



... and it runs in the family ...  
this is her brother!



And a little further north in Germany,  
Kleve, a good rowdy celebration with my uncle  
Michiel & Petra and Maro & Philip and friends.



Harry with Michiel.



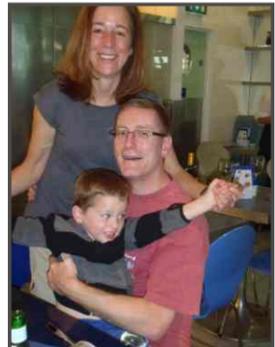
And here in Amsterdam we chat  
late into the night with my dear cousins,  
Julien and Siem, and Hedy and Onno!



And my sister Stella and her family  
join us from London for some wet  
camping in Calais, France.



Harry with Matthew.



Me with Stel's  
2 men, Nicholas  
& Matthew.



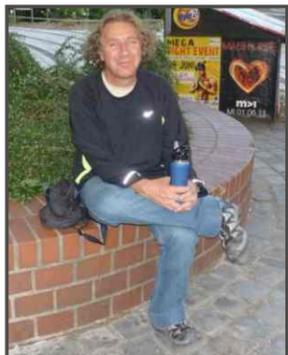
Our Lucy is going places ...



Oh, what fun!



And just for the record ....  
my Harry on a good hair day!



## 12. EUROPE

(15 May to 12 June 2011)

### 12.1. Turning Maslow Upside Down (Linda; Europe; June 2011)



This is our last posting. We didn't expect to enjoy this website so much! A big thank you, to Michnus and Elsebie and Luis, for suggesting it and making it happen!

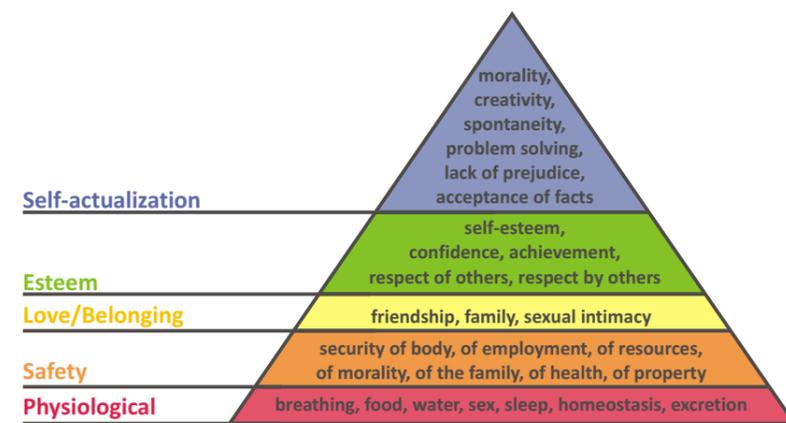
It's quite a bit of work but also a surprising treat. Everyday, for 6 months and every kilometer for 25,000km, we feel its persistent little pressure. The desire, and promise, to document, in a way, that makes sense to others. It's a little but important step from the scribbled notes, the half-finished lists and incomplete thoughts. But the joyfulness we feel in sharing. The richness our experience gains in its writing and showing. The gratefulness we feel in other's interest. The fuzzy, warm feelings we get with responses. We are going to print it all out, ramblings, photos, comments and all, as soon as we get home. It'll make a fine collection for our coffee-table. We will page through it for a long time to come. Thank you for making exactly this possible. Sincerely, thank you.

And please, indulge us one more time ...

Bits and pieces of our trip bombard all day long. They wash in and they wash out. They come in jolts and gasps, in floods and trickles, and in dribs and drabs. And if I have to sweep them all up into one grand impression, it is this... we need to hang Maslow upside down!

It was a nagging whisper before the trip. It is now a loud, thunderous, explosive, outrageous cry!

I've google-d this guy to make sure I've got my facts straight. In mid-1940 Abraham Maslow develops a pyramid that illustrates the human's Hierarchy of Needs. He suggests that an individual will first pursue basic needs (physiological and safety) before striving for higher level needs (love, belonging, esteem, self-actualization). It becomes the bedrock for theory on human motivation and influences all kinds of programmes, managements and institutions. It is still quoted and taught widely today. Look no further, here it is;



Our experiences on this trip confirm, for us, exactly the opposite!

I now find this theory misleading and disturbing. It may have applications in some contexts, but it has its limits!

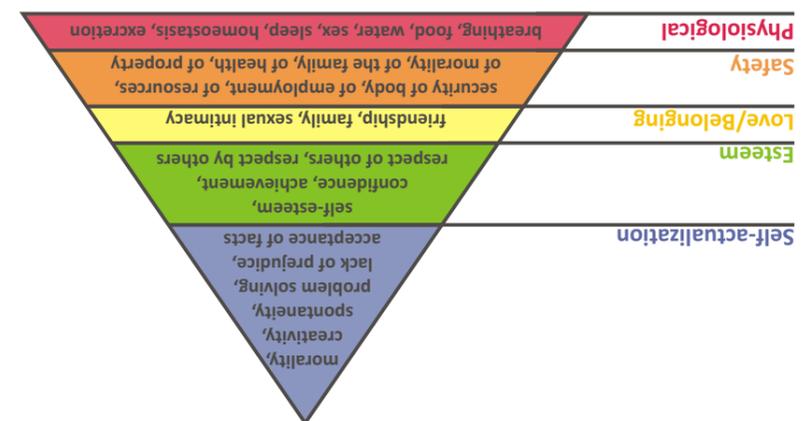
It suggests a person with no-things (physiological and safety) is incapable of love or sexual intimacy. It assumes a person with no-things is not spontaneous or creative and cannot solve a problem. It implies a person with no-things has prejudice and is not capable of mutual respect. It is extremely insulting to people with no-things.

Throughout our trip so many people, with no-things, walk up to us spontaneously and with confidence. They ask 'where have you come from' and 'where are you going' and exude genuine interest in our journey. They show respect, they expect respect and take great pleasure in our conversation. They offer help and advice and wish us well for the rest of our trip. We see inventive and resourceful solutions to problems. We see enormous achievements without outside assistance. We see and feel kindness all over the place.

The broad-brush application of Maslow's pyramid, we believe, creates an awfully wrong impression and is a terrible injustice to people with no-things!

In fact, it seems that some people with many-things lack exactly the higher level attributes that are apparently within their reach. Having many-things does not open the door to having morality, respectfulness, and friends. On the contrary sometimes layer after layer of many-things results in massive ego, power and greed. Sometimes the clutter, of many-things, has the unintended consequence of hiding Maslow's fine higher level values.

*No! No! No! This guy and his pyramid need to be turned upside down!*



*There! That's better!*

On our trip, every late afternoon we stop somewhere and need to find a place for the night. Harry rushes in, and out, of places and I stay behind with the bikes. In Africa, he returns to find me always surrounded by 10, 20 and sometimes 30 warm-hearted people. In Europe, he returns and finds me always 'stick soul alone' (i.e. 'stok siel alleen').

Enough, too many paragraphs and diagrammes, must be ready for work again (wink-wink).

*Look forward to seeing you at home soon.*