



Association suisse des Amis
de Soeur Emmanuelle

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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

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Dear Friends,

NEWS FROM SUDAN

Here are the latest news that Kamal gave us:

Program for street children (Homes and Farms)

The school year has just ended and our kids are now on holidays.

50 of them are studying for their final exams. If they pass them, they can apply to universities and to colleges of university level.

We are happy to tell you that 30 boys and girls from our homes and farms have been admitted to various Faculties, including 2 girls to the Faculty of Medicine. Thanks to an Italian donation, we could pay the registration fees for some of them.

A generous donation of ASASE enabled us to buy a piece of land from the government, with a 90 years lease. The idea is to use this land progressively in order to accommodate street children and to generate an income. We must now find some way of financing this development. We warmly thank the Association for this donation.

Food project for small children

We currently provide meals to 8230 children under 4, in 18 centers; 3 of them are more than 40 km far from the city center, in places that cannot be reached easily, at the end of bumping roads.

We had to refuse the application made by some parishes to feed 1500 babies more.

We still do not know if, throughout this year, we will succeed in feeding as many children as we are presently doing, our budget being already very tight.

New vehicles

Thanks to a generous donation from Operation Orange, we have bought a Land Rover. This has helped us a lot to deliver the food and to supervise its distribution.

Thanks to Operation Orange again, we could also purchase a Toyota HiAce that can transport 14 people. Our aging automobile fleet desperately needed these new vehicles.

ASASE has also supported the purchase of a secondhand Mitsubishi. We take here the opportunity to thank everyone for their generosity.

Medical program

We now have 3 “Friday dispensaries”, in addition to our mobile clinics. These clinics mean a lot to the poor.

We also distribute drugs that we buy in Sudan.

Each Friday, we provide care to 200 to 300 people.

And this in addition to our mobile clinics that have treated 8703 people last year!!

Drinking water supply

Our well in the camp of Omdurman is functioning very well. To this day, it has been managed in cooperation with the Red Crescent. Unfortunately, the Red Crescent has just decided to withdraw from the program. We will then have to manage it by our own means. To get some income, we plan to sell this water to the donkey-carts drivers.

Vocational training workshop

This program goes on very well and here are some news which will certainly interest you:

- 1319 pupils have received their certificate in 2004
- 725 of them earn their own living thanks to their new trade
- In 2005, we are teaching 1762 persons who train to become carpenters, electricians, masons, tailors, tanners, welders or technicians in refrigeration. Programs for our orphans also include agriculture and cattle care.

We have signed a contract with the Catholic Relief Service to train 90 people in masonry. This workshop has already started and the Catholic Relief Service will support all the expenses, including the breakfast served to our trainees. According to a contract signed with each trainee, when they have completed their training program, they will have to go back to the South.

Another organization, Canada War Child, is financing a new program, “Now in Masonry”, that we are to set up in Geneina, west of Darfur. This joint action is going to improve the image of SVDP in the government, the international NGOs and the local populations.

Assistance to the displaced people in the camps of Darfur

Our representatives have just come back from Darfur, where they could deliver supplies to the refugees, mainly food, shelters, sanitary and daily use products, amounting nearly to US\$ 180'000.- (CHF 207'000.-).

We must specify that this help was received directly by SVDP and not through ASASE.

People in Darfur think highly of SVDP, particularly because they know that the donations really go to the poor. Our presence there is very much appreciated by the authorities and the refugees.

Micro-projects

Poultry and dairy products: this program is being financed by the European SVDP societies and is beginning to yield a little money. We use it to pay some expenses. It is still too early to know if this experimental program is profitable or not.

Fish sales also bring in small income.

Hereunder is a message from Kamal:

"We have just celebrated the Resurrection of Christ and on this occasion, I would like to thank Sister Emmanuelle, her European associations and all the givers for their support to Sudan. Without you, we would not have got anywhere. We ask the Lord to bless you and to reward you all in HIS own way.

We all are sad that our dear Pope has died. We are sure that he is already in Heaven, praying for us."

Kamal Tadros, SVDP Sudan National Secretary

NEWS FROM HAITI

In our previous letter, we quoted large extracts of Jean-Claude's report, who had been to Haïti to make sure the programs were still going on. As his assessment was positive, our committee decided to budget CHF 102' 000.- for Haiti this year.

