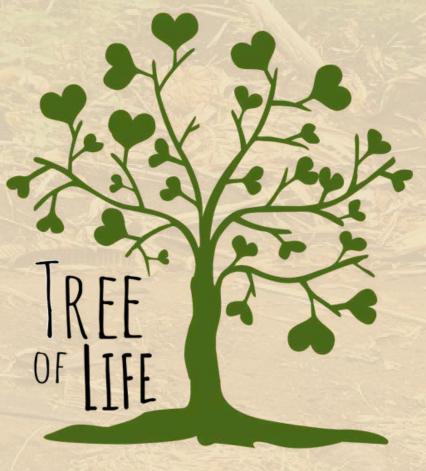


Annual Report
2024





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Preface

Have you ever thought about how astonishingly much life force is hidden in seeds? Take the mighty beech tree that grows from a beechnut? For this young life to grow, it needs water, oxygen and nutrition. And then the soil is one of the determining factors whether or not the little plant reaches maturity.

So it is also in our spiritual life. We need water (God's Spirit), oxygen (prayer) and nourishment (God's Word). But good soil is also decisive for us. When Jesus explains what He means by good earth, He speaks of 'an honest and good heart'.

In our agricultural projects, we increasingly discover the importance of healthy soil.

We teach farmers that they may consider themselves 'soil farmers'. Because a healthy soil produces a healthy crop. A healthy crop, a healthy person.

A healthy soil has a good structure, sufficient nutrients, space for water and oxygen and, above all, lots of soil life. Fungi, bacteria, worms, etc. These are the workers that make life possible. If we are good to these workers, they take good care of our plants.

The Bible often talks about the heart being the most important thing in our lives, as Solomon says in Proverbs 4:23: 'Guard your heart above all that is to be guarded, for from it are the origins of life.'

At Tree of Life, this is the heart of the matter: that the eternal life of God's Spirit may grow in people's hearts. So that hearts that are sick may become healthy again and bear fruit.





Christian Slager

Vision & Mission

Tree of Life comes alongside people in poverty to empower them to build a hopeful future for themselves.

Our mission is to strive to increase togetherness in becoming food secure. We do this by teaching people to be faithful stewards of their scarce resources. As a result, a hopeful future comes within reach.



Target Audience

Our primary target group is farmers in developing countries. The first step is (family) training in sustainable agriculture to achieve food security.

After this, we walk with the families to develop further in finance, family, health and faith. To this end, we train local people as trainers.

Stops Hunger Support a Farmer





It Begins with the Farmer

The once rich, fertile soil is depleted and dried out in many places. Farmers struggle with poor harvests and suffer from hunger. The causes are diverse: deforestation, overgrazing, burning, irregular rains and poor farming practices.

Consequences of malnutrition

Too little food or a one-sided diet can lead to malnutrition. This undermines immunity in adults and can limit good cognitive functioning. Brain development in children can be impaired. This leads to learning difficulties, among other things.

