

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” —1 John 3:18

Dear friends, family, and supporters,

The formation of the Home Support Team is a highlight in this phase of preparation — a real answer to prayer. It is a team that helps make my mission with MAF in Guinea possible. A team of seven people who support me with fundraising, but even more importantly, who stand around me, support me from a distance, and encourage and motivate me when things become challenging.

It is incredibly special that they have placed their trust in me, to support me in contributing to a more beautiful world — however small or large that impact will be. It is a sign that there is still so much hope and trust, even against a backdrop that often suggests otherwise.

I am grateful that I feel guided in this journey — and moved that I want to follow. That may sound radical or even absurd to some, but imagine for a moment that there truly is another ‘reality’. I know this is difficult to reconcile with much of what happens on our beautiful planet. Yet what I know from experience is this: the world changes when you choose to look at it through a different lens. That choice is ours. And when you put on that different lens, you naturally want to contribute actively — to do what you can do. We do not have to give indifference any space; instead, we may choose love as our guiding principle.

A passage that connects beautifully with this comes from Romans 12:2: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Our thinking is not static; we are given free will to renew our minds.

In this newsletter

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The Home Support Team at MAF NL: from left to right: behind: Erik, Arie, Jannietha, Guido; middle: Cobie, Klaartje, Marijke; front: Erik Jan

In English, the beautiful word empowerment captures the strength that flows from our free will. You may ask for help — to see a situation, yourself, or God — differently. An old way of thinking can be replaced by a higher perspective. I speak from experience when I say that this is the reason of my own transformation. I am grateful that, step by step and in trust, it is leading me into a new chapter of life.

In gratitude, Erik Jan Beerlage

Introducing the Home Support Team

Arie van Dijk – Chair

Arie is someone who likes to take action and has a remarkable drive. I have known Arie since primary school, and we have remained friends all these years. He has always encouraged me to find my own path.

Jannietha Kramer – Secretary

I got to know Jannietha on board of the hospital ship Global Mercy when we both volunteered with Mercy Ships. She would visit the Low Care Unit – where I worked – regularly, bringing a lot of joy to the patients.

Erik Boer – Treasurer

Erik visited when I was working at the Hope Center in Sierra Leone, and our paths kept crossing. I also met him on board the Global Mercy, and we stayed in touch when he started working for Mercy Ships in Rotterdam.

Guido Kortleven – Action Coordinator / Digital Media

I also got to know Guido through Mercy Ships. On Saturday evenings, I often spent time with his wife Marie-Anne and a group of Dutchies in their family cabin on the Global Mercy.

Klaartje Beerlage – Newsletter Coordinator

We both love nature and we have often gone hiking together in the Alps or in the Dutch countryside. Klaartje is my sister, and she's always been there for me.

Cobie Waasdorp – Presentation Coordinator / Prayer

It was always a joy to get together on Saturday evenings at Guido's. I also know Cobie through Mercy Ships. After patient selection, she worked in pre-operative care, guiding patients toward their surgeries.

Marijke Bal – Liaison Ichthus Church Zoetermeer

I embraced her request to join the Home Support Team wholeheartedly. I know Marijke from the Ichthus Church, and coincidentally her son was in my primary school class.

Next Steps

The plan is to visit Guinea for 2 weeks in February in preparation; to meet the mission, the team, and the country and her people. Then in March, MAF will organize a 10-day 'Orientation' in Thailand for all international staff. During this time, I will receive several trainings, including a security training. The goal is to go to Guinea around mid-2026.

To reach this goal support is needed to cover expenses such as living costs and housing. MAF asks all international staff to raise funds themselves and specifically to raise financial support that is structural. Contributions to the support fund that will make my mission possible can be made via www.maf.nl/beerlage or through the [QR code](#).

The Home Support Team and I will organize activities to reach more people and share the beautiful work of MAF. More about this later...



Praise and prayer points

- I am grateful for the establishment of the Home Support Team. On December 31st, we already organized a successful 'Oliebollen' sale – our traditional New Years' treat.
- Prayer for the visit to Guinea in February – to get to know all facets of the mission – that it may be of benefit and inspiration.
- Prayer for the MAF Orientation training in Thailand – that it may further shape and prepare my mission.



This newsletter is intended to keep you informed about Erik's journey and experiences. The newsletter is distributed by the Home Support Team in cooperation with MAF Netherlands. If you would like to subscribe to receive the newsletter or support Erik as a donor, you can sign up via the website www.maf.nl/beerlage. Changes (address, email, donation amount, etc.) can be submitted to adresemaf.nl or to MAF Netherlands, P.O. Box 7, 7390 AA Twello. Please mention that it concerns Erik.