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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

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"Lord, open our eyes to the invisible so that nothing can undermine the optimism of those who believe in You and believe in Man, who put their hopes on You and who put their hope on Man".

Dear Friends,

The beginning of the year has been marked by the Haitian disaster, and we embarked, with Jean-Claude-Francois of Haiti Cosmos, in a long process of aiding displaced people, along with the continuation of our regular programs. These are (finally!) presented on our website as it should. Thank you for keeping on supporting our Haitian brothers.

As you have not heard about our actions in Sudan since the beginning of the year, we decided that this letter will cover the subject. For those who would like more information, comprehensive and updated presentation documents can be downloaded on our website (click on "Activities").



And if you have the possibility, **we urge you to come and meet the person in charge of our projects in Sudan, deacon Kamal Tadros, at our Assembly in late May.** He will be happy to meet you, to thank you and answer your questions! **In Austria, Kamal has been chosen as "Man of the Year" by the "Foreign Aid" department of Caritas! "An impressive personality for his tireless efforts for the children and the displaced people in Sudan."**

This year, we also shall have the pleasure to welcome our partners from England, Austria and France.

STATUTORY GENERAL MEETING

We invite all the members of the Swiss Association of the Friends of Sister Emmanuelle to attend its statutory general meeting, which will take place on: **Saturday 29th of May 2010 at 17h at the Cénacle 17 Promenade Charles-Martin, 1208 Genève (Malagnou)**

Various points raised by the attending persons will be discussed and voted.

SUDAN IN A POLITICAL TURMOIL

Sudan is currently living its first multiparty elections since a quarter of a century. The poll was boycotted by a significant part of the opposition and former southern rebels of the SPLM, who denounce rigged elections. President Omar El Bashir reckons on his likely re-election to regain his lost legitimacy, both on the domestic and international stage. As for Salva Kiir -the ex-leader of the SPLA rebels- he should keep the presidency of South Sudan, a position of major importance given the context of the referendum, planned for next January, on a possible partition of the country.

HARD TIMES, STRICT MANAGEMENT

In 2009, in order not to reduce for the fourth consecutive year our reserves for long-term projects, **expenses incurred by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) on our programs in Khartoum have dropped by 26%**. The decline mainly concerned the "Baby Feeding" and the "Vocational Training" programs. SVDP has refocused on **"Street Children" program, which represented more than half of the total costs in Khartoum.**

LET US BUILD A FUTURE AGAIN FOR THE OUTCASTS!

At Mayo, four kilometers from the center of Khartoum, in the southern parts of the city, we had built a vocational training center (Angola) and a home for boys that used to accommodate 31 children. They have been destroyed by the authorities in 2009 for "city planning" reasons.

Kamal and his team have not given up. They got a land in compensation from the government; its surface area of 3000 m² is even exceptional.

Help us to finance the reconstruction of a vocational training center (estimated cost: € 100,000) and a new home (€ 45,000)! Here are some encouraging results of 2009:

- **Three-quarters of the vocational training adult graduates have found or created a job within three months.**

- **For the first time, ALL of our young "street" children have passed their final exams; and 22 were admitted to the university!**

OUR FIRST PROJECT IN SOUTH SUDAN : A CHALLENGE TAKEN UP WITH SUCCESS !

A Lologo, the first 120 students graduated in March 2010 after a six months training in one of the three disciplines. For the next session, 40 candidates were already on the waiting list at the inauguration of the center in late September.

The 6 teachers, 60% of employees and 56% of the trainees of this first batch are **former IDPs who used to live in the North in camps or shantytowns.**

A graduate says: *"We saw Ugandan workers renovating buildings in the center. We believed that long-term development cannot be attained by importing labor force from abroad. I just did not know anything when the training started. My determination was so strong that I withstood some very demoralizing comments by a lot of people that building is not a work for women. I am sure many girls will join the next training session because they have seen through me and my other female colleagues that girls can become good builders."*

Another one, a graduate in electricity: *"The training has given me self-confidence and self-esteem and the courage to be an effective citizen: I am now the chairman of the current Lologo students union."*



CONCRETELY, WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH US

You give

49 CHF	(34 €)
99 CHF	(69 €)
226 CHF	(158 €)
458 CHF	(320 €)

We ensure

a meal for 100 children in IDP camps
the medical treatment (including drugs) of 20 people
one year of secondary schooling of a child
the vocational training of an adult

TOGETHER, we can give a hand to those who need it. Thanks!

Michel Bittar
President