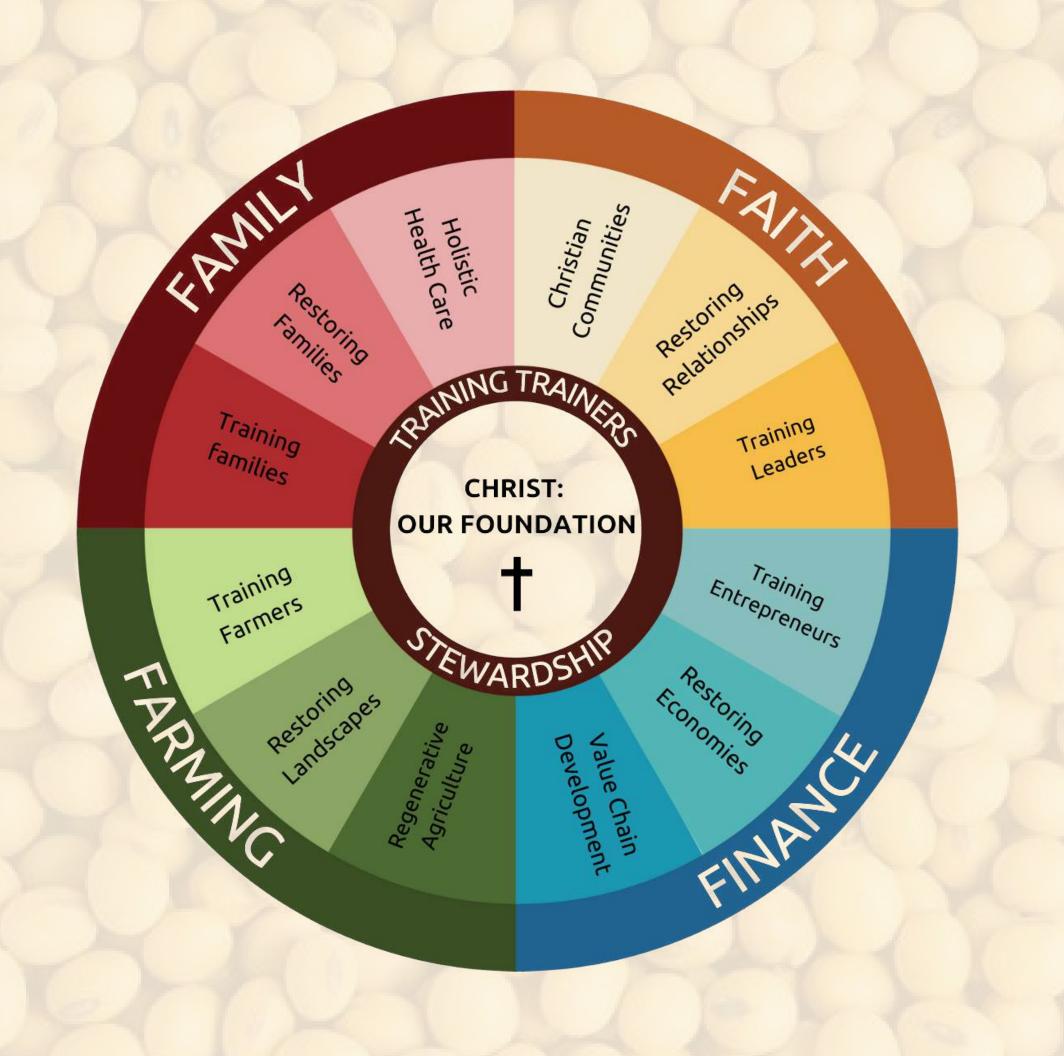
How can this downward spiral be broken?

Improving harvests

Tree of Life facilitates agricultural trainings with the purpose of soil recovery and improved harvests. The trainings start with 'Foundations for Farming'. This method focuses on conservation and production of staple food crops, such as maize. The first milestone is food security.

Tree of Life develops trainings to transition to forest agriculture, from here called 'Future Fields'. This is a regenerative way of farming, combining different (tree) crops so that they reinforce each other.

A next step could potentially be a mature forest agriculture system. This can produce food for decades! Our projects are at various stages.



Our Theme's

- 1. Farming regenerative agriculture is our primary tool for sustainable poverty alleviation.
- Finance Good management of financial resources can make the difference in getting out of poverty and staying out of it.
- 3. Family Malnutrition has major consequences: for now and later. We want to give every family the chance to build a good, healthy life.
- 4. Faith We believe that restoring relationships between a human being and his Creator, the other, himself and creation, is the only sustainable solution to poverty.





























Mitongwe Training Center

The training centre in Malawi aims to provide local people with a sustainable and holistic solution to poverty. Sustainable means (growing towards) local ownership and building up and multiplying local resources rather than depleting them. Holistic means that we want to address all aspects of poverty: material, physical and spiritual poverty.

There are seventeen ongoing projects, including training in (forest) agriculture, food programmes for malnourished children and the elderly, a community garden, a football tournament and mother-child programmes. On the following pages, you can read about what has happened in 2024. All these programs Tree of Life supports in close cooperation with Stand as One Ministry from Canada.





Saying Goodbye

Last June, Deon and his family bid farewell to the Mitongwe project.
Leadership has been handed over to these capable local leaders! Three more people were added after July.

In transition, Dan and Irene from Canada and Christian are involved in this transition to keep everything on track.
Because there is always much more to do than there is time available! We are very thankful for Deon & Sarah's pioneering leadership.



