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## LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N° 95

September 2006

Dear Friends,

Kamal has returned to Sudan after his annual European tour which lasted ten-weeks, including his stay in Geneva. We have tried to make the most of his presence in meeting almost all our institutional donors. I am glad to tell you that they have not only assured us of their complete trust and support, but they also showed their intention of getting more involved in the work of SVDP in Sudan. A true partnership has been established with our English, Austrian, French, Spanish and Canadian donors. All this requires a lot of coordination and information work, and I consider it as my main responsibility.

As for Jean-Claude François, he returned from a 6 weeks stay to Haiti, alive (it is not the least), somewhat sad about the deteriorating situation of his country, but quite optimistic and happy as regards the programs of Haiti-Cosmos we are supporting on the Central Plateau of Haiti.

Here are the reports of our two friends:

### NEWS FROM SOUDAN

#### **All our current programs are going on well.**

We are particularly happy to have all our ex-street children duly registered in schools.

We have started to collaborate with the Catholic Relief Service and Save the Children (England) on the financing of the vocational training of 450 adults in our centres.

We are glad to inform you that **we are building a new farm, called “John Matha”, in Gebel Awlia.** The foundations are now completed, and some of the buildings, the future living quarters of the children, are already two meters high. We spent the first remittance of our Spanish donor (60 000 €), and we have asked them the payment of the rest so that we shall not have to stop the construction.

#### **About our project to extend to the South our vocational training program for adults:**

- We have started in Renk, a city located just in between North and South, training programs of first aid, health awareness, home nursing and environment keeping. There has been a celebration on the day we presented their certificates to 263 graduates. These training programs have been very much appreciated by the local populations. Some of the graduates have already been hired by the Ministry of Health to work in Renk. We intend to extend this kind of program to other southern areas.

- With regard to our project to create a vocational training centre in the South of the country, we had planned to send a team to Juba in order to assess the needs and make a report in due form. But we preferred to postpone this mission, so that it did not coincide with the meeting of the Sudanese Bishops that was held within Sudan for the first time since a very long time, in Juba precisely. The Archbishop Paulino Lukudu, whom our delegation intends to discuss our project with, would not have been free. But it will be for another time, and we intend to organise this trip in the next weeks. We have already got information from the local authorities, and we have contacted the United Nations office in Juba. We will keep you informed about the development of this project that is particularly important to us.

Like every year, my **tour in Europe** has been very useful. It enabled us to meet our donors, to tell them how grateful we are, to give them detailed information about the situation and our programs, and to explain them the difficulties we are facing. Nothing would have been possible without the efforts made by ASASE and our donors to organize the tour and the meetings; we would like to thank them all warmly for concerning themselves with Sudan and our actions there. Thanks to your work, the connections you have created and kept with all the donors, and of course thanks to their generosity, **we have managed to collect all necessary funds for the 2006 budget.**

We are happy to announce to you that the **Saint Vincent de Paul Societies in England and Wales** are now among our major donors. We are sorry not to be able to thank all the people engaged in this partnership, but we would like to express at least our deepest thanks to Mr Ian Mawsdley and Mr Terry Brown.

**Here in Sudan, the heavy rains and the subsequent floods** have caused serious damages in several areas. The Nile floods are still at a dangerous level. Many families are now without shelter, their fragile houses having collapsed. In the camps for displaced people in Omdurman (see picture below), more than 2000 houses have been destroyed and 7 people were killed, including 4 children.



In a few days more than 300 patients rushed in our clinics, and our doctors endeavored to give them all the necessary treatments. We much appreciate their efforts and dedication.

We cooperate with other NGOs to help and support the populations affected by this disaster. We are very grateful to Saint Vincent de Paul England for having quickly accepted to support this action.

We wish to thank Sister Emmanuelle and her associations in Europe, particularly the Swiss one which shoulders a major responsibility in our action in Sudan.

Let the Lord bless you and send you His graces,

Deacon Kamal Samaan Tadros,  
General Secretary of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Sudan

## NEWS FROM HAITI

Jean-Claude reports:

I just returned from Haiti three weeks ago. As I was embarking the plane, I thought about all the Haitians who were still living under the constant threat of gang leaders. The following statistics have been published by a member of the Parliament: "In May and June, in Port-au-Prince, 85 people were shot, 264 injured, 60 kidnapped and 35 raped; 11 police officers were killed". The supporters of the former president Aristide still demand the return of their leader. To ensure their own safety, the policemen patrol the streets in plain clothes and unmarked police cars.

