

KURÁ 'SWAEN' VILLAGE



From Ruins to Richness

Di Ruina pa Rikesa



Tirzah Z.B. Libert

DRAFT

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This book is dedicated to the crazy ones like me, who dare to dream big, conceive, believe, achieve.

“I do not think there is any thrill that can go through the human heart like that felt by the inventor as he sees some creation of the brain unfolding to success... Such emotions make a man forget food, sleep, friends, love, everything.” Nikola Tesla

E buki aki ta dediká na tur loko manera mi, ku ta tribi di soña grandi, pensa, kere, i alkansá.

‘Mi no ta kere ku por tin niun emoshon ku por vibra den un kurason humano manera esun ku un inventor ta sinti ora e mira un kreashon di su serebro ta desaroyá ku éksito ... Emoshonnan asina ta hasi ku hende ta lubidá kuminda, soño, amigu, amor, tur kos.’ Nikola Tesla

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Preface

Swaen village; From Ruins to Richness,

By Tirzah Z.B.Libert

Every aged building has a story to tell, however not all aged buildings are fortunate to encounter dreamers like Tirzah Libert. The author deserves much respect and admiration, for her daring approach to rescue and restore the 3 ruins in Swaen Village where she lived during her youth days and still experiences the emotional bond. The way in which she captivates the art to connect the history, culture, social life and architecture will undoubtedly inspire and encourage many others to give aged buildings a “second chance”.

While the intended second life cycle of the buildings will have a positive impact on the infrastructure and environment in the area, accommodations to out of town tenants and visitors will also be possible. It is foreseen that the project will also provide interchange of cultural experiences and customs as an added value.

What strikes me most is the way in which she honestly expresses, without any kind of restraint, her connection with her Creator and the power she draws from it. Important factors that keep her constantly driving towards her goal. To rescue and restore a project of this magnitude, calls for a great deal of mathematics, calculus and economics. Our take from the conviction of Tirzah Libert is, that such an undertaking demands more than these scientific factors, because the human being is comprised not only of measurable science, but the passion that takes place in the spiritual realm.

Furthermore, we should not under estimate the emotions that well may arouse in the heart and soul of later generations of the original and previous owners. How much joy and sorrow have been shared behind the clay and brick façade of the dwellings? We can only wonder, while others will know for certain

It is often said that a well-planned start represents 50% of the success. We are now looking forward to the other 50% when Tirzah has possessed the land and converted Ruins to Richness.

Tirzah, I wish you and the project Godspeed and much success.

Maria Ph. Liberia-Peters.

Prólogo

Kurá Swaen; Di Ruina pa Rikesa

Tirzah Z.B.Libert

Kada edifisio di antaño tin su historia, sin embargo, no ta tur edifisio bieu ta afortuná di topa soñadó manera Tirzah Libert. E outor akí meresé mashá rèspèt i atmirashon, pa su aserkamentu ku kurashi pa reskatá i restorá 3 ruina den bario di Swaen, kaminda el a biba durante su hubentut, i ku kua te ainda e ta sinti e vínkulo emoshonal. Su manera pashoná di konektá historia, kultura, bida sosial i arkitektura, indudablemente lo inspirá i enkurashá vários otro hende pa duna edifisionan di antaño un ‘segundo chèns.’

Miéntras ku e intenshon pa duna e edifisionan un bida nobo lo tin un impakto positivo riba infrastruktura i medio ambiente den e área ei, akomodashon pa kliente i bishitantenan tambe lo ta posibel. Ta di spera ku e proyekto efektivamente lo trese un eksperensia di interkambio i di kustumbenan kultural komo balor agregá.

Loke ta asombrá mi ta e manera honesto, sin ningun restriksion, ku e outor ta ekspresá su konekshon ku su Kreador, anto e forsa ku e ta risibí di dje. Ta un faktor importante ku ta yud’é keda ku bista fiho riba su meta.

Reskatá i restorá un proyekto di e magnitud akí, ta eksigí inmenso konosementu di matemátika, kalkulashon i ekonomia. Loke ami ta dedusí for di konvikshon di Tirzah Libert, ta ku un proyekto asina grandi ta eksigí mas ku e faktornan sientífiko so, pasobra ser humano no ta konsistí únikamente di echo sientífiko, sino mas ainda di e pashon ku ta surgi den un esfera spiritual.

Ademas, nos no mester balotá emoshonnan ku mashá probablemente lo lanta den kurason i alma di e generashonnan benidero i serka e doñonan di pasado. Kuantu alegria i tristesa hende a kompartí tras di e fachadanan di klei i piedra! Nos lo por djis imaginá nos, miéntras lo tin otronan ku sí lo sa ...

Ta bisa hopi biaha ku un komienso bon planifiká ta representá 50% di éksito. Nos ta antisipá e otro 50% ora Tirzah ‘poseé e Tera di Swaen’ i kombertí Ruina den Rikesa.

Tirzah, mi ta deseá bo bendishon di Dios i hopi éksito ku e proyekto akí.

Maria Ph. Liberia-Peters.

Introduction

Possess the Land

When I published *Go Ahead, You're Home* back in 2016, I was residing in The Netherlands on unemployment leave. My mother was dying and in my heart I prayed and asked God to take her after my book presentation was over and while I was still on the island.

During the première, I gave a 'raw' Power Point presentation of *The Caribbean Dream*. Concluding, I walked my invitees over to the spot where the vision was born, which lies within spitting distance of the formal parental home. I ended my speech with the closing words: "*I'm going to possess the land.*" How and when, I was going to '*Possess the Land*' at the time was unknown.

On January 1st 2017, at the threshold of an old/new year, I received a call from Curaçao, that my beloved mother and grandmother of my children had transcended to another world, on December 31st 2016, to spend the New Year in eternity. Having reached the respectable age of 92, this was unpredictable rather than unexpected. Six months after my première presentation, sooner than I had imagined, I was back on the warm, beautiful and friendly island of Curaçao, to pay my last respect to my mother.

Prior my mom's death, she was no longer living at home with my father, but in a nursery with 24/7 care. My father, daddy, as we call him was then 88 years old and also received day care at home. After mom's passing, he felt lonely. During my 4-weeks stay, I lodged at my parents' home, to keep daddy's company.

The location was in walking distance to town and offices in the area. A desktop was at my disposal and I made the usual calls and visits with regard to my dream project. For various reasons, I extended my stay by ten weeks, which allowed me sufficient time to roll up my sleeves and shake some trees.

Ronny Lobo MSc. an architect I met at a book presentation in The Netherlands set up the first meeting with the directors and department heads of (semi-) governmental organizations.

Edward Pieter, a building contractor, was working on the renovation of a monumental property in the area where I frequently traveled during my morning walk and swim. I walked up to him, introduced myself, and started asking him questions.

Vivian Le Blanc, an old friend and spiritual warrior, came into the picture in 2018. More on these encounters and several others to be read in the following chapters of ***Swaen Village from Ruins to Richness***.

As fate would have it, after seventeen years, I returned to Curaçao to accomplish the vision, using my God-given skills and talents to inspire, empower, motivate and ultimately *Possess the Land*.

Then suddenly, after forty (40) years, I repeat *forty years*, this flame of fire, like the burning bush in the wilderness appeared. An old neighbor I grew up with, arrived on the scene. That our paths crossed at this time, to me was no coincidence, but by divine appointment. Clifford Illis, my old neighbor, that is, carried similar thoughts of restoring our former neighbourhood. As he was also living abroad, he couldn't find anyone to pick up the ball and run with it.

So here we stand, two children from the hood that became professionals in their respective fields, along with a team of highly skilled and experienced professionals, determined to transform the ugly duckling called *Zwaan*, into a beautiful *Swaen*, a splendor of Willemstad.

Introdukshon

Poseé e Tera

Ora m'a publiká Go Ahead, You're Home na 2016, mi tabata biba na Hulanda i sin trabou. Mi mama tabata muriendo anto den mi kurason m'a resa pidi Dios pa tum'é despues ku mi a presentá mi buki anto miéntras mi ta na Kòrsou ainda.

Durante presentashon di e buki m'a kompartí den Power Point djis un punta di mi soño Karibense. Konkluyendo, m'a kana ku mi invitadonan bai na e sitio kaminda m'a risibí e vishon, un lugá no muchu leu fo'i kas di mi mayornan. M'a terminá mi diskurso ku e palabranan: 'Mi ta bai poseé e tera.' Kon i ki momentu esaki ta bai sosodé, esta poseé e tera, ainda no tabata konosí.

Dia 1^o di yanüari 2017, despues di tiru na Hulanda, m'a risibí un yamada fo'i Kòrsou ku e dia ei, 31 di desèmber 2016 mi mama stimá, wela di mi yunan a pasa pa un otro mundu pa e pasa Aña Nobo den eternidat. Ku e edat respetá di 92 aña, e nobo no a bini di sorpresa.

Asina a resultá ku seis luna despues di mi presentashon, anto mas lihé ku m'a pensa, mi tabata bèk na e kaluroso, bunita i amabel isla Kòrsou pa mi último homenahe i despedida na mi mama.

Promé ku mama a fayesé, e no tabata biba na kas mas huntu ku mi tata, sino na un kas di kuido. Mi tata, daddy, manera nos ta yam'é ya tabatin 88 aña anto e tabata risibí kuido diario na kas. Despues ku mama a bai sosegá, e tabata sintié solitario. P'esei m'a keda serka dje durante mi estadia di 4 siman pa kompañ'é.

Fo'i kaminda daddy tabata biba, mi por a kana bai Punda i otro ofisinanan eibanda. Mi tabatin un kòmpututer na mi disposishon anto m'a hasi e yamadanan nesesario relashoná ku mi proyekto. Pa vários motibu m'a alargá mi estadia ku 10 siman. Esaki a sirbi mi bon pa atendé vários asuntu.

Ronny Lobo MSc., un arkitekto ku m'a topa na otro presentashon di buki na Hulanda a organisá e promé reunion ku direktor- i hefenan di servisio (semi-)gubernamental.

Edward Pieter, ta un kontratista ku tabata traha riba renobashon di un edifisio monumental den bario kaminda mi sa frekuentá diariamente, ora mi ta bai kana i landa. M'a kana yega serka dje, introdusí mi mes, anto kuminsá hasi pregunta.

*Vivian Le Blanc, un amiga i luchadó spiritual di basta tempu, a subi tarima na 2018. Mas di e enkuentronan akí i muchu mas por lesa den e siguiente kapítulonan di **Kurá Swaen di Ruina pa Rikesa**.*

Manera destino a dikta, despues di diesshete aña, m'a regresá Kòrsou pa kumpli ku e vishon, usando e don- i talentonan ku Dios a duna mi pa inspirá i motivá anto finalmente Poseé e Tera.

Di ripiente, despues di kuarenta (40) aña, mi ta ripití kuarenta aña, e vlam di kandela, manera e rama ku a kima den desierto, a aparesé. Un bisiña ku kende m'a lanta, a subi esenario. Ku nos kamindanan a krusa otro na e momentu ei, pa mi no tabata koincidensia, sino un sita divino.