Malawi

It Starts with a Cow

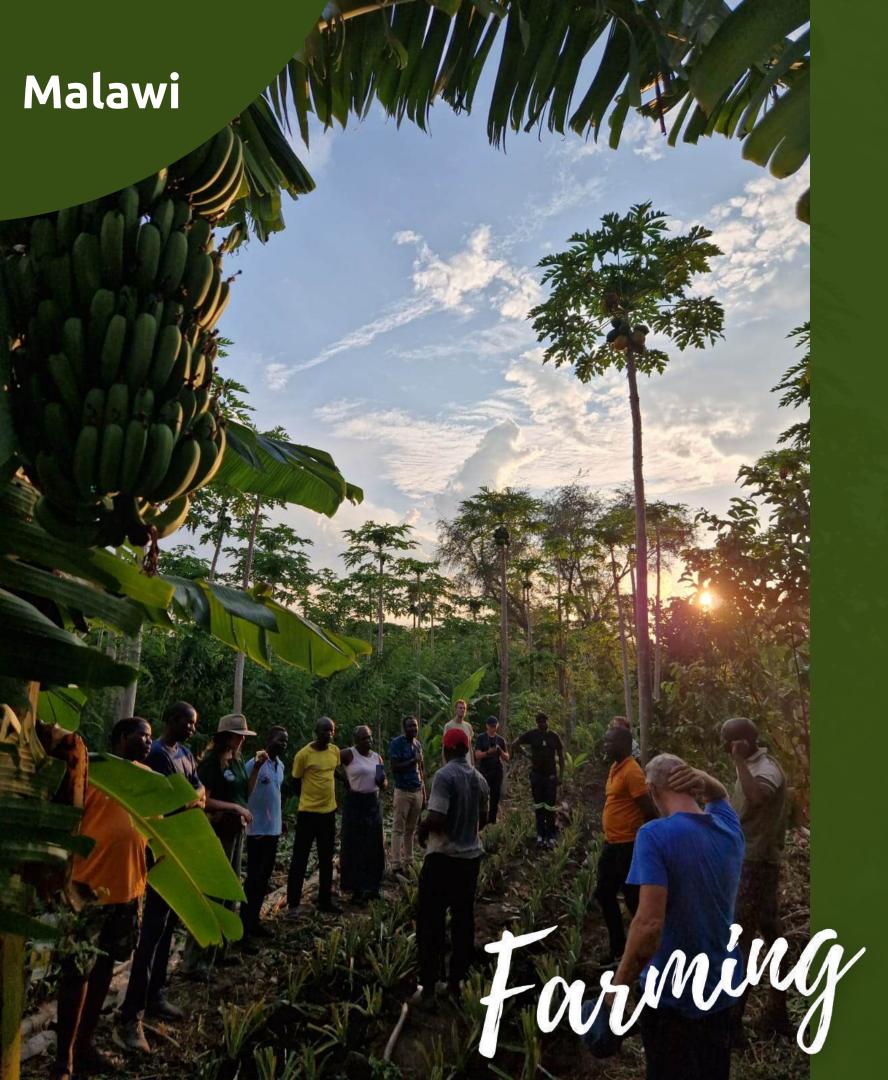
With Deon's impending departure, the herd of cows came up for sale. The cows are indispensable to the project. Their hooves work the land and the excreta restore and fertilise the soil and forest. The cow dung is the basis for all agricultural and forestry activities.

Together with Stand as One Ministry, Tree of Life bought the cows and invested in the welfare of the animals. Goals for the coming years are to breed and sell cows and bulls sustainably. Old cows will be slaughtered for their meat, even with potential for sale.

A system to store and sell manure is also being considered.

Thanks to the cows, the (forest) farming system is less vulnerable and more climate-proof.





Keep Learning

Maintaining a forest agriculture field is a daily recurring task. Two managers are employed with a flexible pool of staff, depending on the season. Tasks range from pruning to watering and from checking for diseases to making decisions for the future.

In 2024, several demonstration fields suffered from diseases. For instance, almost all banana trees had to be cut down. This is a learning point for both the local team and for us in managing the project remotely. The challenge for the coming time is learning from these things and ensuring that a disease is detected in time. Fortunately, this year's crop could largely be saved.

Agroforestry course

In May and November, a total of almost forty participants from abroad came for the agroforestry course. Participants from Eswatini, Ghana, Zambia and the Netherlands, among others, learned the basics about forest agriculture in one week. They designed a forest agriculture field, applicable in their home countries.

Malawi

Year-round Harvesting

In 2024, we saw the result of the first two farmers building demonstration gardens in their villages. In Duncan's village, people were amazed by the fact that a variety of crops can be harvested all year round. This is an important step to shorten the hunger season.

In Mr. Bonongwe's village, everyone is won over, all wanting to join in because his field looks really good!

In addition, eight trainers have been trained. They go to the villages to carry out a so-called 'community mapping'.

Villagers give their own input on the current and desired situation. The village then sets to work together on the solution. Thanks to EO Metterdaad, we can provide a helping hand with seeds and and cutting materials. In 2025, the project will be completed. By then, ten villages will hopefully have flourishing gardens and a variety of crops that can be harvested at different times of the year. This will make them less dependent on maize alone.





