



The Tchuma Tchato Project 2007

T r i p L o g — P i c t u r e s — S t a t i s t i c s

On January 19th was my flight scheduled from Porto to Johannesburg, via Frankfurt. This time I was flying with Lufthansa since this company offered the best deal. Missionaries, unlike business men and other well to do passengers, still have to scrape for the best deal. The trip coincided with the great storm in Germany, so the flight was delayed ending in my missing the connection in Frankfurt. It was quite an adventure the approach and the landing. Winds blowing 180km/hour, the plane skidding from left to right up there and when time came to land, I didn't know if it was going to touch ground with the landing gear or the wings first. Usually I don't applaud on landing but this time I was compelled to. It was really a show of good flying and control of the machine. But, the intercontinental flight was gone and so they put us up in a hotel for the night. Another plane only next day evening, this time with South African Airways. —Oh well, one day delayed on the trip.—Upon arrival in beautiful South Africa, I was greeted with a literal warm welcome on the part of the weather, which is very hot this time of the year. — Dear Marcos came to pick me up and then we drove to the house in Pretoria. There I could again embrace my kids, after nine months separation. They are all fine, grown up, smart and behaving like Afrikaners... I have been in South Africa now for a couple weeks. Been to Barberton to take stock of what is happening there and now in Durban. Dear John Romano, in Port Elizabeth unfortunately is not able to join the outreach trip into Mozambique although he had manifested great interested in coming along, last year when I spoke to him. Relatives visiting he said, but he will pray for me and the trip. I also contacted a couple of friends in Nelspruit, dear John Ben from Selmec and dear Brian Ring from White River Management Services but they excused themselves this time. Never the less they will also pray for me. So, if these prayers are not simply a way of escape, then I'm sure the trip will be a successful one ever!! And not to forget dear J. H. senior, who helped with his usual generous donation towards the trip and a lodge on the way up and coming back for a stop over. And, although he didn't say, I'm sure he will also pray for me! **Mr. Pieter Oosthuizen and his associate, from Dakar 4x4 Centre; they are pondering on the answer to my request for a donation of a freezer box to take with me on the trip. Let's see what they say in two weeks when I pass by there again. But from his face I don't think he is going to pray for me... maybe I'm wrong...** So far the expedition team is Jesus, me, myself and I. Waiting for the answer from my son Simon and possibly my other son Victor. Dear Esther is praying about it... If she decides to come along then I'm sure the trip will not only be positive

but also a lot of fun. As for the vehicle... Aha! Miracle in the working. At the moment all I can count on is the faithful little 1.400 Nissan backy which Marcos and Sara have graciously lent for my use while in Africa. GBT! Upon arrival I learned it needed a major engine overhaul which would take approximately two to three weeks and 4.000 rand. Or buy and install a used engine with guaranty, which would take approximately two days and the same amount of rand. After prayer we decided to go for the second option and the Lord laid on my heart to help with half the cost. After all, a new used engine for only 400 euros is not bad, not bad at all. — When in Nelspruit I took the chance to apply for a visa into Mozambique. The consulate there is not so busy and they already know me. Last year I paid 85 rand for a one month single entry visa, this year 350 rand! When I was able to breath again and ask the reason for this 312% increase, I was informed that now they will charge the same amount that is paid by a Mozambican when applying for a visa into the country of that person's passport. Is that clear? To me it is very clear that this developing country is really developing its skills of making money off of anyone interested in going there. Somehow, I don't exactly know yet how to pin point it, but it smells kinky... like you have something you want to offer and you want to equal it to something else which is just plain better. Portugal and its infrastructures and living standard, unfortunately for Mozambique, cannot be compared, yet that's what they are claiming with this measure. Anyway, people were paying as high as 750 rand for a visa,... the Swiss I think... They pay, so dumb they'd be not accepting. Way to go Mozambique! I only hope to see those rand being applied in the country's infrastructures and the welfare of your fellow countrymen! Permit me to reserve the judgement for when I visit. I'll be sure to take pictures of the good, as well as the bad. — On South African soil things still look bright in that respect, at least the basic stuff is quite affordable. We can also see the living standard growth of the nationals. Overall people live better and on the business front there is an economic boost in the air. In short, don't know where it comes from but there is money to spend. Barberton is finally going to have the highway connection to Nelspruit. The hearsay is that it will be finished in two years. There is also a plan of finishing the connection already started that will link the Kruger National Park to Durban. This piece of engineering will also include Barberton. One can already feel the business in the air, as gold mines are resuming their operations and the highway construction crews settling in town. Barberton is alive again!