Clifford Illis, mi bisiña bieu, tabatin pensamentu similar pa restorá nos bario di ántes. Komo e tambe tabata biba den eksterior, e no por a haña niun hende pa hala e garoshi ei. Ata nos awor, dos mucha di bario ku a bira profeshonal riba nan respektivo tereno, huntu ku un tim di profeshonal bon studiá i ku eksperensia den nan ramo, ta determiná pa transformá e patu mahos konosí komo Zwaan den un bunita Swaen, un splendor den Willemstad.

1. A Brief History of Swaen

On a large yard north of the Scharlooweg, called "Swaen", is a main building, which consists of three contiguous buildings with outbuildings behind it and along the east and west border of the yard.

From the second half of the eighteenth century, this large piece of land was called Bijlevelt; the first contract mentioning this name, was later substituted by the modern one of Swaan or Zwaan, is the act by which the widow of Valentijn Munnikhoven sold it to Pieter Swaen in 1760. The present denomination may derive from the owner of the land during those years.

From 1793-1811 Bijlevelt belonged to the family Westman, who had built their own graveyard on the land as many families did in Curaçao, until the end of the last century; according to the contracts the access to the tombs had to be left free by any future owner of the land.

Since 1760 there was a house on this large plot; it was demolished before 1811 and substituted with huts a few years later. In 1850, Bijlevelt became the property of the family Dovale, who owned it for more than fifty years. A piece of the land on the Scharlooweg side had to be sold in 1875 by Haim David Dovale to the government, to enlarge the road. A new division was done by Rebecca and Hanna Dovale to whom the land passed in 1877, forming four plots, respectively from west to east, n. 46a, 46b, 46c, and 46aa, bb, cc.

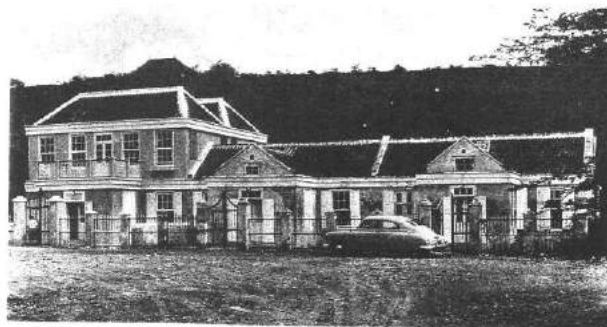
Swaen also used to be a place for forbidden or illegal practices: for example, many married men of the Scharlooweg had a girlfriend in Fleur de Marie, Zwaan or Sint Jago and the district was the hiding place for sailors who had stayed ashore and other illegals. Swaen produced fruit and vegetables that were transported to the city by horse tram. It was also the training ground for the archery (the semi-military corps) and for German sailors.

Source: Scharloo by P. Pruneti Winkel

Old n. 46 aa, bb, cc

Scharlooweg 43-45-47

These three little houses form one block in the middle of Zwaan. Each one has a projection on the front and on the back. The two on the eastern side are covered with a saddle roof; above the thick moulding underlining all the three façades they have a small pediment with a window and a geometrical decoration. The third house has a second floor behind the projection; it is covered by hipped roofs, underlined by thick cornices. On its front on the first floor are one door and two windows. Traces on the walls of the house show that originally it was identical to the other two; the period of its transformation is not known. The Dovale sisters, the owners of the land since 1877, built these three small dwellings in 1879¹.



The three houses of Zwaan

(V.d.W., 1954)

1. Un historia kòrtiku di Swaen

Riba un tereno grandi parti nòrt di Scharlooweg, yamá 'Swaen' tin un edifisio prinsipal, ku ta konsistí di tres otro edifisio banda di otro, ku parti patras otro edifisio anto parti ost i wèst ta frontera di e kurá.

For di segundo parti di siglo 18, e tereno grandi akí tabata yama Bijleveld; promé kontrato kaminda su nòmber ta menshoná, a keda supstituí pa esun moderno di Swaan òf Zwaan, den e akta di benta, prueba ku viuda di Valentijn Munnikhoven a bend'é ku Pieter Swaen na 1760. E nòmber awendia ta data di e doño di e tereno durante e añanan ei.

Di 1793-1811 Bijleveld tabata pertenesé na famia Westman, kende a konstruí nan propio santana riba e tereno, manera tabata kustumber di hopi famia na Kòrsou, te na fin di siglo pasá (siglo XX); sigun e kontratonan, akseso na e tumbanan mester ta liber pa futuro doñonan di e tereno.

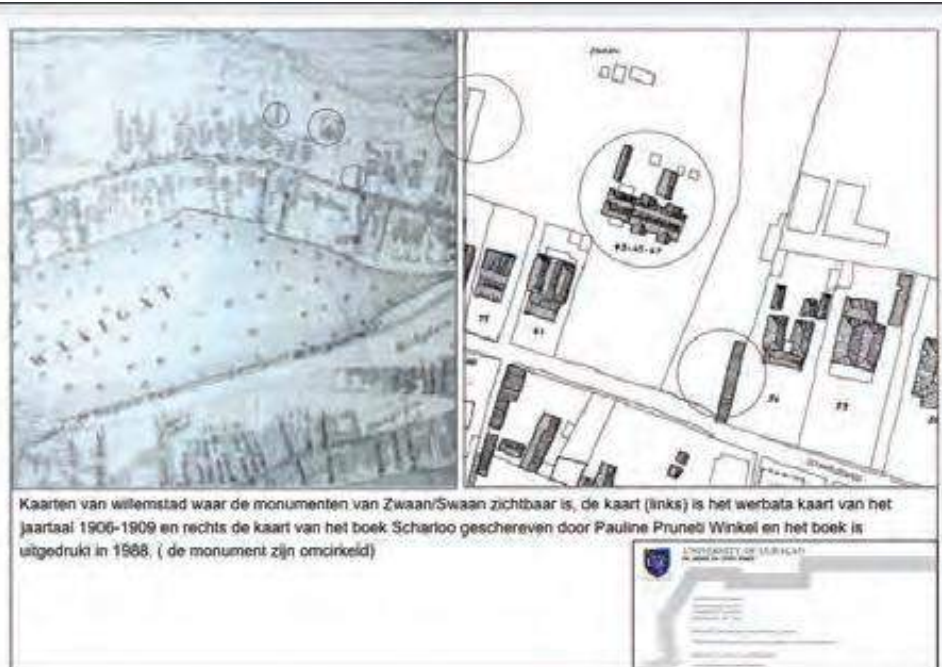
For di 1760 tabatin un kas riba e tereno grandi akí; promé ku 1811 a bash'é abou, anto algun año despues a konstruí e kasnan chikitu.

Na 1850, Bijleveld a bira propiedat di famia Dovale, pa mas ku sinkuenta año. Na 1875 Haim David Dovale a bende pida di e tereno na parti di Scharlooweg ku gobièrnu, pa hasi kaminda mas hanchu.

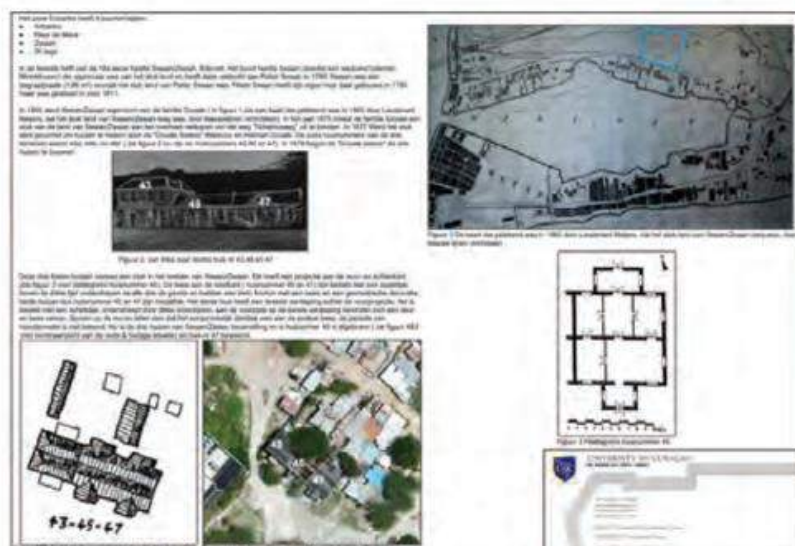
Rebecca i Hanna Dovale, kendenan a heredá e tereno na 1877, a traha un divishon nobo, ku tabata konsistí di kuater pida tereno, respektivamente di wèst pa ost. nr. 46a, 46b, 46c, i 46aa, bb, cc.

Swaen tabata un lugá konosí pa práktikanan prohibí òf ilegal: por ehèmpel, vários hòmer kasá bibá na Scharlooweg tabatin un 'baisait' den Fleur de Marie, Zwaan òf Sint Jago, anto e área tabata lugá di skonde pa nabegantenan ku a keda tera i otro indokumentadonan. Swaen a produsí fruta i berdura ku a transportá via tranvia halá pa kabai pa bai bende na Punda. E tabata tambe tereno di ehersisio pa kuerpo semi-militar (di arkeria) praktiká tira flecha i pa nabegantenan aleman.

Fuente: Scharloo; Outor P. Pruneti Winkel



This photo shows the original homes of Zwaan, from the archives of the development of Scharloo.
E foto aki ta mustra kasnan original di Zwaan, saká for di arkivo di desaroyo di Skalo.





The three houses of Swean/Zwaan 1977-2010



The three houses of Swean/Zwaan 2011-2020

2. The Valley of Vision

When your vision is audacious, scary and exceeds your current financial and intellectual capacity. How do you capture the vision and turn it into reality? On Sunday, August 10th 2008, the vision was revealed. How the vision came about, is written in the last chapter of my autobiography. For sake of those who might not have read it yet, here's a short recapitulation.

“On a yearly summer vacation to Curaçao in July 2007, I dreamed of starting a bed and breakfast. This was triggered after residing in a local resort owned and operated by Dutch landlords and the bill was charged in Euro's. Having lived most of my life on the island, I felt so uncomfortable paying in Euro's, I even mentioned it to the landlady.

During the day, I drove around the island on the lookout for distressed properties I could purchase at low rates and restore to a B&B. With nothing more than a dream, it was time to return to Holland. The following year I was back and motivated by my dream to have my own bed & breakfast, I continued my quest. On Sunday, August 10th 2008, my children and I went to my parents' home after church. We sat in the car, parked in the shade, while we waited for my parents to get home from church. As we spoke, it was as if suddenly the location for my bed & breakfast jumped out and shouted, “Look no further, this is it!” The parental residence, along with the other two properties would be the perfect setting to realize my dream. There they stood staring me in the face.

The following days I made several phone calls and visited organizations in charge of these properties. I did not waste any time! As soon as I was back in Holland, On August 31st 2008, I sent an official letter to the Commissioner in charge of Property Development. However, two years after, on 10-10-2010, my efforts seemed to have strangled, caused by a major shift in the political landscape, which meant I had to start from scratch.”

Since August 2008, while living in The Netherlands, I had been acquiring information from several government entities regarding financial subsidy for restoration of the properties in question. Most of this information was done during our vacation trips. My children were still in junior high, and I had to figure out how I was going to prepare myself mentally and spiritually, but most of all financially for this enormous task.