Building and repairing

In June, a group of enthusiastic builders went to Malawi with the aim of building three cottages for staff. Although housing is often difficult, local people are keen to come and work at Mitongwe. This provides a great solution! The materials were sponsored by companies from the Netherlands and these were shipped by sea container. Thanks for all your arrangements, Hennie and Derco!

Furthermore, the team built two canopies for the sea containers so that they can function as storage sheds. A cold store was also installed so that the harvest can be kept longer (before it is dried).

In November, Derco and his wife travelled to Malawi again, as there were a number of leaks due to extreme rainfall. It was a nice trip that brought many wonderful encounters.

Malawi

Empowering Girls

Workshops for teenage girls took place in October and December. Their aim was to educate girls about menstruation and sexuality. Girls in Malawi usually miss school one week a month because they do not have sanitary pads.

In collaboration with the Malawian organisation Days for Girls, we organised workshops for girls where they receive a packet of washable sanitary pads and learn about their cycle.

Last October, the full board travelled to Malawi and Bianca could also share something about how valuable girls are in God's eyes.

In addition, she shared, "You can hardly imagine it, but one girl told me she went to the river one week a month. Where other girls could use old rags, she could not. She had tears in her eyes when she received her package. It was of great value to me to be there. We encouraged them to mainly finish school and wait to have children until they have a stable relationship with a good, reliable man."





Singing, playing, gardening

Every weekend, a hundred children still come faithfully to Bible club on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Through a warm-up and singing, the atmosphere quickly becomes great. The children run around on the football pitch and enjoy the games.

Then they go inside and the lesson from the Bible begins. The children's work method of EropUit! interactively provides a Bible story, a central verse and its application in the vegetable garden.

The 'community garden' around the church looks great. The children see and learn what faithful care for something small can produce. They also greatly enjoy reenacting the Bible stories in a play.

At the end of the morning, they receive a cup of soup with dried vegetables straight from the Mitongwe Farm at the Training Centre.

Malawi

Soccer and Character Building

Youth soccer is still being played fanatically in Malawi. There are 24 teams in total, divided into under-14s and under-16s. There are also several girls' teams.

The teams play against each other in various leagues. An extra grass pitch was laid out at Mitongwe last year, which is ideally suited for matches.

The youngsters also learn life lessons: discipline (being on time!) and caring for the community around them. For instance, they plant community gardens and sometimes build energy-efficient cookers.

The soccer teams are led by capable leaders and by their manager Emmanuel. Youth with talent in leadership or with other qualities can be invited to be trained. For they are the leaders of the future.





"We, the strong must help the weak in their vulnerability (...).

Let each of us focus on the interest of the other, on what is good and edifying for him."

Romans15:1-2



Training & Harvesting

Tree of Life has been involved in the Salem Centre in Cameroon since 2003. Steve and Truus' work is a ray of hope in a region where military conflict has been regular since 2016.

In 2024, ten young farmers were trained. For six months, they received training in finance, Foundations for Farming, compost making and how to run a microcredit project under supervision. One student bred rabbits, another sold chicken eggs and another got a piglet.

They managed to keep chickens year-round for the first time in 2024. Pig breeding was also going well. The number of pigs more than doubled and towards the end of the year there was a birth wave!

Crops harvested included maize, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and peppers. There was also a good honey harvest from the beehives.

Cameroon

Agroforestry and Power Foods

Thanks to the agroforestry training that employee Daniel received in Malawi, four forest agriculture fields have already been created: "Maize was grown mixed with other crops to have a better harvest and improve soil quality.

The maize was interspersed with about 60 different crops and the team planted 260 trees. A second planting of maize was also done. The advantage of this piece of land is that a river flows past it. No rain falls in the dry season, so an irrigation channel was dug and vegetables can be grown.

The banana trees can be sprinkled so they produce fruit faster. The drying and packing of moringa (a power food with various vitamins) and artemisia (a medicinal plant that helps well with malaria complaints, headaches and coughs) continued."





Caring and helping

The Salem Centre also produces fruits and vegetables to give away to the needy. For example, a Bible school receives maize and sweet potatoes for its own consumption and sale. This income provides for the study expenses of one or more students who can't afford their studies.

Some students from the neighbourhood have side jobs at the centre. One says: "I am very grateful for this project. Being able to work here has allowed me to use my earnings for my tuition fees."

Another intern said she learnt a lot about using waste to make compost. She helped an employee make a composting toilet.

Sometimes trainings are held outside the region. One school's feedback is: 'Your work is immensely valuable.'
Please come again soon!'

Zambia

Agriculture and Trauma Care

Jan and Rozemarijn van Vuuren have lived and worked in Zambia with their three children since 2018. In 2022, they became involved in Tree of Life. They would like to share something about the state of affairs.

