

Vafoha Vakiteny News

Dear friends of Vafoha Vakiteny.

As you can see, we now have a somewhat different layout. Vakoka Vakiteny, however, is still the same :-)

We will again try to publish around 3 to 4 newsletters this year as we the last two years did not have the capacity to do so.

We would be happy to get some feedback from you readers about the newsletter and our work, so don't hesitate to write back to us or use the email vakoka.vakiteny@gmail.com.

Sophie, the children and I will travel to Madagascar in July, which we are very much looking forward to. After this trip we will surely have some news to write about and we will also hopefully be able to see the new book Hazobe Farany and take home some copies.

Best wishes,

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vafoha Vakiteny**



«Now I Understand»

Sandra (12) and the other students from the public primary school in Mahazoarivo II in Antsirabe are really excited about the books from Vakoka Vakiteny.

«Now I can understand what I read because it is in Malagasy», sais Sandra. Fenosoa (11) really liked the book with the fairytales. «I read all of it in one go. Do you have more books?»

We have helped the school to establish a small library, so Fenosoa can come and read more books. But it is not only the books that are important for the children.

They appreciate that someone comes to visit, and asked Mrs. Hanta to come again soon to play with them and read some more aloud.



The Pousse-Pousse Library

In March Mrs. Hanta went to meet the ladies working at the Pousse-Pousse street library and donate books.

This is a movable library that comes to the different neighbourhoods of Antsirabe to give the street children living there a chance to read and hear stories. These children usually have no other chance to get access to books.



Before touching the books, the children have to wash their hands. This is both to protect the books from getting dirty and also to teach the children hygiene.

Mrs. Hanta reads aloud from «Rebila» for the children who had gathered outside a public school. As you can see, rarely any of the children wear shoes even if it is very cold in the night and most of them sleep outside.



More of Vakoka Vakitey—More Fun

As you know from previous newsletters, Vakoka Vakitey has been working together with Leo Club, the association for students at private universities in Antsirabe. Last time Mrs. Hanta went to distribute books, she took some of the LEO students with her.

On the left: Mrs. Hanta is introducing the Tsingolangola fairytales.



The LEO students played and sang together with the children, and they acted the Rebila story. Mrs. Hanta had taught them many of these things, and she was very proud to see that her teaching was put into action.

So now Vakoka Vakitey does not only give books and trainings to schools and teachers, but it also contributes with capacitating youth to use their talents in acting and teaching. We are very proud of being able to do that!



On the left, Haja, one of the LEO students is playing with the children in the KG class. They also had activities together with grade 1 and 2.

Evy Brun 60 Years Old



Mrs Evy Brun is a former Missionary in Madagascar. She was a teacher at the Norwegian school in Antsirabe at the same time as Sophie and Mparany were living there. She lived there together with her husband who was the principal of the school, and their youngest daughter.

Evy has been a supporter of Vakoka Vakiteny for many years. She is now back in Norway working as a pastor in Øksnes on the Verstrålen islands in Northern Norway. But Madagascar is still in her heart.

On 9th June Evy turns 60 years old. She has invited friends and family to celebrate with her. But instead of receiving presents, she wants to collect money for the print of the environment book that we are working on these day (see next page).

We appreciate very much that Evy is willing to give us this donation and we want to thank her in the name of all the children that will get the chance to read about Madagascar's environment, geography and evolution through this book.

Happy birthday, Evy!

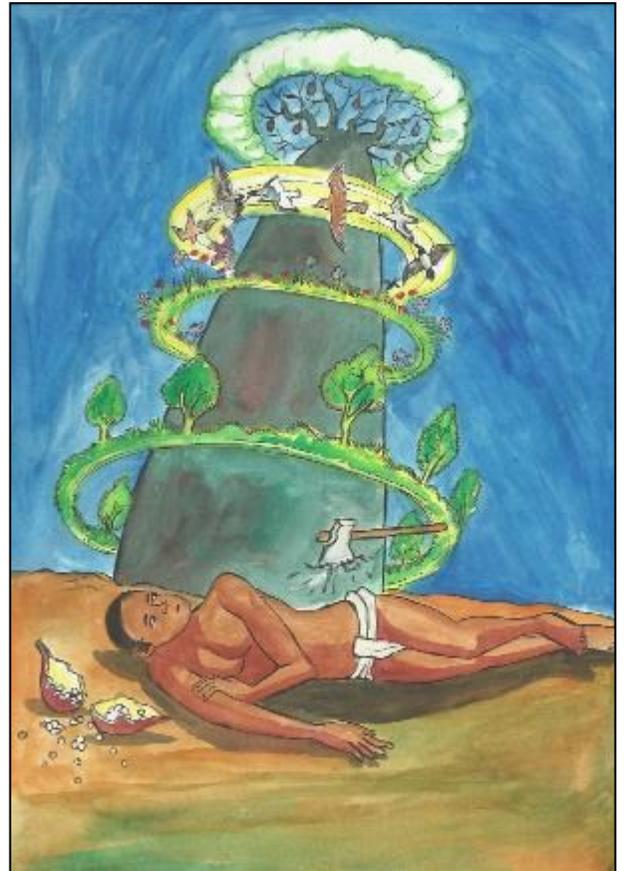
Picture below: For the celebration we made an information video about Vakoka Vakiteny that Evy will show at her birthday party. At the end of the video we invited our children Markus (7) and Jakob (5) to sing «Happy birthday» for Evy.



New Books on the Way

The book about the big baobab tree, «Hazobe Farany» is now at the printing house in Antananarivo. Mrs. Hanta is following up closely, and we hope to be able to get the first copies when we come to Madagascar in July.

The manuscript of the environment book is also progressing. The English and Malagasy text have now been revised; proof reading and final editing as well as some layout issues remain.



About *Vakoka Vakiteny*



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Manager/ Editor



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Public Relations/
Editor



Hanta
Rakotondrainy
Book
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Vakoka Vakiteny has since 2008

- ... published 12 titles
- ... distributed 22 000 books
- ... encouraged thousands of children to read
- ... introduced reading in hundreds of schools
- ... strengthened the Malagasy language
- ... promoted Malagasy authors and artists
- ... participated in many cultural events
- ... supported the Malagasy natural environment through books and campaigns

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