“If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough” Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

There are several ways to go about this. You can read and learn from others. However, until you take the first step, nothing will happen. I'm delighted to share my approach and applied steps to having a vision with no provision. Some people have a dream and they're forever in the 'dream mode.' If they are religious, they might be sitting around, waiting for an angel to descend and touch the waters.

Then there are people who are afraid to talk about their dream or idea, because they think one might steal it. Perhaps that was their experience or that of someone else. However, you don't gain knowledge and information, by being muted with silence. While *Silence is Secret and Sacred* in the research process, there comes a point where you have to trust your GUT!

GUT “God Ushers Trust” Tirzah Libert

2. E Vaye di Vishon

Ora bo vishon ta enorme, spantoso, anto pa kolmo mas grandi ku bo aktual kapasidat finansiero i intelektual, kon bo tin di brasa e vishon anto lag'e bira realidat? E vishon a nase riba djadumingu, 10 di ougùstùs 2008. Kon esaki a sosodé ta skibí den e último kapitulo di mi outobiografia. Pa esnan ku kisas no a les'é ainda, aki ta sigui un resúmen kòrtiku.

‘Durante nos fakansi anual na Kòrsou na yüli 2007, m’a soña ku mi ta kuminsá ku un ‘Bed and Breakfast’ (B&B). E soño akí a haña bida, miéntras nos tabata hospedá na un resòrt lokal, operá pa un pareha hulandes, anto e faktura tabata na Euro.

Den dia m’a kore rònt e isla buska edifisio den mal kondishon ku mi por kumpra barata anto restorá nan komo B&B. Ku nada mas ku un soño, tempu a yega pa bai bèk Hulanda.

E aña despues, nos a bolbe bini ku fakansi, ainda ku mi soño pa mi tin mi propio B&B. Riba djadumingu, 10 di ougùstùs 2008, despues di misa, huntu ku mi yunan, nos a bai kas di mi mayornan. Nos a keda sinta den outo bou di sombra di un pal'i indju, warda mi mayornan yega kas fo'i misa. Sigun nos ta kombersá, ta manera di ripiente e sitio pa mi B&B a bula bini dilanti anto grita ‘Ata mi akí, mi t'ei!’ Kas di mi mayornan, ku dos otro edifisio pegá kuné lo ta e lugá ideal pa realisá mi soño. Ata nan ei, ta mira mi stret den mi kara.

Dianan siguiente m’a hasi vários yamada telefóniko anto bishitá organisashonnan enkargá ku e propiedatnan akí. Mi no a pèrdè tempu! Manera m’a yega bèk Hulanda, dia 31 di ougùstùs 2008, m’a manda mi karta di petishon pa hefe di servisio di Domeinbeheer. Pendiente su kontesta, dos aña despues dia 10-10-2010, parse ku mi esfuersonan tabata enbano, kousá pa un cambio di struktura estatal den arena polítiko. Ke men mi mester a kuminsá di nobo.’

For di ougùstùs 2008, bibá na Hulanda, m’a kuminsá buska informashon serka vários instansia gubernamental tokante supsidio finansiero pa restorashon di e propiedatnan en kuestion. Mayoria di biaha m’a hasi esaki durante temporada di fakansi. Mi yunan tabata na skol sekundario anto ami mester a buska pa sa kon prepará mi mes mentalmente i spiritualmente, pero prinsipalmente finansieramente pa e tarea gigante akí.

‘Si bo soñonan no spanta bo, nan no ta basta grandi’ Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Tin vários manera pa atendé ku esaki. Bo por lesa loke otronan a skibi i siña di nan. Sin embargo, nada no ta sosodé, sino te ora abo dal e promé stap dilanti. Pa mi ta un plaser kompartí kon ami a atendé ku un vishon sin medio pa realisá mi soño. Tin hende tin un soño ku nan ke realisá, pero esaki ta keda te na un soño. Anto si nan ta religioso, nan ta sinta warda un angel baha fo'i shelu pa realisá nan soño.

Tin hende tambe ku tin miedu di papia tokante nan soño òf nan idea, pasobra nan ta kere ku otro hende ta hort'é fo'i nan. Kisas esei tabata nan eksperensia òf nan a tend'é di otro hende. Sin embargo, bo no ta gana konosementu i informashon, si kontinuamente bo keda ketu. Miéntras ku Silensio ta Sekreto i Sagrado den periodo di investigashon, ta yega momentu ku bo tin ku konfia bo intuishon o manera ta bisa na ingles bo ‘GUT’!

GUT “God Ushers Trust” Tirzah Libert

For example, when I met Ronny Lobo, the architect, at the book presentation in The Netherlands, the moderator introduced him by his title as an architect with a love for books. During the break I walked up to him, introduced myself and congratulated him, after which we exchanged business cards. The following year Ronny attended my book presentation on Curaçao. After that we met by appointment to briefly discuss my project.

During my extended stay we resumed our meetings. This encounter occurred simultaneously with Edward Pieter, the building contractor I met on my way to my early morning walk and swim. I noticed men working on the restoration of an old monumental building and said I would stop by on my way home, which I did. I greeted and asked “*who’s in charge here*” and one of the workers showed me to his boss. Edward looked at me amazed and excited about what I related to him.

The following day I took a copy of my plans to show him. Spurred by enthusiasm, the three of us, Ronny, Edward and I, made an appointment to visit the three run down houses. Requested permission was granted by the residents to look around and take pictures of the interior and the exterior.

After ending our chore and were standing outside, discussing matters, Ronny spontaneously said: “*I’m going to the office right now and set up a meeting with you and the department head. A local who is so passionate and excited about renovating these distressed properties, should be heard.*”

Wow! That was the shot in the arm I needed. Within three days, the meeting was arranged, followed by two more, during the remaining weeks of my stay. Now imagine, had I kept silent and not utter a word to anyone, out of fear that I would look foolish, I would not be where I am to date. Be fearless in the pursuit of your dreams!

Every aspect of the project was put into a Word-document, which I kept modifying over the years. I jotted down every important detail that came to my mind. Every self-help book tells you to write your goals down.

At the same time, my employment at the municipality of Utrecht as a management assistant was an asset. When taking notes during meetings, I paid close attention to what was being discussed and how this could be applicable to my envisioned project. Here’s an example.



Por ehèmpel, ora m'a topa arkitekto Ronny Lobo, na presentashon di buki na Hulanda, e moderadó a introdusié komo arkitekto ku un amor pa buki. Durante pousa m'a kana bai serka dje, introdusi mi mes, felisit'é, anto nos a interkambiá tarheta. Siguiete aña, Ronny tabata presente na mi presentashon di buki na Kòrsou. Despues nos a palabrá pa topa pa nos papia tokante mi proyekto.

Durante mi estadia prolongá, nos a bolbe topa. E enkuentro akí tabata huntu ku Edward Pieter, e kontratista ku m'a topa riba kaminda pa bai kana i landa mainta tempran. E dia ei m'a nota algun hòmber ta traha riba restorashon di un edifisio monumental, anto m'a bisa ku lo mi drenta serka nan na kaminda pa bai kas bèk. M'a yama bon dia, puntra ken ta hefe aki, anto un di e trahadónan a hiba mi serka e hefe. Edward a keda wak asombrá i ku atenshon pa loke mi tabata konta.

Siguiete dia m'a hiba un kopia di e plan pa mustra Edward. Yen di entusiasmo, nos tres, esta, Ronny, Edward i ami a traha un sita pa bishitá e kasnan dekaí den Swaen. Nos a pidi habitantenan pèrmit pa wak paden anto saka pòtrèt di interior i eksterior dje kasnan.

Ora nos a kaba nos tarea, para pafó ta kombersá tokante e kasnan, Ronny di spontáneamente: 'Mi ta bai ofisina awor akí mes pa organisá un reunion ku bo i ku e hefe di departamento. Mester skucha un hende di e pais akí ku ta asina pashoná i ku tin tantu entusiasmo ku renobashon di e propiedatnan na ruina akí.'

Wow! Ta nèt loke mi tabatin mester. Denter di tres dia e reunion a tuma lugá, sigui pa tres otro ku otro departamento durante mi estadia.

Awor imaginá bo, si m'a keda ketu sin bisa niun hende nada, pa miedu ku lo mi keda ridikulo. Lo mi por ta kaminda mi ta awe? No tene miedu den bo lucha pa logra bo soñonan!

Kada aspekto di e proyekto a pone den un dokumento di Word, ku m'a keda modifiká durante e siguiete añanan. Kada detaye importante ku a bini den mi mente, m'a nota riba papel. Bukinan pa elevá bo mes ta siña bo importansia di skibi bo metanan riba papel.

Alabes mi trabou na Munisipio di Utrecht komo asistente di manager a sali mi di bon. Sigun mi tabata notulá e reunionnan, m'a paga bon tinu na e diskushonnan anto analisá kon mi por apliká esakinan efektivamente den mi proyekto despues. Ata un ehèmpel akí:



Foundation **SWAEN** Fundashon

President/Presidente: Secretary/Sekretario: Treasurer/Tesorero
Legal Advisors/Konsehero Legal: Technical Advisors/Konsehero Tékniko:

Welcome to **Bienvenida Bed & Breakfast Bon Biní**

Location / Direkshon: Scharlooweg # 47, also known as Zwaan 28, former Libert's residence /
konosí tambe komo Zwaan 28 / anteriormente residencia Libert.

Conveniently located in the historical, monumental area of Scharloo, our B&B accommodations are furnished with double and single bedrooms, AC & ventilator, built-in closets, mirrors, cable TV, and free wifi.

Nos B&B ta situá den e área monumental históriko di Scharloo, anto nos ta ofresé bo: kamer dòbel mueblá ku èrko, fèn, kash'i paña ku spil, televishon di kabel i wifi grátis.

- ❖ Reception desk / Resepshon
- ❖ 1 disabled access & parking 🚻 *lugá di parker pa desabilitá*
- ❖ 1 tropical dining room / komedor tropikal
- ❖ 1 fully equipped pantry / *kushina kompletamente ekipá*
- ❖ 1 F&B storage / *depósito di kuminda i bibida*
- ❖ 3 ventilated restrooms / *3 baño/wc ventilá*
- ❖ Petit basket with sanitary napkins and paper towels / *makutu chikí ku papel pa uso personal*
- ❖ Sky view terrace & leisure patio / *terasa i patio mira shelu*

Welcome to **Kenneth's Piano Lounge Bon Biní**

Location / Direkshon: Scharlooweg # 45, also known as / *konosí tambe komo Zwaan 30*

- ❖ entertainment lounge and cocktail bar
- ❖ *Sarah's Suite* double bedroom en suite furnished colonial style
- ❖ 2 double bedrooms en suite classic chique
- ❖ 1 bedroom en suite adapted for disabled guest(s)
- ❖ 3 ventilated outdoors restrooms
- ❖ Sky view terrace & leisure patio
- ❖ Welcome message on tv-screen upon entering room

- ❖ *Sala di divershon i bar di kòktel*
- ❖ *Sarah's Suite kamer dòbel, mueblá estilo kolonial ku propio baño i wc,*
- ❖ *2 kamer dòbel klásiko, mueblá, ku propio baño i wc*
- ❖ *1 kamer pa persona desabilitá, adaptá ku propio baño i wc*
- ❖ *3 baño/wc ventilá pafó*
- ❖ *Terasa i patio mira shelu*
- ❖ *Mensahe di Bon Biní riba pantaya ora bo dreña bo kamer*

This was the original layout I had in mind and drafted to work with. I am not the expert in construction and drawings. Needless to say that, drafts would have to be converted to technical standards and approved by the experts in accordance with rules and guidelines for restoration of monumental properties. Purpose of my draft was for personal visualisation.

