Many came to say goodbye before we went to the airport. The flight went in the middle of the night. Another night and day in Casablanca before we landed at Arlanda. Ulf and I were excited to have brought Johan and his family to beloved Guinea-Bissau. This meant that we saw things from a new perspective.

## Best wishes from Gun and Ulf Fransson

Cell-phone: +46-73-9287570 (Gun)

E-mail: [gun@fransson.se](mailto:gun@fransson.se) [ulf@fransson.se](mailto:ulf@fransson.se)

Webpage: [www.fransson.se/cacine](http://www.fransson.se/cacine)

Gifts for Cacine can be transferred to Cacine Associations bankaccount **493-9385**

Webpage: <http://cacine.se>

Swish-number: **1235557988**

Label with name, and- e-mail address

Headmaster for Escola Betel:

Valberto Oliveira e-mail: [aaegbissau@gmail.com](mailto:aaegbissau@gmail.com)

**DEVELOPMENT THROUGH  
EDUCATION GUINEA-BISSAU**

**Promoting sustainable development through education"**

*Merry  
Christmas  
and  
Happy  
New Year!*



Radio stations logo



AAEGBs new logo  
(in Guinea-Bissau)