For 2005, the budget of Haiti-Cosmos amounts to CHF 182' 000.- :

- CHF 112' 000.- will be used to create a garden of medicinal plants in Hinche.
- The balance (CHF 70' 000.-) represents the annual operating costs of our current projects: i.e. the wages of the medical assistants of our health program, the upkeep of our 21 dispensaries, some overheads, the wages of our employees at Bâti-Brique (the clay building cooperative) and the cost of our technical college, Polytec.

The fact that some institutions have trustfully supported us has really encouraged us to keep on going on. Thus at Christmas, the Association Coromandie gave us CHF 50' 000.- for Haiti, the City of Geneva CHF 20' 000.-, and the district of Chêne -Bougeries CHF 10' 000.- !!

We thus only have CHF 102' 000.- to withdraw from our reserves, and it is with confidence that we have decided to allocate this sum to our sister Association!!

Another piece of good news:

A member of our committee has recommended us to the Foundation des Grangettes. Our project of a medicinal plants production center has particularly appealed to this foundation. They are now going into the possibilities of helping us technically and financially to carry out this project. An interdisciplinary team has been formed with the participation of: Jean Claude François and Jacques Falquet (Haiti-Cosmos), Mrs. Caroline Ferrero Menut and Mr. Olivier Terretaz (Foundation des Grangettes), Dr. Pascal Bonnabry (Cantonal Hospital of Geneva) and Pr. Kurt Hostettmann (University of Geneva).

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Dear friends, let me tell you some good news: after having been very pleased to meet people from the cantons of Geneva, Valais, Neuchâtel and Friburg, Sister Emmanuelle is now looking forward to meet inhabitants of the canton of Vaud.

A conference-debate will take place in the **cathedral of Lausanne**, a great and beautiful place, on

Sunday, the 22nd of May 2005, at 6 p.m.

The topic of this meeting is the title of her last book: **"To live, what for?"**

A basic question, that cannot leave us unconcerned.

Sister Emmanuelle will also speak about her life with the destitute. She not only believes in God but also in the Human being.

You are warmly invited to come and take part in this gathering of people of goodwill.

A mass will be celebrated with the presence of Sister Emmanuelle and Kamal Tadros, our local representative, on:

**Sunday, the 22nd of May 2005, at 9:30 a.m.
at the Church Saint François de Sales
Rue Louis de Savoie, in Morges**

Looking forward to share these moments of joy with you all,

Marie-Claire Ricou

As you know, each year we usually assist some small NGO or other that is launching out into a project which seems worthy to us. One of the most important criteria is that this NGO should be known and strongly recommended by a member of our committee, so that we can be sure it is reliable. We would like to make it clear that we do not use the funds collected for our programs of Sudan and Haiti, but part of the financial yields of our Association (interests or exchange benefits).

On our last meeting, the committee decided, to mark the success of our action for our 25 years anniversary, **to make two donations of CHF 10' 000.- each.**

The two chosen NGO's are:

- 1) The Association *Women of Geneva-Women of Samba – Development Aid*, for the construction of a maternity hospital in Samba, Burkina Faso. This project has been presented to us by Mrs. Charlotte Floris, who has been a member of our committee since its very beginning. Her daughter Evelyne has been in Samba, and is one of the persons who initiate this project.
- 2) The Association *Afghanistan Tomorrow*, for the creation of a home for girls (from 7 to 14 years old), which is to open next July. It is a new ONG, created by one of Father Bearecueil's adopted sons. Father Bearecueil had spent most of his life in Afghanistan, until he was driven from the country by the talibans. He died on the 2nd of March, but the small group that founded this new NGO is determined to carry on with his work. Fabienne Lebedinsky, our latest recruit in the committee, knows them well. We decided to support them on her recommendation.

STATUTORY GENERAL MEETING

We invite all the members of the Association of the Friends of Sister Emmanuelle to attend its Statutory General Meeting, which will take place on

Tuesday the 24th of May 2005 at 8 pm

**At the room of the crypt of Saint Paul church
6, avenue de Saint-Paul
Geneva**

On the agenda: Modification of the statutes and vote for the new text proposed.

**MICHEL BITTAR
President**