Attending workshops and seminars were part of the educational process in achieving my goal. The Word doc was later converted into a Power Point doc that served as a vision board with ‘before and after’ pictures from my file and random images from the web. More on this in chapter 3.

Esaki tabata e konsepto original ku mi tabatin na mente. Mi no ta eksperto riba tereno di konstrukshon ni diseño. No tin duda ku mester rediseñá e konsepto di akuerdo ku stèndertnan tékniko konforme reglanan di edifisionan monumento, pa asina e por karga aprobashon. M’a bishitá tambe vários seminario i tayer di trabou komo parti di e proseso edukashonal pa logra mi meta.

Despues m’a kombertí e dokumento di ‘Word’ den ‘Power Point’ mediante kua ku imágennan di mi fail i fotonan fo’i internèt mi por a eksponé mi vishon. Mas tokante esaki na kapitùlo 3.



Images: courtesy of Ronny Lobo

3. RSVP: Read, Study, Visualize, Pray

Quote last paragraph: *“Common thread in Libert’s life story is the strength she draws from her faith. Strength and Faith she will now need, with the restoration of the monuments.”*
Unquote.



Article by Antilliaans Dagblad

When I read that article, I communed with God and said: “Now Lord, You are my strength and my hope. I’m standing on your word and your promises to see me through this, for your name sake.”

How do I attain strength and faith? By implementing RSVP in my daily rituals. The acronym RSVP was born drawing the layout for the B&B. I wanted a *Silence Room* where one can retreat to read, study, visualize, pray or just be silent. The room will be scarcely furnished and void of religious symbols of any kind.

3. RSVP: Resa, Studia, Visualisá, Praktiká

Sita di e último paragraf: ‘E liña kòrá den Libert su relato di bida ta e forza ku e ta risibí di su fe. Forza i Fe lo e tin mester awor, ku restorashon di e monumentonan.’

Ora m’a lesa e artikulo akí, m’a drenta komunion ku Dios anto m’a bisa: ‘Señor, abo ta mi fortaleza i mi speransa. Mi ta ankra riba bo palabra- i bo promesanan pa abo pasa mi dor di e situashon akí, pa gloria di bo nòmber.’

Kon mi ta haña forza i fe? Dor di praktiká RSVP den mi ritual diario. M’a kai riba e akronimo akí, ora m’a traha diseño pa B&B. Mi tabata ke un Kamber di Silensio kaminda un hende por retirá pa resa, studia, visualisá i praktiká òf djis keda den silensio. E kamber lo ta skars na muebel, sin ningun símbolo religioso.

READ

Run a search on the web and you will find tons of articles and video's explaining the benefits of reading books. Here are just a few:

- Strengthens the brain.
- Increases empathy.
- Builds vocabulary.
- Prevents cognitive decline.
- Reduces stress.
- Aids sleep.
- Alleviates depression.
- Lengthens lifespan.

It wasn't until I started writing, that the importance of reading dawned on me. Reading books and magazines on subjects of my interest and sometimes outside of my field of interest. Reading material on a variety of subjects is a source of knowledge, one day could be useful.

Besides daily Bible reading, from which I draw my strength, faith, hope and inspiration, my reading habit consists of business books, entrepreneurship, self-help, self-care, family affairs, culture etc. Additionally, I practice reading in four languages as well. English, Dutch, Spanish and Papiamentu.

Since 2008 to date, I've been acquiring and reading all information on these houses. Made a hard copy for filing and saved information found on the internet. Keep reading!

"A good reader makes a good writer."

RESA o LESA

Hasi un rekorido riba internèt anto lo bo haña un kantidat di artíkulo i vidio ku ta splika benefisio di lesa buki. Ata algun ehèmpel:

- Strengthens the brain / *Lesamentu ta fortalecé bo serebro*
- Increases empathy / *Ta oumentá empatia (bo ta bai sinti mihó loke otro hende ta sinti)*
- Builds vocabulary / *Ta konstruí vokabulario (bo ta siña nifikashon korekto di mas palabra)*
- Prevents cognitive decline / *Ta evitá retraso di bo kapasidat pa sa kiko ta kiko*
- Reduces stress / *Ta redusí strès*
- Aids sleep / *Ta yuda hende pega soño*
- Alleviates depression / *Ta aliviá depreshon*
- Lengthens lifespan / *Ta alargá bida*

Ta te ora m'a kuminsá skibi, m'a bin realisá importansia di lesamentu. Mi ta lesa buki i revista riba tópiko di mi interes, anto tin ora pafó di mi interes tambe. Material di lesa riba un variedat di tópiko ta un fuente di konosementu ku un aña riba un dia por ta di benefisio. Fuera di lesa Beibel diariamente, fo'i kua mi ta saka forsa, fe, speransa i inspirashon, mi kustumber di lesa ta konsistí di lesa buki di negoshi i empresarial, buki di yudansa propio, kuido propio, asunto di famia, kultura, etc. Adishonalmente, mi ta praktiká lesamentu na kuater idioma tambe, ingles, hulandes, spañó i papiamentu.

For di 2008 te dia djawe, ta mi kustumber buska informashon i lesa tokante e tres kasnan akí. M'a traha un print out pa fail anto warda informashon digital fo'i internèt i m'a keda lesa!

“Un bon lesadó ta un bon skibidó.”

STUDY

“The devotion of time and attention to acquiring knowledge on an academic subject, especially by means of books.”

Increase your knowledge on any subject of your interest is to your own benefit. Study, analyze, and compare translations, commentaries and interpretations. Take a course online or offline. Listen and watch motivational videos.

When you take the time to study even the basics on a particular subject, it creates confidence and self-esteem. You become better organized and effective in planning your goals. Without getting into every detail, you have a basic knowledge on the subject and rid yourself of ignorance.

STUDIA

‘Dedikashon na tempu i atenshon pa atkirí konosementu riba un tópiko akadémiko, spesialmente pa medio di buki.’

Oumentá bo konosementu riba kualke tópiko di bo interes ta na bo propio benefisio. Studia, analisá i kompará vários tradukshon, komentario i interpretashon. Tuma un kurso digital o personal. Skucha i mira video di motivashon.

Ora bo tuma tempu pa studia sikiera loke ta básiko di un tópiko partikular, esaki ta krea konfiansa i ta hasi ku bo ta sinti bo sigur di bo mes. Bo ta mihó organisá i efisiente ora bo ta plania bo metanan. Sin drenta den kada detaye, bo tin un konosementu básiko di e tópiko anto bo ta kuri ku ignoransia.

VISUALIZE

To visualize something is to be able to see it in your mind. First I visualized the three houses restored and renovated to their former glory. To strengthen my vision, I went searching for material of the original state of the houses. I found the black and white image in a book, made a copy and kept it in my personal file for many years. About six years after, a friend made a full color painting from the black/white image. I had it framed and hung in the living room where I could see it every day.



Visualizing is as ancient as the planet. I was told that our ancestors visualized what they were going to eat before setting off to hunt. There are many more secular and sacred definitions of visualization. Do your own research and study. Have fun!

“When you visualize, then you materialize.” Denis Waitley

VISUALISÁ

Visualisá algu ta ora bo ta mir’é den bo mente. Primeramente m’a visualisá e tres kasnan restorá i renobá den nan gloria di antaño. Pa fortalecé mi vishon, m’a bai buska material di estado original di e kasnan. M’a saka un potrèt pretu ku blanku fo’i un buki, saka un kopia anto ward’é den mi fail personal durante hopi aña. Mas o ménos seis aña despues, un amigu a krea un pintura di koló di e potrèt pretu ku blanku. M’a hink’é den un leshi i kolog’é den sala kaminda tur dia mi ta mir’é.

Akshon di visualisá ta mes bieu ku nos planeta mundu. M’a komprondé ku nos antepasadonan tabata visualisá kiko nan ta bai kome promé ku nan sali bai yag. Tin hopi mas definishon sekular i sagrado riba ‘visualisashon’. Hasi esaki i disfrutá di bo propio investigashon i estudio.

“Ora bo visualisá, bo ta materialisá.” Denis Waitley



Above image of Zwaan 28, was our residence where I was partly raised and lived back in the mid 70s-80s. The Toyota 1000 station car parked in front of the building was my first second-hand car. The white bus and other vehicles pertained to daddy. After renovation, parking for disabled will be possible.



The centre building formerly was also a family home, that later was converted into a brothel. Many years ago it was destroyed in a fire and served as an illegal dump. To be converted into a reception desk and piano lounge.

“To bring anything into your life, imagine that it’s already there.” Richard Bach

“Pa duna bida na kiko ku ta, imaginábo ku ya e tey kaba.”

PRAY

“Therefore I say unto you, what things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.” Mark 11:24

What is prayer? Again there are tons of sacred and secular definitions of prayer. To me prayer is simply communicating with God. I was taught to pray daily, at the dawn of day. Over the years my modus of prayer has changed. No longer by tradition or religion, but by conviction!

Have an attitude of prayer. I pray during my morning walk, while swimming in the ocean, in the bus and on my knees, in the privacy of my home. I confess the living Word into my life, because I believe in the Power of Words!

Communication is an interaction of speaking and listening. I was taught to pray, but not to meditate. Some Christians associate meditation with eastern religions and paganism. After praying -talking to God-, it's now time to be quiet and allow God to speak to you. How do I listen to God? In the silence, in meditation.

“Where there is peace and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor doubt.” Sr. Francis de Sales

Praktiká ORASHON

‘P’esei mi ta bisa bo, loke bo ta deseá den orashon, kere ku bo a risibí, anto lo bo risibí tambe.’ Marko 11:24

Kiko ta orashon? Atrobe tin masha hopi definishon di orashon, tantu sekular komo sagrado. Pa ami, orashon ta simplemente komuniká ku Dios. M’a siña resa diariamente, mainta tempran, ora dia ta bai habri. Sigun añanan ta pasa mi manera di hasi orashon a kambia. Mi no ta hasi esaki mas pa tradishon o religion, sino ku konvikshon!

Praktiká un aktitut di orashon. Mi ta resa durante mi kaminata mainta, miéntras mi ta landa den laman, den bùs, anto na rudia den privasidat di mi kas. Mi ta konfesá e palabra bibu den mi bida, pasobra mi ta kere den e Poder di Palabra!

Komunikashon ta un interakshon di papia i skucha. M’a siña kon resa, pero no kon meditá. Tin Kristian ta asosia meditashon ku religionnan oriental i paganismo. Despues di resa -papia ku Dios- ta yega momentu pa keda ketu, anto pèmití Dios papia ku bo. Kon mi ta skucha Dios? Den silencio, den meditashon.