"Elyada Centre is located just outside the city of Kabwe in Zambia. The farm produces organic vegetables and meat and is also the base for mental health counselling, trauma processing weekends and training in 'mental health'. Mental health care in Zambia is still in its infancy, but very much needed. By 2024, Elyada Centre has grown to a diverse team of eleven people, ranging from social workers, gardeners to security guards.

In early 2024, a restaurant approached Elyada Centre with a request to raise chickens especially for them. This is going well and, apart from providing a steady income, also provides manure for the land. This provides increased grass production, allowing the flock of sheep to grow. The sheep meat market is almost insatiable, so there are great opportunities there!"





Start Agroforestry

The farm also supplies lettuce to several restaurants. Last July, a nice start was made with the planting of an agroforest in a field of Aloe Vera plants. The five hundred or so saplings and hundreds of other plants are growing well, and will eventually ensure a healthier soil.

All activities have a threefold goal:

- 1) providing people with jobs
- 2) inspiring farmers in a different way of farming
- 3) earning money to make mental health services available and affordable in the city of Kabwe!



Congo

Setbacks and Bright Spots

The year 2024 was not easy in Congo. The year before, land was acquired to grow vegetables, and the proceeds could be used to train people. Everything was in place to build on this in 2024, but many rains, floods and their consequent damage caused many setbacks.

Follow-up research was done on how the target group, the Pygmies, could best be reached. These people live in poverty and are discriminated against by other inhabitants of the area. They hide in the forests and try to survive off what they can gather there.

The pygmies are best approached if you demonstrate and teach them how to do it. This means that it is best to utilise agricultural land in their immediate habitat. Fortunately, Tree of Life's piece of land is near them.

Meanwhile, pastor Sethi did not sit still: he prayed with many people, under his leadership seven churches were planted and a medical centre was set up to treat victims of the natural disasters.





Big Harvests and Lots of Potential

Gaspar and Dorien Asampana moved to northern Ghana with their two children in late 2022. In 2023, they attended the Foundations for Farming training in Zimbabwe and started a small demonstration field in their neighbourhood.

This grew rapidly in 2024: they trained three hundred farmers on compost making, natural pesticides, alternatives to ploughing and more!

This increased farmers' harvests by up to three times while the costs were reduced by up to ten times. The three hundred farmers trained included men and women, young and old.

Ghana

Trying Out New Things

A great real-life example: widow Mopoka laid out two test plots. Her neighbours were very curious about what she was doing and came to watch.

This year, Mopoka offered that the training could take place in her yard. She made another compost heap and wants to apply the method to a larger piece of land. She also wants to participate in the new training for vegetable cultivation. This would enable her to earn a nice income.

Meanwhile, Gaspar and Dorien are trying out new things on their own demo farm, so they are already one step ahead of the farmers. The five team members have already been trained in vegetable cultivation this year, thanks to two Dutch Tree of Life experts, Peter and Berthie, who helped out for a few months. We gained knowledge about the market, and we learned, for example, which vegetables sell well. In 2025, the trainers will be able to transfer all this knowledge to the farmers.







In early 2024, Pieter and Corina Schouten became the proud owners of a farmhouse with quite a bit of land attached. After much searching, they found this beautiful spot. They immediately set to work preparing for the planting season.

Within a few months, the first harvest was in. They give part of the harvest as school meals for malnourished children, in addition to selling some to the supermarket. They also eat from it themselves and can occasionally give the workers a little extra. By 2024, the farm had six employees, mostly vulnerable young people, who have apprenticeships. Pieter and Corina guide them with their finances, among other things.

Some of the crops: spinach, red beets, carrots, various types of beans, tomatoes, pumpkins, melons, red peppers, onions, sorghum and white beans. The last two crops also work well for soil regeneration. Namibia is, in fact, a very dry desert region.

Pieter and Corina aim to provide more apprenticeships for vulnerable young people in the future and to work towards selfsufficiency of the farm.





RAINS

"For weeks, if not months, one drop is looked forward to. When one falls, it can become several and this can result in a good rain. You feel the excitement, the anticipation. The hope in the people you meet. It is the talk of the day.

In the second rainy season we experience, we discover and realise more and more how necessary a good rainy season is. Knees are bent, prayers said. In radio broadcasts, 'rain' is a hot topic. It is dry, very dry. The dam here in the village is almost empty.

