

## **Clementine Damen has gone home**

On May 6 in the afternoon Clementine Damen passed away at the age of 94. She knew there was not much time anymore but did what she could to regain strength. The last weeks she stayed in a revalidation home and did her utmost best to get strong again.

Clementine was born in 1938 in het Westland, in a horticulture family. As a child she always wanted to help others. Early in life she became aware of the call for nursing and after a journey of searching she gave in to a religious vocation. She entered in Imstenrade in 1957 and after the noviciate she became a midwife. In 1964 she went to Pendjua, Zaire. After a short time she had to go back because she had become very weak. When she recuperated she went to Malawi. There she started to support young midwives. Later on she was asked to start programs for mother and child care. She travelled a lot and often she was for weeks on the road

She returned to the Netherlands in 1990, after 23 years in Malawi. After a period with the Salesians in pastoral work and parish work she found a place in Utrecht, where she still enjoyed the last year..

Now we wish Clementine a happy home coming after all those years of dedication. She was a strong women, enjoying a sense of independence and at same time always searching how to be part of a greater whole.

“With our free will we may choose in daily life to find your own path and to trust that all will be well in the end. I have always searched true connectedness. I look back on a beautiful life in which I have grown and ripened.. I believe I will continue to grow till the last day”.

Walk in peace and beauty, dear Clementine. We are grateful for your life of service especially in Africa. We will not forget you.

Clementine gave her body to a science research center so there will not be a funeral. In due time we will celebrate her life with family, sisters and friends.

***May a warm welcome be prepared for you in the home you go to.***

***You will not go to a strange place,***

***but to the house you never left”.***

***John O’ Donohue***

***Elly Verrijt***