“Kaminda tin pas i meditashon, no tin hansha ni duda.” Sr. Francis de Sales

I've been practicing this method for the past seven years. During hardship I decided to stop playing small, shallow and superficial and dig deeper into the Word. Despite being born and raised in the Christian faith, over the years, I became indifferent to certain matters, not without reason. After all the entire Bible isn't a novel or a fairy tale with a happy ending always. On certain matters, the Bible is complex, confusing and controversial.

Take for example, the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah, because of sexual immorality, idolatry and other sins. After Lot escaped with his family, his two daughters made him drunk and both had sexual intercourse with their father, in order to procreate. I question: "Why didn't God kill them on the grounds of incest?"

Speaking of killing; **"Thou shall not kill"** is one of the 10 commandments. Did you ever attempt to count how many killings took place by order of God in the Old Testament? Food for thought. At the same time, the Bible is empowering, enlightening, bringing strength, hope, faith and comfort. So I'll focus on the moral majority, without being in denial of the complicated and conflicting sections.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" Proverbs 18:21

Then there are also people who don't believe nor practice any of these principles, and yet they have the wind in their sails. What can I say? Personally, I believe, that our lives are guided by Universal Laws, set in place by the Creator. One doesn't need to be religious to understand and practice these laws in order to reap the benefits. The Creator is sovereign and he favors his creation with his grace and mercy, whether we are conscious or unconscious of this.

Ya pa shete aña, mi ta praktiká e método akí. Durante temporada difisil m'a disidí di laga komportashon miskiña atras, anto bai mas profundo den e 'Palabra'. A pesar ku m'a nase i lanta den fe Kristian, sigun añanan ta bai, ku rason, m'a bira indiferente relashoná ku sierto asuntu. Al fin al kabo, henter Beibel no ta un novela òf kuenta di hadas ku semper un final dushi. Riba vários asuntu, Beibel ta kompleho, konfuso i kontroversial.

Tuma por ehèmpel kimamentu di 'Sodoma i Gomorra', pa motibu di inmoralidat seksual, idolatria i otro piká. Despues di e huida di Lòt i su famia, su dos yunan muhé a hasi nan tata burachí pa nan por tene relashon seksual kuné pa prokreá. Mi ta puntra mi mes: 'Pakiko Dios no a mata nan pa motibu di insesto?'

Awor ban papia di matamentu; 'Lo bo no mata' ta un di e 10 mandamentunan. Bo a yega di purba konta kuantu asesinato a tuma lugá riba òrdu di Dios den Tèstament Bieu anto puntra bo mes ta dikon? Kuminda pa pensamentu. Na mes momentu, Beibel ta empoderá, iluminá, fortalese i trese speransa i konsuelo. Mi ta bai fiha riba e konsepto 'moralidat', sin ninga e partinan kompliká ku ta trese konflikto.

'Palabra tin poder riba bida i morto; hende ku gusta papia, mester karga e konsekuensianan.'
Proverbionan 18:21

Anto tin hende ku no ta kere, nan no ta praktiká ningun di e prinsipionan akí tampoco, anto tòg ta bai nan bon. Kiko mi por bisa? Personalmente mi ta kere ku nos bida ta dirigí pa Leinan Universal establese pa Kreador. Hende no mester ta religioso pa komprondé i praktiká e leinan akí, pa kosechá e benefisionan. Kreador ta soberano anto E ta faboresé su kreashon ku su grasía i misericòrdia, sea ku nos ta konsiente òf inkonsiente di esaki.

4. Curaçao, I'm Back!

As related in the previous chapter, after ten weeks I returned to The Netherlands. My unemployment leave would soon be terminated and I would be left without income. A drained savings account and American 'Express' became a 'Distress'. To make matters worse, payment of the mortgage was in backlog. Yet, I was determined to return to Curaçao and 'Possess the Land!'

Acquainted with the system, I knew all too well that following up on my plans with the local authorities by e-mail, wasn't going to be a piece of cake. Replies to my mails were delayed or unanswered. After some weeks I received a negative reaction with regard to my application. The civil worker in charge was dismissed, another had resigned, and there was no one left in charge. Brave, bold, confident and fearless, like Nehemiah when he was building the wall, I sent a reply mail to the department heads saying: *"Thanks for the update and information, however,"*

"The God of heaven, himself will prosper me." Nehemiah 2:20

4. Kòrsou, Mi ta Bèk!

Manera m'a konta anteriormente, despues di dies siman m'a bai bèk Hulanda. Pronto lo mi no risibí sèn di e instansia pa hende desempleá mas. Mi kuenta di spar tabata agotá, méskos ku mi kuenta di krédito. Anto pa kolmo pago di mi hipotek tambe tabata sufri retraso. A pesar di tur desafío, mi tabata determiná pa regresá Kòrsou anto 'Poseé e Tera!'

Konosiendo kon e sistema ta funshoná, mi tabata sa muchu bon, ku pa tene kontakto ku outoridatnan lokal tokante mi plannan via e-mail, lo no ta nada fásil. Reakshon riba e-mail tabata tarda òf keda sin kontesta. Despues di algun siman m'a haña un reakshon negativo tokante mi petishon. E ámtenar enkargá ku mi proyekto a retirá, otro a bai ku penshun, anto no a keda niun hende pa atendé ku mi asunto. Méskos ku Nehemiah, ora e tabata konstruí e muraya, m'a tuma kurashi, sin miedu, anto tribí m'a kontestá e hefe di departamento: 'Masha danki p'e informashon, sinembargo,

'Dios di shelu mes, lo yuda mi.' Nehemiah 2:20

It's easy to quote and post scriptures on social media platforms. It's a whole different ballgame to confess and live up to your beliefs in the heat of the moment. After applying **RSVP** mentioned in chapter 3, patience and persistence were indispensable to Go Ahead!

“Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.”
Napoleon Hill

And as for perspiration, perspire I did. Upon termination of my unemployment leave, I could have applied for state benefits, which I refused to do. Getting into that system was a whole rigmarole. By the time I had finished filling out the forms, not counting the waiting time for approval of my application, I was exhausted and went to work as a domestic cleaner. Previously I worked as an aircraft cleaner for a low wage. So I wasn't afraid to get my hands dirty. I worked for approximately three months for a higher, hourly pay that allowed me to cover my basic expenses. Thanks also to some book sales and my beloved children who also chipped in. That part-time job was a detour in my journey, as I didn't see myself working as a domestic cleaner for long. I saw myself possessing the land in the area of Swaen, which reminded me of the story of Joseph in the Bible. Joseph went from the [Pit to the Palace](#). Dr. Myles Munroe† gave a lecture on this topic. ***“If what you see is not what you saw, then what you see is temporary.”*** Brilliant!

My children and I discussed renting the house, to pay the mortgage and remain with some income. That plan didn't turn out well. In the Netherlands, permission is required, even to brush your teeth, and we didn't want the authorities on our doorstep for breaking the laws.

In the end we decided to sell. At that time the housing market was favorable for sellers. Long story short, within two months the house was sold for the full asking price. Almost all furniture and domestic items were sold or donated to church and charity.

My return ticket to Curacao, -which was less expensive than a one way- was booked for Friday, September 1st 2017. Though my children were young independent professionals, with a job and living on their own, that did not diminish the emotional farewell and departure. Once again, after seventeen years, I was reshuffling my life, going ahead, back home.

The day after my arrival, my eldest sister organized a 'welcome home' happy hour with family at a beach bar. That was very kind of her and made me feel welcome. The first weeks I was getting settled and adjusted to my new environment, with my father, daddy, as I call him. Though I had lodged there previously, that was temporally and not permanent.

Besides returning to the island to work on my dream project, in December of that same year, I would turn 60! Way in advance, I told myself and others that I would be back on Curaçao to celebrate my 60th birthday. And so it was! My children flew over for the Diamond Celebration, accompanied by their friends. It was a *sunset, ocean view, birthday dinner celebration* for family members and their significant other(s). We had a blast!

“You don't get in life what you want, you get what you believe.” Oprah Winfrey

Ta masha fásil pone i sita Skritura via medionan sosial. Konfesá i praktiká loke bo ta prediká ora kos kuminsá bira kayente, ta un otro wega. Despues di apliká **RSVP** ku m'a mensioná na kapítulo 3, pasenshi i persistensia tabata indispensabel pa mi dal bai.

“Pasenshi, Persistensia i Perseveransia ta un kombinashon indiskutibel pa éksito.”

Napoleon Hill

Na ingles e dicho ta bisa ‘Perspiration’ –sodó- na lugá di ‘Perseveransia’. Anto m'a soda. Ora e temporada pa kobra ‘ww-uitkering’ a pasa, m'a ninga di entregá un petishon pa ‘bijstand.’ Pa bo dreña e sistema ei na Hulanda ta un kaminda di krus. Te ora ku bo kaba yena tur formulario, sin konta tempu di aprobashon di bo petishon..., m'a disidí di bai traha trabou doméstiko.

Anteriormente, ya m'a traha trabou di limpiesa riba avion pa suèldu mínimo. Ke men mi no tabatin miedu di shusha mi mannan. E trabou doméstiko tabata paga muchu mas tantu, di moda ku mi por a kubri mi gastunan básiko pa tres luna. Danki tambe na benta di buki i mi yunan stimá kendenan a kooperá. Pero e trabou di kas ei, tabata pa mi un buelta positivo, komo mi no a mira mi mes ta hasi e trabou ei pa largu tempu. Loke sí m'a premirá tabata enkargo di Swaen pa poseé e tera. Esaki a pone mi kòrda historia di José den Beibel, kende a sali di [Pos dreña Palasio](#). Dr. Myles Munroe† a duna un charla riba e tópiko aki. **‘Si loke bo ta mira no ta loke bo a premirá, anto loke bo ta mira ta temporal.’** Briante!

Mi yunan i ami a papia tokante hürmentu di nos kas, ya asina ta paga hipotek, anto sobra algu di plaka. E plan ei no a lanta fo'i suela, komo na Hulanda, kada kos ku bo ke hasi mester pidi pèrmit, anto nos no ker a haña nos embolbí ku outoridat pa motibu ku nos a falta ku lei. E tempu ei merkado tabata faborabel pa benta, anto al final nos a disidí di bende numa. Pa hasi e historia kòrtiku, denter di dos luna, a bende e kas pa e preis stipulá. A bende tambe kasi tur muebel i otro artefakto òf a hasi donashon na iglesia òf instansia karikativo.

M'a buk mi pasashi pa Kòrsou pa djabièrnè, 1^o di Sèptèmber 2017. Ounke mi yunan tabata hóbenan profeshonal independiente, ku nan trabou i bibá riba nan mes, esei no a hasi e despedida ménos emoshonal. Un biaha mas despues di djesshete aña m'a bòltu patronchi di mi bida.

Un dia despues di mi yegada, mi ruman muhé mayó, a organisá un enkuentro di ‘bon bini’ ku famia na un sitio ameno. Mashá apresio mi tabatin pa e gesto bunita akí. Promé simannan mi mester a kustumbrá ku mi ambiente nobo, na kas di ‘daddy’ manera mi ta yama mi tata. Ounke m'a keda einan mas biaha den pasado, e biaha akí tabata un estadia temporal i no permanente.