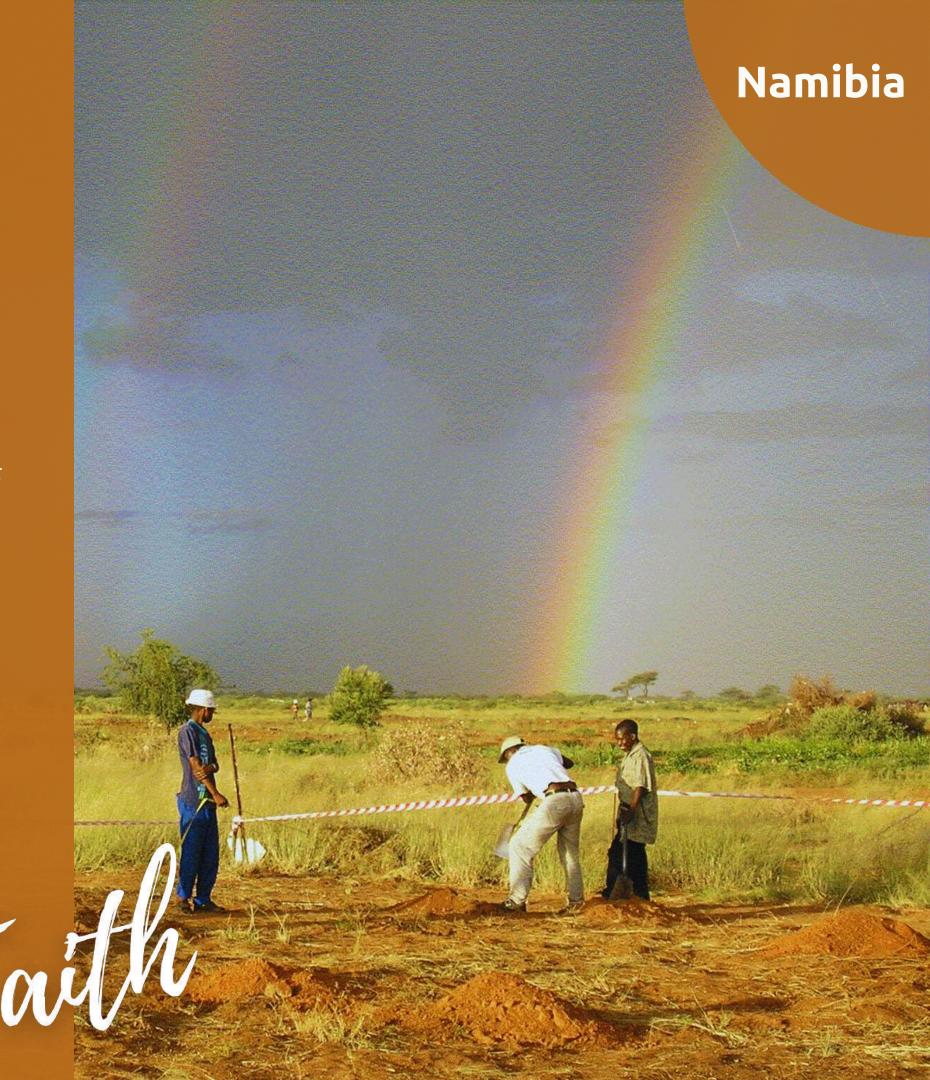
And then it was Christmas Day: you smell the rain, see the clouds coming and you keep praying incessantly. Then you see the first drop fall and that afternoon almost looks like an autumn day in the Netherlands. A gentle rain feeding the earth. We are talking about millimetres, but each one is one.

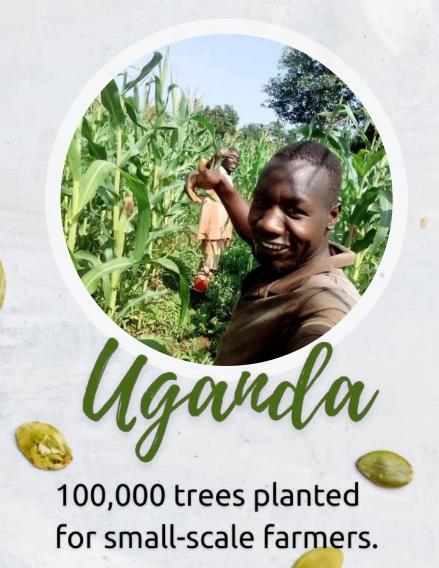
In the days that followed, there were more such afternoons where several millimetres fell. What a gift! It is wonderful to see what it does directly to the soil. You see green sprouting up, everything can breathe. Last weekend, as much as fiftymm fell in two evenings!

Rain or 'reeën' as we say here: an important natural phenomenon and a blessing from Above! Meter readings are kept, photos taken of several dams filling up.

The rainy season has begun! It may last up to three months. What a gift it will be if more often it will be like last weekend."

