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de Sœur Emmanuelle

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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

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- You are, with priest Abbe Pierre, one of the most beloved personalities of the French. What does it do to you?

- All this is superficial... This praise, it does not go far, indeed. Being now close to death and with all my past failures, I know that all this is vain and empty. I shall not carry all this stuff to the grave. When I appear in front of the Lord, he will not ask me what was my rank in the opinion polls.

(in La Croix, 13/02/2004)

Dear Friends,

Almost ten years ago, on October 20th, Sister Emmanuelle left us to join "her Beloved". On the occasion of this anniversary, we warmly invite you to a

celebration mass

Saturday, October 6 at 6 pm

in St. Paul's Church, 6 avenue de Saint-Paul, Grange-Canal, Geneva.

**The mass will be followed, at 19:15, in a room under the church,
by the show "I'm 100 and I would like to tell you"**

performed by actress Christelle Mandallaz and musician Sylvie Zahnd.

The evening will then proceed with refreshments. On this occasion, you will be able to meet our local partners in South Sudan (Betram Gordon Kuol) and in Haiti (Jean Claude François).

At the end of June, we had the great joy of being informed of the renewal, for three years, of the support of the Canton of Geneva to the Lologo Vocational Training and Community Development Center (VTCDC) in South Sudan. The ASASE Committee and the team of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) Juba, our local partner, welcomed this news with much gratitude and a stronger motivation to achieve the objectives set in the fourth phase of this project.



In June, at the invitation of our Austrian partners Caritas and Hilfswerk, I traveled to Graz to participate in a weekend of meetings and celebrations. It was a great opportunity to see Betram (opposite, along with sisters Sara, Nada and Takla who are continuing Sister Emmanuelle's work in Cairo), and Patrick Cuinet, the President of our French partner Sister Emmanuelle's Operation Orange.



In South Sudan, hope for a return to peace was rekindled this summer with the agreements reached by the main belligerents. In early August, Kiir and Machar signed a power-sharing agreement in Khartoum, Sudan.

As this is the third of its kind since the beginning of the civil war, almost five years ago, we are waiting to see if, this time, it will be respected by the leaders and their troops, and whether the non-signatory rebel groups will not scuttle it.

Pending confirmation of these hopes, the SVDP teams are continuing their work in Juba at the service of the poor.

Efforts to develop relationships with NGOs on the ground are paying off.

An agreement was reached with World Vision; in 2017, SVDP let them use the VT CDC for a food aid program supported by the World Food Program: now for 7 months, SVDP will train for them 45 people in electricity and sewing, in the afternoon, after the "SVDP" trainings. In compensation, World Vision pledged 48 700 \$ and to build latrines in the VT CDC.

In addition, relations with the Ustratuna Center in Juba, which depends on the Italian NGO OVCI¹ led to the inclusion, in 2018, of 10 trainees with various disabilities. SVDP has received compensation of 10 000 \$ to cover costs, including transportation.

A funny anecdote: in Lologo, for some time now, an old man has been singing in his dialect a cheerful song in which he wonders why people of all ages - babies, children, teenagers, young people, parents and elders - go to the VT CDC. Even the goats, who noticed this influx, went with the flow! 😊

Finally, we announce the launch of a **crowdfunding campaign on the internet from October 15th to November 30th.**

The objective will be to fund toolkits for 30 future graduates of the VT CDC 2018: 15 kits for seamstresses and 15 for masons.

A survey conducted in 2018 found that the kits were directly used by the 2017 graduates in their activity: 17 auto mechanics, 13 electricians, 11 masons, 28 seamstresses and 19 women farmers are using it every day for the activity they launched this year.

We shall tell you more soon, but you should know that we are counting on you, dear Friends, for this campaign - a new way for ASASE to publicize its actions, especially with young people - be a success!

Patrick Bittar
Director

¹ Organismo di Volontariata for the Cooperazione Internazionale.