Fuera di regresá pa traha riba proyekto di mi soño, na Desèmber lo m'a kumpli 60 aña. Delantá m'a bisa mi mes i tur hende ku lo mi ta bèk na Kòrsou pa selebrá mi 60th kumpleaño. Anto asina a sosodé tambe! Mi yunan, akompañá pa nan amigunan, a bula bin pa e Selebrashon Diamante. Tabata un festividat ameno, kaminda por a disfrutá di plato sukulento i bahada di solo riba laman, den ambiente familiar. Esta dushi, nò!

“Den bida bo no ta haña loke bo ké, bo ta haña loke bo ta sigur di dje.” Oprah Winfrey

5. Returning to Humble Beginnings

So here I was, spending time with daddy, who was used to watching his favorite religious TV-channel, almost 24/7 with high volume. Morning devotion was held individually and after serving daddy hot bush tea or coffee, I would leave home to walk and swim. Daddy was 89 years of age and received day care once per day. Since I moved in, I would prepare and serve him breakfast as well.

I had a single bedroom with a bed and a ventilator. The closet was in another room. Daddy offered me to stay in the bedroom with AC, but I didn't want to deprive him of his comfort with his TV. I had a foretaste of my new situation during my previous stay, and knew in advance it would be challenging. But, looking forward to fulfillment of the grand vision, I didn't mind returning to humble beginnings.

Due to poor vision, daddy no longer drove. One of his sons would pick him up and take him to doctor appointments or other chores. Daddy was also a member of the Gideon Prayer Group. Every Wednesday morning at 06.30 a.m. he and four other men met for prayer and bible reading at his home.

As with every family, we also had our disagreements and quarrels. At times I wondered if my urge to return was the right decision. Exercising patience and biting my tongue, weren't always easy. The faults we find in others, more often than not, are the same we are guilty of. The determination I had, but patience and humility were not among my strongest virtues. So this was my school of learning. Turn the pages of impatience, fatigue and disgust, and focus on where the beginning meets the end. Let me put it this way, I attained a PHD degree in Patience, Humility, and Determination.

“Don't quit, and don't give up. The reward is just around the corner. And in times of doubt or times of joy, listen for that still, small voice. Know that God has been there from the beginning-and he will be there until . . . The End.” - [Joanna Gaines](#) ([The Magnolia Story](#))



5. Bèk na Prinsipionan Humilde

Ata mi akí antó, huntu ku daddy, kende tabatin kustumber di wak su kanal faborito religioso kasi 24/7 na volúmen haltu. Mainta kada ken tabata hasi nan deboshon individualmente, i despues di sirbi daddy te di yerba kayente o kòfi, mi ta bai kana i landa. Daddy tabatin 89 aña di edat anto tabata haña kuido personal un biaha pa dia. Fo'i dia m'a bin biba ei, ami tabata prepará su desayuno.

Mi tabatin un kamer di un persona ku un kama i fèn. E kash'i paña tabata den un otro kamer. Daddy a ofresé pa mi keda drumi den e kamer ku èrko, pero mi no ker a kit'é fo'i su komodidat ku su televishon. Di antemano mi tabata sa kon e situashon lo ta. Pero ku e gran vishon na bista, mi no a preokupá pa bolbe bèk na prinsipionan humilde.

Pa motibu ku daddy su bista a bai atras, e no tabata kore outo mas. Un yu hònber ta busk'é pa hib'é sita na dòkter òf otro kompromiso. Daddy tabata miembro di grupo di orashon Gideon tambe. Tur djárasen mainta 6.30 e ku kuater hònber mas tabata reuní na kas di daddy pa hasi orashon i lesa beibel.

Manera t'e kaso den tur famia, nos tambe tabatin desakuerdo i pleitu. Tin momentu ku mi tabata duda si mi desishon di regresá tabata esun mihó. Ehersé pasenshi anto morde mi lenga, no semper tabata fásil. Fayonan ku nos ta mira serka otro, mayoria di biaha, ta mesun fayonan ku nos mes ta kometé tambe. Determinashon no tabata e problema; pasenshi i humildat no tabata mi virtutnan mas fuerte. Pues esaki a sirbi pa siña mi un lès. M'a siña bòltu e blachi di impasiensia, fastidio i disgustu anto fiha riba e final di prinsipio di algu bunita. Por bisa ku m'a gradua komo PHD den Pasenshi, Humildat i Determinashon

“No entregá. Bo rekompensa ta na kaminda. Anto den tempu di duda, òf di alegría, skucha e bos chikitu, ketu. Sabi ku Dios tey fo'i kuminsamentu, anto lo e tey te ... na final.” [Joanna Gaines \(The Magnolia Story\)](#)



“Thoughts become things. If you see it in your mind, you will hold it in your hand.”

Bob Proctor

“Pensamentu ta bira tangibel. Si bo miré den bo mente, bo por tené den bo man.” Bob Proctor

The first months were quite relaxed, with sufficient funds to cover my personal expenses. Daddy didn't charge me rent nor any other contribution. It was a non-written agreement, 'one hand washes the other.' With me moving in he had companionship and attention, though sometimes he was very demanding.

In January, I retreated for a week to spend quiet moments in prayer and fasting with the Divine. Prior doing so, I contacted an old friend from Bible School and the church, Vivian Le Blanc, a spiritual warrior, someone with mountain-moving faith, not just in words, but also in deeds. Before rebuilding the physical walls of Swaen, the Wall of Faith needed first to be built in the mental and spiritual world. I presented my plans and drawings, and requested her spiritual support.

Gradually, I started attending networking events to reconnect with old and new acquaintances. After being away for seventeen years, rebuilding a network required much time, patience and persistence. Just after seven months back home, business meetings, social- and network events, along with festivities were encounters that served as stepping stones in the pursuit of the vision.

In order for your plans to succeed, one must not be hesitant in seeking advice. Be honest and vulnerable; don't be afraid to say: *'I don't know'* or *'could you please explain.'* During the research period, much time was spent accumulating valuable information and acquiring knowledge from field experts. I'm grateful to everyone who altruistically shared their experience, knowledge and network contacts.

M'a pasa e promé lunanan masha trankil, ku sufisiente fondo pa kubri mi gastunan personal. Daddy no a kobra mi hür, ni ningun otro forma di kontribushon tampoko. Tabata un akuerdo verbal di 'un man ta laba otro'. Bibando serka daddy, e tabatin kompañi i atenshon, ounke tin biaha e tabata mashá eksigente.

Na yanüari m'a retirá pa un siman pa dediká tempu na orashon i ayuno ku Ser Divino. Promé ku esei, m'a tuma kontakto ku un amiga di ántes di skol di Beibel i iglesia, Vivian Le Blanc, un luchadó spiritual, un persona ku fe ku ta move montaña, no solamente ku palabra, sino ku echo. Promé ku rekonstruí murayanan físiko di Swaen, mester a konstruí muraya di Fe mentalmente i spiritualmente. M'a presentá mi plan- i pinturanan, anto solisitá sosten spiritual.

Gradualmente, m'a kuminsá bishitá eventonan di kontakto pa rekonektá ku konosinan di ántes i di awor. Pa restablesé kontaktonan despues di un ousensia di djesshete aña, ta rekerí tempu, pasenshi i persistensia. Djis despues di shete luna, enkuentronan empresarial i sosial, kompañá pa festividatnan de bes en kuando, a sirbi komo laso pa reforsá mi vishon.

Si bo ke tin éksito ku bo plannan, bo no mester duda den pidi konseho. Sea onesto i vulnerabel; no tene miedu di bisa: 'Mi no sa' òf 'splika mi, por favor.' Durante periodo di investigashon, a dediká basta tempu na buska informashon balioso i optené konosementu di ekspertonan den vèlt. Mi ta masha gradesido na kada persona ku boluntariamente a kompartí nan eksperensia, konosementu i kontaktonan.

6. Are there decent people living in Zwaan?

My mother repeatedly told us how she ran into an old friend, and this person asked her: 'so Mrs. Libert, where do you live now?' My mother replied: 'In Zwaan.' The lady was startled, and responded; 'you live in Zwaan, Mrs. Libert? I didn't know there were decent people living in Zwaan.' Then was like as we say in the Caribbean: '*donkey years ago*' when Zwaan was less inhabited and the present situation was unpredictable.

Some of my years spent in The Netherlands, were also marked by voluntary community work in established communities. Returning to my former neighborhood after 33 years, to start from scratch, were besides daunting and challenging, exciting and energizing as well.

Having done all the aforementioned, it was now time for the bat to connect with the ball. In order for plans to work, gain trust, respect and recognition by governmental and non-governmental organizations, corporate and local businesses, a community foundation was indispensable.

A foundation, the name says it all. Laying a solid foundation is vital to establish a viable and sustainable organization. Hence, on Wednesday, May 9th 2018, Fundashon Swaen i Bisendario / Foundation Swaen and Surroundings (FSiB) was established. A legally registered foundation by Notarial Act, and at the local Chambers of Commerce, with reputable persons as president, secretary, treasurer and commissioner. Initiator and project leader were yours truly.

After communicating our intention with inhabitants, the Foundation initiated its activities with a rigorous clean-up of the neighborhood, which lasted no less than three weeks. Letters were sent with success, requesting the collaboration of Selikor, -the local cleaning corporation- and Unidat di Bario, -the task force for neighborhoods-. Immediately our foundation was in the news.

The board members are appointed in the deed of incorporation of our foundation. Tirzah Libert, the initiator of our foundation, has also been appointed as project leader on the same date. The aim of the foundation is to come to a livable and clean city district in close cooperation with the residents and of course with the support of all involved (government) bodies, which forms an actual and integral part of our inner city in general and our immediate neighborhood environment in particular.

In order to achieve these goals, our foundation had undertaken or initiated various activities such as:

- Multiple cleaning actions of the neighborhood in collaboration with residents, volunteers and various agencies;
- Activities for children from the neighborhood, including vacation activities and Christmas celebration;
- Resident and neighborhood research (social map) in close collaboration with Unidat di Bario and the Technical Faculty of the University of Curaçao (UoC);
- Studies and presentations by students of the Spatial Development department of the Technical Faculty of the UoC with detailed plans for the development of a "new" urban district of Swaen;
- The Foundation seeks to achieve its goals by organizing activities, combating poverty and social exclusion, creating employment through various projects.
- The assets of the Foundation will be formed by subsidies and donations.

6. Tin hende desente ta biba den Zwaan?

Na vários okashon, mi mama a konta nos kon el a dal den un konosí di ántes, anto e persona akí a puntr'é: 'sra. Libert, na unda bo ta biba aworakí?' Mi mama a kontestá: 'den Zwaan.' Ku asombro e señora a puntra: 'sra. Libert ta biba den Zwaan? Mi no tabata sa ku tin hende desente ta biba den Zwaan.' Esei tabata shen aña pasá ora Zwaan tabata ménos habitá anto e situashon aktual tabata inesperá.

Durante algun aña ku m'a biba na Hulanda, m'a hasi trabou boluntario den barionan aya. Regresá mi bario bieu despues di 33 aña pa lanta algu konstruktivo fo'i suela, tabata fuera di un reto enorme, eksitante i energhetiko alabes.

Despues di hasi tur loke m'a menshoná anteriormente, a yega tempu pa hisa buta. Pa pone kos kana realmente, haña konfiansa, respè i rekonosementu serka instansianan tantu gubernamental, komo no-gubernamental, tambe di organisashonnan i negoshinan lokal, tabata indispensable lanta un Fundashon.

E palabra fundeshi ya ta bisa tur kos. Un fundashon sólido ta di importansia vital pa un organisashon práktiko i duradero. Djáron 9 di mei 2018, a funda Fundashon Swaen i Bisendario (FSiB). Un Fundashon ofisialmente registrá na Notario i Kámara di Komèrsio, ku hendenan di bon reputashon komo presidente, sekretario, tesorero i komisario. Inisiadó i lider di proyekto tabata bo sirbidó akí.

Despues di a komuniká nos intenshon na habitantenan, e fundashon a inisiá su aktividatnan ku un limpiesa riguroso di bario ku a dura no ménos ku tres siman. Kartanan ku nos a manda pa pidi kolaborashon di Selikor i Unidat di Bario, a resultá eksitoso. Mésora nos Fundashon tabata notisia.

Miembronan di direktiva ta apuntá den statutonan di e Fundashon. Tirzah Libert, inisiadó di e fundashon a keda apuntá komo lider di proyekto tambe, riba mésun fecha. Meta di e Fundashon ta pa mobilisá i empoderá habitantenan pa logra loke nan ke pa nan bario, nan komunidat, esta un bario limpi, kaminda ta biba dushi den kooperashon ku tur hende embolbí. Pa logra e metanan akí FSiB a inisiá siguiente aktividatnan.

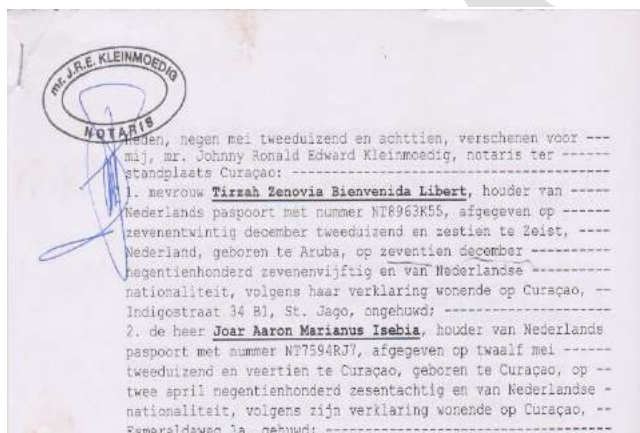
- Un limpiesa riguroso di bario den kolaborashon ku habitante-, boluntario- i organisashonnan;
- Aktividat pa muchanan di bario, manera plan di fakansi i selebrashon di Pasku;
- Enkuesta sosial di bario ~~hou di~~ entre e habitantenan, den kolaborashon estrecho ku Unidat di Bario i Fakultat Tékniko di Universidat di Curaçao (UoC);
- Estudio i presentashon di vários senario kompilá pa studiantenan di Fakultat Tékniko di Universidat di Kòrsou, loke ta enserá plannan detayá pa desaroyo di un distrito urbano 'nobo' pa Swaen;
- FSiB ta kumpli ku e metanan stipulá dor di organisá aktividatnan pa kombatí pobresa, eksklushon sosial i krea empleo pa medio di vários proyekto;
- Fundashon ta optené finansia mediante supsidio i donashon.

Fueled by the positive publicity, FSiB issued letters to neighboring and distant companies, requesting material or financial donations. The first cheque we received was from the island's oldest local bank, Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V., followed by several deposits into FSiB bank account. Material donations were received as well.

A public plenary meeting was organized by FSiB to introduce the Foundation and its members to residents of Zwaan, neighborhood organizations, government agencies and the press. Among the invitees were several distinguished guests and government officials, who praised FSiB for this community initiative.

Kargá ku publisidat positivo, FSiB a manda karta pa kompanianan den besindario i fo'i bario, kaminda nos a pidi material o donashon finansiero. Promé chèk ku a dreña tabata di e banko lokal di mas aña, esta Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V., sigui pa vários otro depósito den kuenta bankario di FSiB. Donashonnan den forma di material o produkto tambe nos a risibí.

FSiB a organisá un enkuentro públiko plenario pa presentá e Fundashon i su miembronan na e habitantenan di Zwaan, organisashonnan lokal den besindario, entidatnan gubernamental i prensa. Entre esnan invitá tabatin vários invitado distinguí i ofisialnan di gobièrnu, kendenan a elogiá FSiB pa e inisiativa komunitario akí.





7. Community Foundation Swaen

Working with and for the Community. Our accomplishments 2018-2020

- **Clean-up of Swaen / Zwaan and surroundings**

In collaboration with Selikor and Domain Management a rigorous clean-up operation that lasted three weeks in the Zwaan neighborhood and the nearby St. Jago area.

- **Public Plenary Meeting**

On Thursday, June 21st 2018, FSiB organized a public information meeting "bou di palu" in the neighborhood to introduce itself to residents, neighborhood organizations, government agencies and the press.

- **Holiday Plan**

The holiday plan consisted of informative excursions, educational workshops and social activities for children age 6-12 that lasted two weeks.

- **Kids X-mas Celebration**

The celebration consisted of a Christmas supper by means of an informative and interactive etiquette lesson through story-telling and games. Each child received a customized Christmas gift package.

- **Residents and Neighborhood Survey**

On Saturday, 1st September 2018, FSiB conducted a survey among residents in close collaboration with volunteers from the Volunteer Bank and 4th-year students from the Technical Faculty of the University of Curaçao. Inhabitants were very cooperative and responsive.

- **Investigations and Presentations**

Under supervision and coordination of Ing. Jefta van der Elst, students of the Spatial Development department of the Technical Faculty of the UoC have developed three detailed plans with technical surveys for the development of a "new" urban district of Swaen.

- **Participation CuraDoet**

On Saturday, March 16, 2019, volunteers assembled for an early morning take off. This time the clean-up was focused on the uninhabited center (ruin) monument, which for many years was used for illegal dump.

- **Donation Play equipment**

FSiB is honored that our community project is supported by individual entrepreneurs as well. Outdoors play equipment for the children were donated to the neighborhood.

- **European Development Fund - EDF**

On Wednesday, October 30th 2019, FSiB President and Secretary participated by invitation to the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) in connection with district development of Swaen.

- **Christmas celebration**

Sunday, December 15th 2019, with much energy and enthusiasm, FSiB topped off the year with a grand Christmas Celebration with and for the whole neighborhood. The response from the community was breathtaking with massive financial and material donations.

- **KIM: Kids in Motion**

After school activities and during the summer vacation, for a period of 6-months was funded for 4 girls by 'Adviescollege Samenwerkende Fondsen Cariben' for a grand total of @Naf. 7.000,=.



7. Fundashon Swaen i Bisendario

Nos ta traha ku bo pa bo. Ata nos logronan di 2018-2020

- **Limpiesa di Swaen / Zwaan i besindario**

Den kolaborashon ku Selikor i Domeinbeheer a tene un limpiesa riguroso ku a dura no ménos ku tres siman den bario di Zwaan, mas un parti serka di St. Jago.

- **Enkuentro Públiko Plenario**

Djaweps, 21 di yùni 2018, FSiB a organisá un enkuentro informativo públiko ‘bou di palu’ den bario, pa introdusí e Fundashon na e habitantenan, organisashonnan den besindario, entidatnan gubernamental i prensa.

- **Plan di Fakansi**

E plan di fakansi ku a dura dos siman, tabata enserá ekskurshonnan informativo, tayernan edukashonal i aktividatnan sosial pa muchanan entre 6 i 12 aña.

- **Selebrashon di Pasku pa mucha**

E selebrashon di Pasku a enserá un sena di Pasku ku lès di etiketa di mesa, interaktivo, ku kontamentu di kuenta i weganan edukashonal. Kada mucha a risibí un pakete di Pasku ku kontenido spesial pa mucha.

- **Enkuesta di Bario Sosial**

Djasabra, 1^o di sèptèmber 2018, FSiB a kondusí un enkuesta sosial entre e habitantenan, den kolaborashon ku boluntarionan di Banko di Boluntario i studiantenan di Fakultat Tékniko di Universidat di Kòrsou. Habitantenan a duna bon kooperashon.

- **Investigashon i Presentashon**

Bou di supervishon i koordinashon di Ing. Jefta van der Elst, studiantenan di e di 4 semèster di Desaroyo Urbano di Fakultat Tékniko di Universidat di Kòrsou, a desaroyá tres plan detayá ku enkuesta tékniko pa desaroyo di un distrito urbano ‘nobo’ pa Swaen.

- **Partisipashon di CuraDoet**

Djasabra, 16 di mart 2019, boluntarionan a reuní mainta tempran pa ranka sali. E biaha akí a konsentrá riba limpiesa di e monumento na ruina -meimei- no habitá, ku pa hopi aña a usa komo depósito ilegal di sushi.

- **Donashon Ekipo di Hunga**

FSiB ta sinti su mes honrá ku nos proyekto di bario a haña akogida di empresarionan individual tambe. Muchanan di bario Swaen a risibí komo donashon ekipo di hunga pafó.

- **Fondo Europeo pa Desaroyo**

Djárason, 30 di òktober 2019, FSiB su Presidente i Sekretario a risibí invitashon pa partisipá na e di 11 Fondo Europeo pa Desaroyo en konekshon ku desaroyo di distrito Swaen.

- **Selebrashon di Pasku**

Djadumingu, 15 di desèmber 2019, ku hopi ánimo i entusiasmo, FSiB a klousurá aña ku un gran selebrashon di Pasku pa i ku henter bario. Komunitat a respondé masalmente ku donashon finansiero i material.

- **KIM: Kids in Motion**

‘Adviescollege Samenwerkende Fondsen Cariben’ a finansiá aktividat despues di skol i durante fakansi grandi pa seis luna, pa 4 mucha muhé di bario, na un suma total di Naf. 7.000,=.



8. Rebuilding the Ancient Ruins

We landed in the year 2020 and FSiB board members were excited that our neighbourhood was finally listed at the European Development Funds, to build and fund a proper infrastructure of the neighbourhood. We knew it would take some time before the works could be executed, but at least we were on their list. Then suddenly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide, things changed, but not in our favor. Plans were not only delayed, but even cancelled for reasons not clearly explained to us. The saying every silver lining has a cloud related to our situation.

However, that did not stop us. As the saying goes: *“if you’re not moving forward as a learner, then you’re moving backward as a leader.”* During the lockdown, we held virtual meetings to discuss and adapt existing plans. At that point, Clifford Illis stepped into the arena like a hungry lion. As mentioned in the introduction, after forty years our paths crossed. When the news reached him that I had established a community foundation with the intention to restore the neighbourhood, we touched base. As Clifford himself said, he was astonished, yet at the same time pleasantly surprised. The year after FSiB published its annual report, we reignited our friendship.

FSiB was well documented with hard and digital copies on file of correspondence, board meetings, social activities, surveys and annual reports, accompanied by audio-visual material of the neighbourhood and images of the interior and exterior of the run down properties that were screaming to be restored. The assignment carried out by the students of the Technical Faculty of the University of Curaçao, for a new urban district of Swaen, were an asset. One of the three scenarios were chosen to depict the new Swaen. Along with approved housing plans of the housing foundation, reinventing the wheel was obsolete. Adjustments to the current situation were implemented and presented. Clifford set off to work, connecting the dots with the available documentation and adding his experience and expertise to the project. He drafted a masterplan, a contingency plan and financial forecasts for governmental and financial institutions.

Growing up together in the same environment, Clifford and I possessed the emotional stamina to empower each other and take the project to the next level. Along with other professionals, we reidentified the situation and proceeded with the work. To some inhabitants, our efforts seemed in vain, due to the island’s financial-economic situation, even prior Covid-19. Due to negligence and bad governance of former and present government, no budget was made available for funding of the project and the lack of money, became the root of all evil. Such situations either break you or make you.

However, we kept the faith and continued working relentlessly. To keep the pot boiling, I personally took the lead in keeping stakeholders informed with relevant information of the neighbourhood. Triggered with excitement, I could hardly sleep at night. My dream and vision were gradually unfolding and materializing, with the right persons at the right time.

My advise to whom it may concern: *“Hold on to the vision and ‘Go Ahead’, despite the odds. Don’t allow anxiety, fear and ignorance to get the better part of you. Be productive and creative in challenging situations.”* I kept focussed on my vision by going through my notes regularly, updating my vision board and sharing my dream with anyone interested to hear me out. My mental and spiritual strength came from much reading of both the secular and the sacred. Here’s what I learned:

“If I am not convinced and excited of whatever I have to offer, don’t expect anyone else to be.” Tirzah Libert



*"Take the first step in faith.
You don't have to see the
whole staircase, just take the
first step." Dr. Martin Luther*

*'Consider now, the Lord has chosen you
to build a house; be strong, and do it.'*
1 Chronicles 28:10



8. Rekonstrukshon di Ruinanan di Antaño

Aña 2020 a habri anto miembranan di direktiva di FSiB tabata yen di ánimo ku finalmente nos bario a subi lista di Fondo Europeo pa Desaroyo, ya asina konstrukshon i finansiamentu apropiá di infrastruktura den bario por tuma lugá. Nos tabata sa ku lo tuma algun tempu promé ku trabounan por kuminsá, pero sikiera a logra ku nos a subi lista. Despues di ripiente, pa motibu di e pandemia mundial di Covid-19 kosnan a kambia, no na nos favor. Plannan no únikamente a sufri retraso, pero asta a keda kanselá pa motibunan desconosí pa nos. Pero kada cambio tin su pakiko.

No opstante e desafionan nos no a sinta ketu. Manera un dicho ta bisa: ‘si bo no ta bai dilanti komo alumno, bo ta bai atras komo lider.’ Durante toke de keda, nos a reuní virtualmente pa diskutí i adaptá plannan eksistente. E momentu ei, Clifford Illis a drenta arena manera un leon feros. Manera a menshoná den introdukshon, despues di kuarenta aña nos a bolbe topa.

Ora a yega na su oreá ku m’a lanta un fundashon komunitario ku intenshon pa restorashon dje bario, nos a tuma kontakto ku otro. Manera Clifford mes a bisa, el a keda asombrá i alabes plasenteramente sorprendí. Siguiende aña ku FSiB a publiká su reportahe anual, nos a restablesé nos amistad.

FSiB tabata bon dokumentá ku kopia físiko i digital di korespondensia, reunion di direktiva, aktividat sosial, enkuesta i reportahe anual. Tur esakinan kompañá pa material oudio-visual di bario i potrènan di interior i eksterior di e edifisionan na ruina ku tabata sklama pa restorashon.

Plannan ku studiantenan di Fakultat Tékniko di UoC a traha pa un distrito urbano nobo di Swaen tabata di gran balor. For di e tres senarionan a skohe unu pa presentá e Swaen nobo. Ku plannan ya aprobá pa bibienda di Fundashon Kas Popular, reinventá tabata innesesario. A implementá i presentá e ahustenan na e situashon aktual. Clifford a ranka sali pa konektá tur material disponibel di e proyekto, kombiná ku su eksperensia i ekspertisio. El a traha un plan prinsipal, un plan di riesgo, i presupuesto finansiero pa institutonan gubernamental i finansiero.

Komo nos a lanta huntu den e mes bario, Clifford i ami tabatin stámina emoshonal pa empoderá otro i hiba e proyekto mas ayá. Huntu ku profeshonalnan, nos a reidentifiká e situashon pa sigui ku e trabounan. Pa algun habitante, nos esfuersonan tabata aparentá enbano, pa motibu di e situashon finansiero-ekonómiko dje isla, asta promé ku Covid-19. Debí na negligensia i mal gobernashon di gobièrnunan di turno i eksistente, no a presupuestá fondo pa finansiá e proyekto, anto falta di finansa a bira rais di tur loke ta malu. Situashonnan asina ta sea kibra bo òf hasi bo fuerte.

Sin embargo, nos a keda karga fe, anto sigui traha inkansablemente. Pa tene heru kayente, ami a tuma riba mi, pa tene konsorsionan informá riba susesonan relevante di bario. Kargá ku entusiasmo, anochi kasi mi no por a drumi. Mi soño i vishon tabata materialisá ku personanan apropiá na e momentu hustu.

Mi konseho na esun ku ke tende: ‘Tene duru na bo vishon i sigui padilanti, a pesar di e desafionan. No pèmití ansiedat, miedu i ignoransia tuma kontròl di bo. Sea produktivo i kreativo den situashonnan kompleho.’ Ami a keda fiha riba mi vishon dor di pasa den mi anotashonnan regularmente, tene mi bòrchi visual al dia, anto kompartí mi soño ku esnan ku ta interesá pa skucha mi. M’a saka forza mental i spiritual dor di lesa hopi, tantu material sekular komo sagrado. Esaki m’a siña:

Si ami mes no ta konvensí di i entusiasma ku loke mi tin di ofresé, no ferwagt esei di ningun otro hende.” Tirzah Libert



What is the old or present situation of Zwaan?

- Unhygienic conditions
- Increasing poverty and deterioration
- Increasing undocumented people
- Criminal and illegal activities
- Lack of recreational facilities
- Lack of sanitation
- Congested and dilapidated houses.
- No access to independent drinking water and electricity hookup.
- No infrastructure
- Most of the inhabitants can't be beneficiaries from government schemes.
- Only few inhabitants are recognized by Government and many are undocumented.
- The problematic has not been recognized and accepted by Government
- No drainage system
- In most locations, waste water flow in between houses freely
- The little social facilities available in slums is provided by NGOs

Kiko ta e situashon bieu o aktual di Zwaan?

- *Kondishonnan ahigiéniko*
- *Pobresa i deterioro kresiente*
- *Personanan indokumentá oumentando*
- *Aktivitatnan kriminal i ilegal*
- *Falta di fasilidatnan rekreativo*
- *Falta di saneamentu*
- *Kasnan kongestioná i deteriorá*
- *No tin aksesu independiente na awa di bebe i elektrisidat*
- *No tin infrastruktura*
- *Mayoría di habitante no por benefisiá di programanan di gobièrnu*
- *Solamente algun habitante ta rekonosé pa gobièrnu anto varios ta indokumentá*
- *Gobièrnu no ta rekonosé ni aseptá e problemátika*
- *No tin sistema di drenahe*
- *Na hopi lugá awa di riol ta kore liber entre kasnan*
- *E poko fasilidatnan sosial disponibel den barionan marginal, ta organisashonnan no-gubernamental ta sòru p'esakinan.*



Kiko ta ròl di gobièrnu den desaroyo komunitario?

Responsabilidatnan prinsipal di gobièrnu:

1. *Pèrkurá pa protekshon di poblashon*
2. *Dikta leinan den sosiedat*
3. *Guia sosiedat*
4. *Empoderá siudadanonan pa nan progreso*

What does FSiB want to achieve for a NEW SWAEN?

- Restoration of the Monuments
- Building of new affordable housing
- Removal of all illegal buildings
- Relocation of all inhabitants
- Building of complete infrastructure
- Assuring that all inhabitants are legal residents
- Restore Law and Order
- Creating employment and inclusion
- Giving the inhabitant hope and a future
-



Kiko FSiB ke logra pa e SWAEN NOBO?

- *Restorá e monumentonan*
- *Konstruí kasnan nobo i pagabel*
- *Deshasí di e konstrukshonnan ilegal*
- *Realoká tur habitante*
- *Konstrukshon kompletu di infrastrukture*
- *Sigurá ku tur habitante ta residente legal*
- *Restorá Lei i Òrdu*
- *Krea empleo i inklusividat*
- *Duna habitantenan speransa i futuro.*

“It always seems impossible until it is done.” Nelson Mandela

Post face pending

Every aged building has a story to tell.

Tirzah, much success.

Marcel Dennert.

DRAFT

Colophon

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Cover photos: Swaen Village 1990s - 2020

Cover Design: ?

Book Design & Layout: TL Publications & Promotion

Proof reading and editing:

Papiamentu Translation: Lucille Berry

Printing: ?

Photos: FSiB archive unless indicated otherwise

Author and Publisher: Tirzah Z.B. Libert

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Books may be purchased by contacting the author and publisher at:

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Acknowledgements and Gratitude / Rekonosimentu i Gratiud

First and Foremost: Thé Almighty! E Todo Poderoso

Thanks for trust and support / Danki p’e konfiansa i sostén:

Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied, Stichting Monumentenfonds Curaçao, Stichting Monumentenzorg Curaçao, University of Curaçao, Unidat di Bario, Ministerie VVRP and SOAW, Press and Media, Foundation Swaen i Bisendario (FSiB), Sra Maria Liberia-Peters, Sr Marcel Dennert, family and friends, acquaintances and neighbours (un)mentioned throughout this publication.

“God doesn’t require us to succeed, he only requires that you try.” [Mother Teresa](#)

In Loving Memory / Na Felis Memoria

In loving memory of my late parents who raised me up to be more than I thought that I could be.

Ku rekuerdo kariñoso di mi mayornan defuntu, kendenan a kria mi pa mi ta mas di loke m'a pensa ku lo mi por a yega na ta.



Sarah Elisabeth Libert-Vanterpool

Sunrise: August 15th 1924 Santo Domingo, DR

Sunset: December 31st 2016 Curaçao



Kenneth Antonio Libert

Dawn: April 20th, 1928 Santo Domingo, DR

Dusk: November 26th 2018 Curaçao

DRAFT

[Back cover]



Tirzah Zenovia Bienvenida Libert, Author

How do you capture the vision and possess the land? When your vision is audacious, scary and exceeds your current financial and intellectual capacity. By implementing RSVP in your daily rituals; Read, Study, Visualize and Pray.

Kon bo tin di brasa e vishon anto lag'e bira realidat? Ora bo vishon ta enorme, spantoso, anto pa kolmo mas grandi ku bo aktual kapasidat finansiero i intelektual? Dor di praktiká RSVP den bo ritual diario; Resa, Studia, Visualisá i Praktiká Orashon.

“The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” Daniel 11:32

‘Ma e pueblo ku konosé su Dios, ta para fuerte i ta resistí.’ Daniel 11:32

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