Written by Corina Schouten - Project Namibia







Prisoners hear the Good News and receive hope and perspective.



Agriculture and emergency aid for the poorest during reconstruction.



Medical care in remote areas.





Uganda

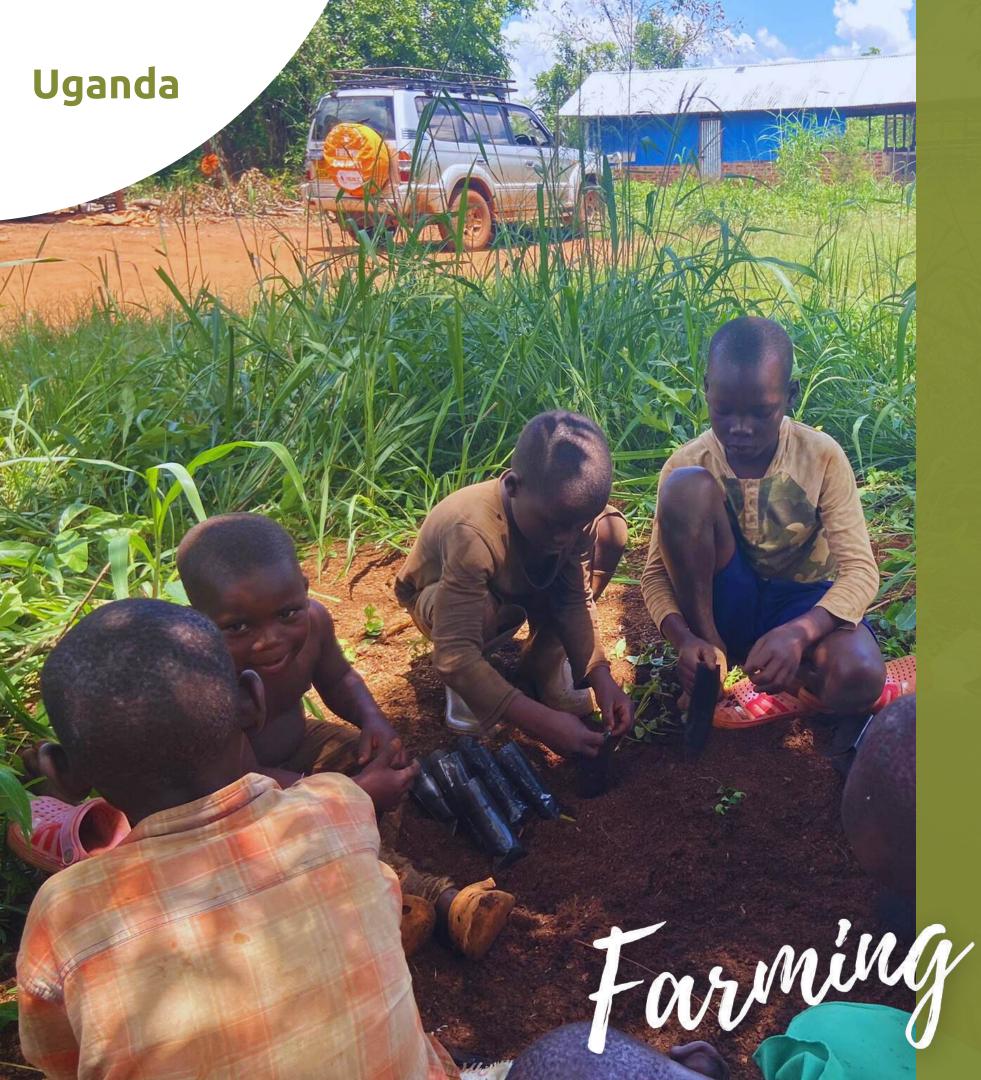
A New Phase

Gertjan and Kate Flikweert are working with Tree of Life and partner organisation Hope Alive. They are building a self-sufficient farm that creates jobs and grows trees.

Last year, the project became fully owned by local workers. The Flikweert family moved to the capital. Gertjan visits the project every month.

Gertjan says: "In 2024, we were able to further expand the training farm. Besides pigs, chickens, dairy goats, bees, crickets, milk goats, a fish pond, half a hectare of trees for charcoal production and a maize field, this year we planted a food forest with five hundred different (fruit) trees. Including banana, mango, nangka, passion fruit, moringa, avocado, lemon, papaya and some nitrogen fixing trees, which make the fruit trees grow better."





One Hundred Seedlings

"In April, we planted on ¼ hectare of maize using the Foundations For Farming (FFF) method and we also planted maize on ¼ hectare using the local method of planting. The FFF method is more work, but has many advantages and also higher yields.