Although it is calmer and safer than in Port-au-Prince, the Central Plateau is also affected by this crime wave: there have been several murder cases and armed robberies. There is nobody in the streets after 7 p.m.. Personally, I tried to be very discreet during my stay: I was riding a motorcycle instead of taking my car, and attended no late meetings. Thank God, the Foundation Cosmos did not suffer any loss; we even felt that people were very ready to come and protect its employees and properties.

In our technical college Polytec, there are now 80 students registered in Agriculture and Management courses. In October 2006, we are going to start a Construction Techniques training course. The graduates will have skills in electricity, plumbing, masonry, technical drawing and real estate managing. Our aim is to train young people able to meet the needs of the Central Plateau, that lacks of social housing (80'000) and interurban roads. Forty applicants are already registered; ten of them are former members of the Bati-Brique Association who wish to complete their training. I was very glad to hear that one of them has set up his own clay-building business in the Dominican Republic, and that other ones had several building contracts in the Central Plateau.

**Our 21 dispensaries** are operating well. Last December, we started to build in very distant places four dispensaries that have been expected by the local population for about 5 years. These new dispensaries will start to function toward the end of 2006. One day per quarter, a doctor is going to give to the medical assistants a proficiency course based on the deficiencies he will have noticed during their discussions.

Several of our dispensaries are regularly used by two American NGOs: "Vision sur le Monde" ensures the medical follow-up of pregnant women in their villages, and provides them with food complements that guarantee a good development of their infant; the other NGO, "Zanmi La Santé" gives treatment to the patients having AIDS and tuberculosis. This NGO has just proposed to us a closer collaboration with our medical assistants: they will offer them training sessions and medicines for the patients having AIDS and tuberculosis. The first seminar took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of August.

The laboratory of medicinal plants is meant to produce the most current drugs for our 21 dispensaries. It is run by two teams. The first one, made of 15 people (including an agricultural technician, a guard and 13 farm workers), is due to produce the medicinal plants: it started two years ago and has planted more than ten thousand plants. The other team, which should start to work by the end of the year, will be made of 10 people, including a pharmacologist, an safety guard, a driver/deliveryman and 7 pharmaceutical assistants.

The centre also needs some water and electricity. We have lost hundreds of plants for lack of water. We are looking for specialists that could help us to drill wells, or perhaps to build small dams or even artificial lakes. The land is suitable to these kinds of fittings.

By the end of the year, a training program will take place at Hinche, for about sixty young people who have already attended a training in medicinal plants. It will be organized by a team formed by professor Kurt Hostettmann, Head of the Pharmaceutical Department of the University of Geneva, and Doctor Pascal Bonnabry, Chief Chemist of the Cantonal Hospital of Geneva. The training will end with a competitive examination; we will hire the preparation staff among the best trainees.

We have started to build the center in December 2005 and it should be finished next November. As for the purchase of the tools and the equipment, we have ask some estimates to specialized stores in Port-au-Prince.

Thanks to your donations and to your generosity, we are passing, with the population of the Central Plateau, a major turning point on its road to self-reliance: people are finally going to be treated with local medicines made out of their own resources. No doubt that it will give hope to many people in this poor country which has been devastated by endless struggles. THANK YOU all so much!

Jean Claude François  
Vice-President, Haiti-Cosmos

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

We invite all the members of the Swiss Association of the Friends of Sister Emmanuelle to attend the Special General Meeting which will take place on

**Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October at 6 p.m.  
in the room of the crypt of the Saint Paul Church  
6, avenue de Saint Paul  
Geneva**

The object of this General Meeting is :

We decided that it would be wiser to register ASASE at the Trade Register in order to protect more efficiently its future. We have contacted a lawyers office, and two minor modifications happen to be necessary, on the articles 2 (GOAL) and 9 (General meeting).

You are warmly invited to join this General Meeting. A 15 minutes film will be screened; directed by Patrick Bittar, it is a short presentation of ASASE, SVDP and their programs in Sudan. It will be followed by a committee information meeting.

Thank you all for your faithfulness, that is so encouraging,

**Michel Bittar  
President**