



LETTERS TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

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« Religion, the relationship of man to God, is to be lived daily, in full humanity and a concrete solidarity. »

Dear Friends,

In June, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our association, we organized a surprise party for our founding president, Michel Bittar. The forty guests (members of the Committee, faithful supporters of our association and president's relatives) were very happy to come together again at the Cénacle. They were moved by the videos sent by Kamal Tadros (former head of long supported projects in Sudan) and Betram Gordon Kuol (current coordinator in South Sudan), and by Jean Claude François' (programs coordinator in Haiti) and of your servant's speeches.

In July, the President and myself traveled to London, at the invitation of the St. Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales. We met there with several members of this long-standing partner of ASASE, including the National President, Helen O'Shea. A working meeting allowed us to enrich our mutual knowledge in order to strengthen our future collaboration. We proposed in particular that they freely use, for their communication campaigns, excerpts from the fifteen videos that I brought back from my visit in Juba a year ago.

By the way, we invite you to view these videos on the "Gallery" section of our website asase.org: they will give you a lively overview of the work done by our local partner in South Sudan.

Early June, the Lologo Vocational Training and Community Development Center was proud to receive the **impromptu visit of the Swiss ambassador, Daniel Hunn** (see photo), based in Addis Ababa (in Juba, there is only a diplomatic representation). His Excellency was very much impressed by what he saw. Unfortunately, he reminded Betram of the policy of the offices of the Swiss representation in South Sudan, currently focusing on emergency program assistance.

In July, 62 adults, who graduated end of 2018 and applied for a **micro-credit**, received a three-day training in running a small business. Like last year, they grouped by 5 and presented their project to the Committee of our local partner, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Juba (SVDP). After studying the business plans and visiting the planned sites for the launch of the activities, the projects of 11 groups were selected and **55 beneficiaries received their credit on August 19th**. As you know, the first credits were granted in April 2018 to 8 groups of 5 beneficiaries. They almost all have repaid their credit (92% out of the \$ 11,510 lent in total).



Mid-May, **two new recruits have been hired to strengthen the administrative leadership of SVDP** (especially to replace Rose, dismissed on May 30, in her mission of local networking) and to bring the much needed support to Betram, in his various tasks: Wilson and Youssif, who were employed locally by the NGO The Leprosy Mission International (LMI) until the end of 2018. Wilson, 47, spent two years in Germany, where he graduated with a *Master of Health* at Heidelberg University. Youssif is a doctor who used to work in the mobile clinics program around Khartoum (when we were funding it), and who is involved in the South-Sudanese Anglican Church. I will be able to give you more details about what each of them is in charge of when I met them during my next visit at the end of September.

The income generating poultry program resumed this year in February. 800 chickens and 1,200 laying hens (as well as food, supplements and vaccines) were bought this time in Holland and imported through Uganda. Chickens were sold in April for \$ 4,200. The first eggs began to be sold in early July. Current production is about 660 eggs per day sold for \$ 66 (that's about \$ 23,000 expected over one year).

In Nyarjwa, the farm's irrigation plan will begin an experimental phase on a 0.8ha plot near the agricultural well and the 24m³ reservoir. There will be planted, in rotation, cereals (maize, sorghum) and vegetables. The objective is to evaluate the quantity of water needed on a small plot before developing a more ambitious irrigation plan that would require a contribution from one of the two nearby rivers. This project is being closely monitored by our friends of the Relais Anjou d'Opération Orange de Sœur Emmanuelle, who will finance the purchase of the necessary equipment (probably sprinklers, distribution pipes, ascending pipes ...). In June, after a visit by Betram to the Balton Irrigation company in Kampala, a Ugandan technician came to make an initial assessment of the equipment needed. In August, Betram went to Nairobi to monitor the order of the equipment from Kenyan offices of this supplier, whose offer was more in line with the needs of the project.

The construction of the warehouse (360 m², 20x18m) for storage of equipment and harvests has lagged far behind (like that of the reservoir). It took two changes of entrepreneurs.



Betram and the new tractor in front of the hangar, which is not yet completed.

In Nyarjwa again, **the Saint Vincent Health Center** will receive a donation of 14,000 CHF from Pharmacists Without Borders Switzerland. In October, Dr. Christophe Berger will return on site to follow the progress of this promising collaboration.

Regarding **the Be In Hope program for street children**, thanks to the generous donation of a member of our Committee, the number of beneficiaries will increase from 20 to 25 by January 2020.

The political situation remains uncertain, even if the cease-fire signed a year ago has been overall respected. The South-Sudanese pound continued to depreciate: 265 SSP / \$, compared to 200 SSP a year ago (that's -32%).

Without your donations, we could not do anything!
A big thank you in advance!

Patrick Bittar
Director