Last year the yield was 271 kg with FFF and 132 kg with the local method. This year, we were able to harvest 638 kg with FFF and 185 kg with the local method. After harvesting, we were able to plant again in August.

For 2025, we hope to also give local families the opportunity to plant their own food forest on their own land.

We plan to set up a tree nursery on the farm and plant different types of fruit trees. Each family will then be given one hundred seedlings. They will be responsible for their own transportation costs to their land and for planting all the cuttings.

Many of the local families do not currently have enough money to invest in the future, as they already struggle enough to buy enough food for each meal.

With their own food forest, not only will they get healthy fruit for the family, but they can also sell the extra harvest in the market so they will also have more income in the long run."

Thailand

New Developments

Kees and Willemijn Brouwer have been retired for a while now. After more than fourty years of service, they are still involved on the sidelines. Son Hendrik has taken over with a local team. The work consists of visiting prisoners and cancer patients. There are also plans for the future to start a Tree of Life training centre.

Training centre in the making

The team says: "We are in conversations with the leadership of the CCT (Church of Christ in Thailand) about a training centre in Wiang Pa Pao. This should eventually become a basic training centre for new missionaries, a day care centre for children of prisoners and a model project of sustainable agriculture. Cooperation with the leadership of the CCT is hopeful and the first talks were a success."

And after a long break, the team was allowed back in prison:
"From December, visits may take place again in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. The information we received is that 170 men have come to faith in Chiang Mai alone, through the testimonies of the Christians among themselves. They all want to be baptised."





Looking After People with Cancer

Kees Brouwer says: "Every Tuesday, our team goes to the cancer patients and has prepared a meal for fifteen to twenty people. Most of these people (the patients and relatives caring for them) are not Christians and have never heard the Gospel. We pray for healing and time and again they experience help, pain relief and even spontaneous healing. Regularly, people come to faith and the team visits them at their home.

For example, sick people in Lampang were visited and connected with the local church. The pastor of the church has taken over these visits and the whole family has come to faith and now comes to church.

Recently, Hendrik met a man who said he is a Buddhist but prays to God. At first we thought: which god would he mean? Later it turned out that he had seen a Christian broadcast on TV and had come to faith. He prays and says, Jesus is with him and answers his prayers. God works in many ways to reach people."

Family Brouwer

Thailand

Emergency Flood Relief

Wessel and Ut live and work with their two children in the North East of Thailand. The link with Tree of Life was made a few years ago, because of the common denominator of helping people through agriculture and empowering them to get out of poverty.

Last year, the focus was a bit different. There have been substantial floods. Wessel and Ut recount: "Although our town was hit hard, we ourselves were spared. Our house and the children's school were dry. This gave us the opportunity to help others. Since many parents could not take their children to school, the school decided to close for a week. During that time, teams of teachers, students and volunteers pitched in to help. To try to clean up the mud and salvage some more household goods that had not yet been destroyed. It was extraordinary to see everyone working together amid the devastation and dejection."



India

Providing Medical Care

Sam and Karin Johnson manage medical workers who provide medical care in hard-to-reach mountain villages. In recent years, they supervised several training programmes of these workers. They also monitored the issuance of microcredits for investment in chickens, pigs or merchandise.

They are now winding down their work and in their absence last summer, the health workers have been faithfully doing their work.

Karin writes: "We hope to start a small clinic in Reang and will soon consult with the people running the small school and church. We once helped build this little school and held vaccination programmes here for the children of the stonecutters. We now hope to set up a small medical post here after having been here several times.

Most of the people are Hindu and there has been a lot of opposition from them. This arose after quite a few new believers were baptised by the team present. (...) After the



Finances

Tree of Life aims to reach as many farmers as possible with training in sustainable agriculture, faith, family and finance. This is possible because many donors and funds entrust us with their resources. Therefore, we want to spend the money we receive as well and responsibly as possible.

To ensure our transparency and reporting meet high standards, Tree of Life, again, has engaged WITH accountants. They specialise in non-profits and have issued a compilation report for the 2024 annual accounts.

The financial administration and reporting are in line with Dutch Charity laws; Rjk C2 "small fundraising organisations". ('Guidelines for annual reporting for small fundraising organisations').

The financial statements are presented separately and can be found under this link or this URL www.treeoflife.international/downloads.

Note: it is only available in Dutch.





voted massively for us. We landed in the finals!

time, but that did not spoil the fun. VOOR, thank you for a wonderful prize!

Colofon

Compilation & Design Hedwig van Dijkhuizen Christian Slager

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> Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling



