



Association suisse des Amis
de Soeur Emmanuelle

19, rue du Rhône
1204 Genève
T: +41 (0)22 311 20 22
F: + 41 (0)22 310 21 93
info@asase.org
www.asase.org

LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N° 98

MAY 2007

Dear Friends,

Spring has come, and with it, starts like every year the busiest time for our association. It is the time of the year for annual reports, budgets to be established for the following year, and files to be presented to our institutional donors. Of course, all this work is done in collaboration with Kamal Tadros, who joined us in April, and who already went a few days to Austria, the first step of his usual tour in Europe.

This year, this time is devoted to the preparation of the events that we organize to celebrate the 20 years -anniversary of our action in Sudan. You will find attached flyers about the three major events planned for the end of the month (see below for more details), to which you are cordially invited.

NEWS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

Fabienne Lebedinsky, Vice-president of ASASE, and Jean-Claude Francois, Vice-president of Haiti-Cosmos, have visited our dear Sister in her old people's home...

Fabienne kept her informed of our current actions and the progress of our project to create a new vocational training centre in Juba, in the south of Sudan. Sister Emmanuelle was very happy to hear that the local Church gave to the Saint-Vincent de Paul Society 27 acres for the construction of this centre.

She was also particularly interested in our medicinal plants projects; those currently in progress in Haiti, and those that could be set up on our land in Juba. Sister Emmanuelle was delighted to hear about our good cooperation with the members of Operation Orange and Les Amis des Enfants, who will join us to the celebrations at the end of the month.

As for Jean-Claude Francois, here is a short report of his visit:

I had the great pleasure to visit Sister Emmanuelle on the 10th of April, in her home in the South of France, with Fabienne Lebedinsky.

Our eyes met in the first place at the 11 o'clock mass; and there was I, already touched, as usual, by her being so evidently happy to see us again, greeting us with a gentle smile. Later, she welcomed us in her tiny room, furnished with a bed, a small table, her wheelchair, some books and old clothes we all know well.

Although she is very weak physically, her spirits are high. Still witty and good-hearted, she sympathizes with everyone's sufferings: "How is Haiti, Jean Claude?" – "Fine, my Sister." – "Yet I have just heard about another murder that happened yesterday morning at Port-au-Prince (...)"

We then looked at some photographs of our activities in Haiti, and talked over some news from Sudan. When it came to the children of Haiti and Sudan, and especially to the displaced people who want to

return in the South, she was eager to support them, but looked tired and low-spirited, repeating: "My God, how are we going to finance all that?!"

I will surely keep for a long time in my heart the pleasant memory of our visit to a great lady who devoted her entire life to the destitute, and who stands for me as an example of humility and compassion.

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:

**Thursday the 24th of May 2006 at 8 p.m.
At the crypt of Saint Paul Church
6, avenue de Saint Paul, Geneva**

LET US CELEBRATE THE 20 YEARS-ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ACTION IN SUDAN

As announced in our last letter, we are pleased to invite **you to celebrate with us the 20 years-anniversary of our action in Sudan. All the following events will take place at the Théâtre de l'Espérance**, 8, rue de la Chapelle, in the Eaux-Vives neighbourhood, in Geneva.

Wednesday May 30 (2.30 – 5.00 pm): a festive afternoon for the children (from 7 to 13)

- Short film « *The Goose-Girl at the well* », adapted from a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm
- Musical interlude with Marie-Luce Dayer, story-teller
- Slideshow on children who are living in the desert, presented and commented on by Madeleine Cuinet and Monique d'Hérouville, from Opération Orange
- Noëlle Darbellay's testimony: this high school girl will tell us about her several stays during her summer holidays in an orphanage in Africa
- Cake + 20 candles

Thursday May 31 (8.30 pm): « *Vivre, à quoi ça sert ?* » - Play

- Adapted from the book from Sister Emmanuelle, this play has been produced for the first time in Paris last year
- After the performance, we shall have a drink with the artists at the bar of the theatre.

We remind to you that tickets are on sale at the Service Culturel Migros (7, rue du Prince), and also at the theatre entrance before the performance.

All funds collected are to be given to ASASE.

The comedians have agreed to **play another time, on Thursday afternoon, in front of teenagers from Geneva secondary schools.**

Friday June 1 (8.00 pm): « *The challenges taken up in Sudan* » - Documentary + Debate

- Screening of an extract of « *The Children of the Nile* », a documentary on our programs in Sudan;
- Debate on the topic « *To give? What for?* », animated by Jean-Philippe Rapp and Geneviève Brunet, with a CICR representative and Kamal Tadros (a translator will ensure the fluidity of the debate)
- cocktail

We also invite you to join us at **the mass in which Kamal Tadros will take part, on Wednesday May 30 at 6.15 p.m. at Saint Joseph church.**

Hoping to celebrate with you all our 20 years of support to our Sudanese brothers,

**Michel Bittar
President**