



claim for dignity.

Report of the German Non-Governmental Organisation Claim for Dignity e.V. Year XVI ebook

Human and Social Affairs - Religion, Art and Culture - Nature, Sustainability, Environment and Technology

Believe in the Experience of Life





AFBW – South-West Germany's Network for Fibre-Based Materials [73]

The Baden-Württemberg Alliance for Fiber-Based Materials (Allianz Faserbasierter Werkstoffe Baden-Württemberg, AFBW) is a multi-industry technology network. It encourages exchange across the value chain for fibers – connecting manufacturers, users, and researchers.

AFBW provides a platform for dialog and knowledge transfer, and is a committed driver of innovation. In collaboration with its members and partners, AFBW identifies and promotes novel solutions, and supports the 'renaissance of fibers'.

Added value through networking

AFBW:

- provides early access to information and new markets
- enables networking, and helps people and organizations to connect
- provides knowledge and encourages knowledge transfer
- supports collaborative projects with the aim of putting pioneering ideas into practice
- pools expertise and encourages technology transfer – strengthening strengths
- connects members to multipliers, opinion leaders and networks

AFBW promotes the development and use of fiber-based materials across multiple industries, and provides fresh impetus for innovation. Its objective is to strengthen the competitiveness of local enterprises, and the regional economy as a whole.

The alliance offers a broad portfolio of services. This includes conferences and meetings that highlight new technological trends and uses; work groups and projects that explore ways of converting creative ideas into marketable products; shared booths at trade fairs, and PR and media work, that raise awareness of the industry's capabilities.

The work of the AFBW makes it a key player in the world of fibers, and beyond. A core focus is promoting the use of fiber-based materials in a wide variety of applications, including smart textiles, architecture and construction, aerospace and automotive engineering, environmental technology, medicine, and lightweight construction.



Image AFBW

Editorial

Dear reader,

In the course of our human existence our path of life is touched by unknown faces and their stories.

When in 2011 our former voluntary in Villa Independiente School, Sarah Ament, made us meet Benilda, we couldn't fathom the path we were going to share; a path that springs from the same source for all of us.

But it is in such apparently ordinary encounters like the one with Benilda that God is manifest. Christ becomes visible and touchable.

To realize how God calls us in those encounters – with a face that we don't even know initially – is the only possibility not to foil his plan, and thus witness the view that is set upon us and makes us free, no matter the situation we presently find ourselves in.

During the past years we constantly encountered and accompanied new faces, old faces gained novelty. Young adults started with us into their Voluntary Year; committed students, teachers and scholars worked hand in hand with us to implement projects and organise exhibitions; scientist and researchers supported us in technical projects.

We have now arrived at a point at which we must recondition well-established procedures without forgetting to concentrate on our roots.

So we would like to dig further into the experiences made so far in the fields of nature, environment and engineering, with cultural encounters and social aspects, reaching beyond countries and cultures.

In this edition of our newsletter, our members contribute reports on the projects of our hearts in Peru and the plans for a pilgrimage church in South Africa. There will also be news on our cooperation with Melanchthon High School Bretten and Robert Bosch High School Langenau. On top of that you will learn more about our cooperation with socially engaged people in Africa, South America, India and Albania, who will cover their experiences and projects there.

An obituary on Clara Mack's more than a hundred years lived, insights into Voluntary Social and Ecological Years with *weltwärts* and *Wwoof*, as well as a view on the human side of sustainability and a critical debate on climate theory will complete this edition.

We hope you will enjoy the read and would be happy to meet in person at one of our numerous events.

Best regards,

CfD council



Sabine Schliep Michael Schliep Annette Simon

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A Letter from Benilda

by Benilda Tipola Quispe [4]

Benilda is 16 years old and attended Villa Independiente Elementary School from 2006 to 2011. Today she is attending her fourth year of Secondary School, which corresponds with Year 10 in Germany. She aims at becoming a cook.

I am Benilda.

I would like to tell you that I started my studies in a very humble little school (40659). My teachers taught me to read and write and I learned little by little.

Later we received support from the German ladies. They gave us breakfast every

day because many children had nothing to eat. They also taught us English.

We feel great joy in our hearts. We lived beautiful and unforgettable experiences. I am very grateful to the German ladies for giving us lots of things and fun and made us feel very beautiful moments. Just like a great Christmas party with lots of presents and happiness. I am also grateful for the immense happiness that they made us feel and all of this remains sealed in our hearts. This is it, thanks.



Image Sarah Ament

Benilda dreamed of a better life in 2011

Benilda, diez años

Yo me llamo Benilda, tengo diez años y mi familia es muy buena.

Estamos muy alegres y contentos. Yo no tengo madre ni padre, pero si tengo dos hermanos: mi hermana tiene doce y mi hermano nueve años, él estudia junto conmigo. Mi hermana se llama Maria Carme y mi hermano se llama Juan Carlos, él es muy travieso y mi hermana también lo es. Pero mis tías tienen suficiente, pero mis tíos me aman mucho y yo también los amo y los quiero mucho, pero extraño a mi madre.

Yo vivo en Villa Independiente 5-14 en Arequipa y mi familia está muy contenta. Mi casa está rectángula, es grandecita, no es pequenia. Allí vivimos muy felices.

Pero yo no trabajo, soy ninia, por eso mis tíos trabajan, porque ellos son muy buenos, por eso me pusieron al colegio. Si no fueron buenos, no nos llevarían al colegio.

Pero me gusta ir al colegio porque allí se aprende a leer y a escribir y muchas cosas más. Yo quiero ser una peluquera, sueño ser eso y quisiera salir adelante y triunfar en la vida.

Dental Care for the Children of Villa Independiente School

by Pilar Tejada Saez [80]

A portable dental care kit was received from Germany. Firstly, we tried to arrange a visit of the doctors to the school, so they would take care of the children with the portable module. Nevertheless, the director of the Universidad Católica said that it was not possible, because the doctors would need more equipment, such as a dental chair, a lamp, and other items. Nevertheless, we still made petitions to the University so they would evaluate it, but we never obtained any response. As an alternative, I contacted Dr. Edith Ramos, who kindly offered to take care of the children as long as we would supply the necessary materials.

Dr. Ramos asked Mr. Carlos Bilbao (a techni-



The first time with the dentist. Image Pilar Tejada

cian) to examine the dental kit and enable it to operate. Once I brought the kit to Dr. Ramos, she told me it was not completely fit for service, since it was necessary to extract saliva and there was not room to dispose it.

Therefore, we decided that I would take the kids to another doctor's office in Umacollo. We discussed some possible dates, but then she had an accident and was convalescent for a while.

According to this, I was very worried because days passed by and we could not put our plan into practice. I decided to talk to a doctor from the Universidad Católica de Santa María and asked her to take care of the children. Dr. Ximena Vela and two other persons coordinated the procedures, but we had to take the kids to the university clinic.

I asked Mrs. María Sanz to give us permission to take the kids to that place. Thank God, Mrs. Sanz authorized it.

First, we began with 5th and 6th grade students. In the first group, there were 12 children. In order to make it comfortable and safe for the kids, I hired a person who regularly transports children to school; this man was in charge of taking the kids from school to the clinic and bringing them back. That is how we managed to launch our plan.

Some weeks we made it for two days, sometimes we only made it once a week. It depended on the availability of doctors and the permission of the school director.

We took care of the children from those classes. In sum, the procedures carried out included resin, dental extractions, sealants, and X-rays. We managed to accomplish our plan without any major setback. Claim for Dignity provided 50% of the financial resources, and the University took care of the rest. Unfortunately, there was not time left for the treatment of 4th class students, as they were heading into the exams phase at school and we did not want to interrupt them.

We have discussed the possibility of resuming our work in 2017 and take care of the students whose treatment is still pending.

I will provide a detailed account of the costs incurred in this activity.

Practicing How to Brush Your Teeth

Dentist Dr. Christian Schmitt from Roth Supports Claim for Dignity

by Anna Meier [59]

Roth – To help people where help is needed the most: This is the goal of *Claim for Dignity*, a charitable organization in Stuttgart, Germany. This organization collects donations to support socially deprived people all over the world. Dr. Christian Schmitt, a dentist from Roth, donated a valuable case with utensils for dentists in Peru – to help poor children.

“You can always help. Even though there are more important problems in the world right now than dental hygiene, this subject should not be neglected in poor countries”, says Dr. Christian Schmitt, who donated a dental case worth 1,500.- Euros to *Claim for Dignity*. This case contains everything needed for dental treatment. It will be taken to Peru within the next months.

Sabine Blaser from Roth has been a member of *Claim for Dignity* since 2010. Also, she is a patient of Dr. Schmitt’s.

“Many children in Peru don’t even know what a toothbrush is. That’s why it is so important for them to learn more about dental hygiene”, she claims.

The organization cooperates with a German grammar school where a Dental Hygiene Project was developed. The programme arranges for German volunteers to take children in Peru to a dentist and brush their teeth with them. A Peruvian dentist agreed to treat children for free. A dental case with all important utensils

should help advance the subject of dental hygiene in Peru.

“Collecting donations for this case would probably have taken at least a year, but then Dr. Schmitt, who acted as an advisory capacity to the project, surprised me suggesting that he had organized a case for the elementary school”, says Sabine Blaser. This was the biggest donation *Claim for Dignity* ever received. For Dr. Schmitt it is important that the people who need help really get it. “I just wanted to enable the organization to help the children in Peru”.

Dental hygiene is just one of *Claim for Dignity*’s many projects. Over 50 members from Germany, Spain and Peru helped to realize technical and social projects in South Africa, Panama or Peru. In the poor districts of Arequipa, the second biggest city of Peru, two elementary schools are supported with school kitchens and educational projects.

Most of the children are undernourished and this is why a nutritious meal helps them a lot. Since 2010 “Villa Independiente”, another elementary school of Peru, has been supported by a school breakfast. Besides that, seminars about health, nutrition and hygiene are held with children and parents.

Why Words are Not Enough: My personal reasons for social commitment

by Zsuzsanna Burjan [63]

My reasons are easily summarized: because words are not enough! I think that it doesn’t suffice to show solidarity and to propagate new ideas. We need actions if we want others to know what it means to receive something without having to give anything in return.

Ten years ago I made a completely new start in Germany and since then I have been supported by many people. Through my social commitment I want to pass on this positive experience to others. The other hand, for me it is a question of purpose. Situations like those of the

children in Peru are only a few among the many problems in the world. But when I confront them, they turn into my personal issue and into a challenge and opportunity to take action and stand up for my beliefs in a fairer world.

It is irrelevant how small a step your act may represent. It will never be without effect. What you will notice immediately is perhaps the joy and inner satisfaction of having done something by yourself.

Living a Hundred Years

A chat in Karl-Olga retirement home Stuttgart

by Lenna Emmerich [15]

Clara Mack lived in a retirement home in Stuttgart. She said she was a real Capricorn – who says what he thinks, doesn't beat around the bush, doesn't lie. At the age of 107 years she died on December 14th, 2014. We remember the life and achievements of Mrs Clara Mack.

She was positive to be old enough to die. Nobody got that old! And the development of humankind was not her cup of tea either. The world had turned 100,000 degrees.

"Today they all want to be someone. People used to be more friendly." And the young ones were being spoilt...

We asked her to talk about her life. In the beginning she mentioned not being in top shape at the moment, but in the course of the conversation she became more and more lively and reported her life story.

Clara Mack was born in Göppingen in the year 1907, and as a child had to help raise her three younger siblings as her mother had to work. She was on problematic terms with her father. She got an education at Nackarschule up to grade nine where she also learnt typing. Then she helped her mother in the shop, worked at Allianz insurances later.

When she was 23, her parents decided to go to Berlin, but she and her adult brother refused. However, her two younger sisters had to follow the parents. In hindsight she regrets not to have left because she might have been better off in Berlin. She remembers visits paid by her mother, and the house and a beautiful big garden that her family kept. She herself was bombed out in WW II, and lost all her belongings.

For forty years she was with Allianz Insurance and took care of the processing of claims and her clients' insurances. When she was to be retired, her boss asked her to extend for another six weeks because the secretary had left on short notice. Mrs Mack agreed – and stayed for another 17 years. She finally retired at 82 although she always enjoyed working. It was only due to a change in management and the former boss's two sons taking over the business and adjusting to digital data processing that she felt inclined to leave. At 82, she said to herself, one doesn't need to learn how a computer works.

Clara Mack was happily married, but her husband died of a tumour at 46. Her daughter, now 75, stems from this marriage. Later she found another long-time companion, who died at 72. But she enjoyed her time. She happily remembers outings to the Remstal with him and friends in order to "hoist a few". It was the happiest time in her life.

For her 90th birthday, she went to expenses to celebrate the "most beautiful" birthday in her life in the Schlossgarten Hotel with more than 30 guests.

At 100 years old she moved into Stuttgart's Karl-Olga-Retirement home. She liked it, made nice new friends and didn't suffer from health issues too much.

But the time has come that she has lost interest in contact to other residents:

"You know what they are like. There is so much gossiping, but I'm not interested in that anymore." Also, her hearing had deteriorated, and she had issues with her hearing aid. In addition, personnel had changed. Several nurses with migration backgrounds spoke a different mother tongue, so that she kept having problems understanding. But the two nurses she mostly dealt with, were very nice. Still, it was a pity that they never had the time to come by for a chat.

On top of that all her friends and family had died in the meantime. Many had grown old, too, but no one had outlived Clara Mack. Her own sister died at 86, her mother at 92, her brother at 96. Only her younger sister, 96 to date, was still alive in Berlin. Owing to the fact that the two of them have a limited movement range they have not met in years. Talking on the telephone and writing were difficult for centennial lady, so that she had not had any contact to her sister at all. But her daughter came by every day – who herself has been a grandmother for a long time.

At the beginning of her time in the retirement home she kept herself busy solving crossword

puzzles, watching the TV, reading and going for strolls. Now, however, she is mostly confined to her room to look out the window. That made her ponder. She regrets to be on her own so much, so she had nothing better to do than think about her life: her unhappy childhood, the hunger in WW I, the Second World War and the beautiful years with her companion and working for Allianz Insurances. And she would have loved to learn to play the piano, and she would have loved to travel. But money was always scarce.

She still would love to dance or go out, for example visit Stuttgart's Wilhelma Zoo, which she used to visit often. She mentions to like animals a lot, and that she had a dog for 17 years, and even became an honorary member of the canine sports club. Animals were much dearer to her than humans. And if she should be reborn, she would like to be a farmer.

She lived through difficult times, and in the end her health deteriorated, but she enjoyed many beautiful moments. She worked long, but loved it, was happy in her couples and lived 107 historically eventful years.



Generations exchange experience: Lena Emmerich (left) in conversation with Ms. Mack.

Image CfD



"Do you think we can really expect the kids to come to school with clean hands and clothes, Sarita?"
Image Sarah Ament



Image: Sarah Ament

Sometimes Justice Feels Sick

A report from Sarah Ament, who volunteered in Alto Selva Alegre neighborhood [77]

I am placed in the downhill, everything around me is dirty, my eyes burn. Among these useless electricity cables I see a blue, glowing sky. The sun shines: it is pure sarcasm. I must go on and document everything with my camera, while I try to refrain the feeling of unfairness inside of me. I see households whose area is not bigger than 6 square meters and are just filthy. If one has fresh, clean clothes, they will be dirty after two hours in this place. Beside the small shacks there are even smaller ones; you may call them toilets, as an euphemism. The water lines malfunction and the same goes for electricity. Suddenly I realize why my students do not bring their homework to school. Many of them must work in the afternoon; they sell candies in the streets and have no electricity at night.

Guillermina asks: “do you think we can really expect the kids to come to school with clean hands and clothes, Sarita?” I must gulp.

Then, we meet a woman. Once I compliment her on her pullover, she grants me access to her home; she shows me her garden, which roughly consists of three dried up flowers. Later on, she shows me her “home”: a room with three beds and a gasoline stove. I see clothes and food waste all around. “What do you usually have for lunch?” I ask her. This woman, who has two kids, looks at the ground with embarrassment. I feel ashamed for asking that question. Her husband works in the countryside, but it is not a regular job; sometimes he has luck, sometimes he has not any. Life is just like that.

Guillermina asks me: did you think it would look like this?

I thought it would, but I could not feel it, I said.



Image Sarah Ament

A Little Bit of Peru in Bernstadt

by Lara Hönig [61]

Her Voluntary Social Year in Peru was an extraordinary experience for Lara Hönig. As part of a lecture series, she let her home community participate in it.

In August 2013 I came back from Peru where I spent a voluntary year. Afterwards I felt the need to share my experiences and respond to all the questions that relatives and friends kept asking. However, I just had the opportunity to do so with some of them.

Cooperation with Bernstadt Council

So in autumn I had a conversation with our mayor Mr. Sühling, in which I told him of my wish of sharing my experiences with all the interested citizens of the town. Mr. Sühling was excited with the idea and offered me the rooms of the Town Hall. Furthermore he asked me to give the opportunity of hearing my stories also to the senior citizens. Finally we remained in offering two dates, one for all the citizens and one especially for the seniors.

Great Interest in Peru Experiences

My first presentation was then in January 2014 in the Town Hall's Historical Room. I expected about 50 people to come but some time before

I started, there were already many more people and all the chairs were taken. Finally we put more chairs and at the end more than 80 people filled the small room. I spent one hour reporting with pictures, music and stories on my voluntary year and my life in Peru. Afterwards we completed the presentation with Peruvian Pisco Sour, finger food and a lot of interesting conversations with many different people.

Great Response on Seniors' Matinee

I found a completely different atmosphere at the "Seniors' Matinee", which takes place once a month. After the first round of coffee and cakes it was my turn. With the same presentation I used for the lecture in the town hall I told and reported to 60 interested listeners – this time through a microphone.

This time I was again overwhelmed by the audience's reaction. I was "bombarded" with many questions, also new ones, until long time after the lecture.



Young and Old Learn for Life

Image Sarah Ament





Image Lena Raba

“I was Sister, Mother and Best Friend”

A report on a voluntary year in the Indian state of Assam

by Lena Raba [60]

In India, close to the Bhutanese border, the prolific and wonderful state of Assam is located. That's where I volunteered in a community of the Salesians of Don Bosco in a small village named Dimakuchi for one year. The institution consists of a residence hall for boys, one for girls and a school with about 1,200 students. My work mainly took place in the boys' residence hall, where about 40 boys at the age from 5 to 18 live. The children stay in these residence halls because the bus to school would be too expensive, they don't have any acceptable possibility to study at home or have domestic problems.

Although most of them live in (more or less) intact families they don't have that much contact with their parents. Many fathers and mothers have drug problems, work far away or at least don't have any time for their children's problems - which is understandable when you think of their daily difficulties like the fights for food, water and peace! Children have to grow up and become serious at quite early stages in their lives. I often felt younger in the mind than those boys.

In the beginning working with them was quite difficult for several reasons. In the first place, the people responsible for us were somewhat overwhelmed by our presence and didn't really know how to give us useful work and accept our voluntary help.

My co-volunteer and me lived next door to the boys and helped them with the “challenges of daily life”. That means: We helped them with their homework, but also took care of them whenever they had injuries or were sick, played games with them like volleyball, football, hide and seek, badminton and so on, but

most importantly showed interest in them and their problems and assisted them in any kind of way.



Lena Raba and two boarding students while bathing.
Image Lena Raba

At first the children were too shy and wary to openly interact with us. I guess we were two very strange objects for them. Our interest and curiosity were something peculiar and new to most of them, and it took some time for them to adjust to attention and empathy. But as soon as they did they started to enjoy this new experience to its fullest. From the time they opened up their hearts and minds, those children started to have a strong relationship to us and trust us. In that way we became their sec-

ond family. It was great for me to be able to see how much every single one developed in this year! They became much more sensitive to the feelings and problems of others and took care of each other. The only thing we can do now is hope for them to keep those achievements in their hearts and make their friends and children live in the same way.

Although this year was not easy and we had many challenges to overcome ourselves, I don't have any regrets! I was able to learn a lot

about myself, other cultures and people, and it was the most amazing experience in my life to see young people open up, grow and express themselves! The relationship to our 40 “babies” in the residence hall was comparable to a sister's relationship to her brothers, a mother's relationship to her children and a friend's relationship to her friends.

What an experience!



Although it was not always easy: the FSJlerinnen could win the confidence of their protégés. Image Lena Raba



Boys dormitory.

Image Lena Raba



Rice fields wherever you look

Image: Lena Raba



WWOOF - An Insight into my Voluntary Ecological Year

by Miriam Emmerich [27]

Woof, woof? Has nothing to do with dog, at least not necessarily. So, and what do you do there? It sounds a little like “Work and Travel”, you travel around and help out on organic farms, for board and lodge. That was the short version of my explanation for what I did in the past summer months. It started in summer after my graduation. Little Miri didn’t have the slightest idea what to do in her future life. Only one thing was for certain: Get away from all the theoretical stuff from school, empty my brain and get some physical exercise, that’s what I wanted. I was already running late for an approved Voluntary Ecological Year, and so I ended up at a Demeter farm in Hesse for an internship. I spent six months, starting with the apple harvest in October, going through the provisioning of cows, chickens and cats in winter, and ended on a little project, the construction of a dry wall, in April. Apart from the Michel family there were always a few people from all over the world working on the farm. We spent our time harvesting apples, at the farmers’ market, cutting trees, cooking together and doing lots of other things. The people I

met were Wwoofers. After my internship I wanted to follow their lead. Why?

WWOOF means **World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms**. It’s a globally active association, so you can find it in Germany, too. The association offers the opportunity to make interested city people and organic farmers meet. You can find Wwoof on the Internet and look at a list of farms and their descriptions. When you’re interested, you pay a little annual fee of 18€, and when you are a member, you have access to contact data of the respective farms. You initiate the contact yourself: Choose a farm, call / write, agree on a meeting, go there, help! I loved the concept mostly because that way a network of alternatively living and acting people is woven. What is “alternative” – what’s “normal”? Of course this is a rather simple word choice. When I say “alternative”, I mean “deliberately organic, sustainable”.

My first farm was situated in beautiful Allgäu and wasn’t really a farm. “Allvepro” – “Allgäu Vegan Project” was the description that sounded intriguing to me. Veganism in a

stronghold of milk production... In May I travelled by train and bike and nurtured rather mixed feelings. The middle of nowhere – isn't that going to be boring? Nothing going on, maybe, and what will the people be like? Permaculture, salad trees, an underground greenhouse, much humour and very, very delicious food is what I met with. Well, stop. There were a lot of great people I got to know. Cosy breakfast in the morning, then, depending on the weather and the moods, raking beds, sowing new vegetables, mow the grass for mulching, continue digging the hole for the underground greenhouse or just take a stroll through the nearby forest. The trip to the source including a guided tour about wild herbs (ever tried sorrel?) was an interesting experience. There was salad for lunch with many fresh herbs from the garden and the divine vegan mayonnaise, and, of course, lots of conversations about all the world and his brother. In the afternoon we were not to miss the home-made cake, and at night a set menu fresh from the kitchen. We spent a lot of time sitting outside, with a view on the garden and a wonderfully glowing orange-red sunset.

Wwoofing is a great opportunity to ...

get out

get acquainted to new life styles

spend much time outdoors

be physically active

meet interesting people

enjoy very good food

broaden your horizon

... and it's also suitable for people who are bad long-term planners ;-)

Alexander Nabben is the founder of Allvepro. Many more project are in the making on the compound, that are meant to form a basis for a living community on the long run. **Permaculture** – a culture (concerning agriculture as well as life itself) aims at sustainability. Talking agriculture this means that the crop land is possibly permanently and completely covered, meaning that plants are cultivated in optimised crop sequence, so that nutrients complement each other and there is no need of synthetic fertilizer.

Mulching is a well-established method to keep humidity in the soil. Mowed grass is distributed on the ground between plants, so less water for irrigation is needed.

Salad trees – so cool! They serve to cultivate as much as possible in small areas. And harvest is quite comfortable, too.

Underground greenhouse – a greenhouse that is not on, but in the ground, thus perfectly insulated.

Some terms I met with there, and that fascinated me. But most of all it's a pleasure to be dynamic and help, to contribute, and to observe all kinds of growing and thriving. Six months later, rich in Wwoof experiences, I returned to see Alexander. It was wonderful to see the development of many of his little projects.

Wwoofing is highly advisable for everyone! No matter if young or old, experienced or not, if only at weekends or for a couple of months, it's up to you to decide.

How the opposite of my ideas makes me happy

a short report on my six months in France

by Katharina Zipp [78]

Holding my graduation certificate in my hands in the summer of 2016, I had one problem: I had no plans for the immediate future. A sobering statement for someone supposed to start leading an independent life, and just standing observing my peers preparing for their future. Fortunately, however, I found an advertisement for a six-month employment as a language assistant in France, which would enable me to teach German as a Foreign Language, even without holding a diploma. Being very fond of the French country and its culture, I grasped the occasion and applied for a job as a German teacher at an elementary school and bilingual kindergarten in the town of Hirson, close to the French-Belgian border. I was happy to leave and was excited to know what time would bring, but the closer I got to Hirson, the more I lost my self-assurance: I hadn't been aware of the fact that the region where I was going to spend the next six months, was one of the poorest in France! I had to adjust a lot because my life in Hirson was a lot different than my life in Germany – and different than my expectations, too. In fact, it was pretty much the contrary of what I had expected: little, rather dilapidated brick houses, a high unemployment rate, many down-at-heel people having their first sip of beer in the early morning hours, relatively large support of the Front National, and just in general poorer living conditions – pretty much the opposite of what I had expected to find. On top of that I learned that I was to teach kindergarten only, and not elementary school. Still, it was exactly those people and their children who surprised me. Not all of them, but the big majority were incredibly friendly and kind and helped me with all sorts of problems and language difficulties. Daily phrases of courteousness are common. Not only do people greet each other, but show some genuine interest in their fellow human being by asking how they are – which I liked a lot. The children did not care if I understood their language or not – they saw in me the human being who entertains and takes care of them. Which doesn't mean that things were always easy. I made them learn by playing, but more often than not also hit my limits when I realised the precarious social conditions some of the children had to live with: domestic problems made it hard for them to concentrate or

sometimes even get interested in something. Which was one more reason to try and make their days a little more pleasurable, entertain them with little games, make them laugh and have them make successful discoveries.

Another part of my life over there was that all of a sudden I was able and allowed to organise my own life and organise my daily routine, be it the grocery list or the decision to attend Holy Mass. I enjoyed the intensity of how I experienced what I was doing, because I had consciously opted for it and didn't do it as before, generated by my family's routine. Another important factor were the relationships gradually growing with the people I shared my flat with. It was great to live with another German, just in order to take a break and speak our mother tongue. Then, there were an Englishman and an Indian woman, with whom a magnificent relationship developed, despite her being nine years older than me, and of course having a completely different background. All in all, time was flying, and the last week was coming closer. All of a sudden I realised how thankful I was for everything that I was allowed to experience. The children made many farewell presents for me, the teachers invited me to a farewell dinner with typical specialties from Picardie. After my last day of work I had a conversation with the kindergarten's principal. We talked about my stay and she thanked for my attitude and the way I had been with the children. I was stunned about this remark. It was nice for her to realise that I had not acted on the children with the severity that was common to this place. Even more so, her thanks were the expression of something beautiful and enriching taking place between me and the children and teachers. The remark was an eye-opener for me to realise what this attitude of mine really is, and that I keep it – for the children, but also for the rest of my life. The relationship to the people, particularly the children, which mainly consists of keeping an eye on each other, was after all the most beautiful and most valuable lesson of that stay. Never would I have expected this in just this spot of the country, and still, it is exactly what makes me so glad to have gone where the “grande nation” doesn't show its greatness, but its crisis.

Every Year Again: Claim for Dignity at Holzgerlingen's Christmas Market

by Sabine Schliep [10]

Holzgerlingen's Christmas Market, taking place at every 2nd advent, hosted for the sixth consecutive year a stall of Claim for Dignity that informed the public about their projects.

For the first time we demonstrated how water can be procured from fog. We grilled steaks and red sausages in the pavilion, and, like in previous years, we also offered the native potato noodles (Schupfnudeln), hot wine and punch in wooden recipients. Over the years we have won over several regulars, who like to drop by every year to restore their strength, but also to get informed about news from our association, which we are happy about. Many dear thanks to all the many helping hands. We were happy to have a few newcomers. Another warm thanks for the provision of their kitchen to the museum of local history.

Image CfD

Impression since 2013





Image Roland Fuhr

The city of Holzgerlingen

by Peter Görke [72]

Holzgerlingen was officially mentioned for the first time on November 1, 1007. The king Henry II awarded the place along with 30 more locations to the diocese of Bamberg.

This place is much older, though. The first traces of settlements come from the neolithic age. The Celts also left their fingerprints here. The most important discovery was the stele found in the XIX century and sold short afterwards to the state museum of Stuttgart.

After the Celts there were the Romans: this was confirmed by the artifacts found in the region of Duttenkehle.

The Alemanni came from the east; afterwards they were followed by the Suebi, who also left their traces here. That is the origin of the term "Swabian". Important items from a tomb at the Germanstraße are displayed now at the museum of local history. Three years ago a considerably big pottery klin was found, attracting the attention of the Medieval History Institute of the University of Tübingen. The archeologists from Tübingen assessed that this oven enabled a pre-industrial type of production. The items it produced should have been sold in very distant places.

Nowadays, Holzgerlingen is a small city which is specially known for the forest region called Schönenbuchlichtung. The city has around 14.000 inhabitants. More than 3.000 persons work in this town.

Holzgerlingen has a very fine infrastructure which includes different kinds of schools: the Heinrich Harpprecht special school, the primary and secondary school Berken, the Otto Rommel secondary school and the Schönbuch gymnasium.

The castle Kalteneck often hosts cultural activities. Apart from that, the municipal music school gathers kids and teenagers in its own building. More than 500 kids and teenagers attend this school. The city library has over 22.000 articles that can be borrowed by any citizen.

From their first year till their school admission, kids can attend daycare centers and kindergartens.

Seniors visit the "House at Ziegelhof", which offers very fine accomodation. The nursing home cares for the elderly people.

There is a competent police squad in town. Voluntary firemen and the German red cross (each one with over 70 members) help people in case of emergencies and fires.

More than 50 associations offer a wide variety of chances for leisure. There is a golf course, a riding school, a motocross track, a tennis court and a football pitch which are managed by the associations. Sport and athleticism organizations are the biggest groups in this community. The municipal swimming pool is open for everyone without membership. A considerable amount of playgrounds are available for kids. Open air areas are used by teenagers as well. Churches and other social places are open for everyone.



Image Roland Fuhr

The local history museum

The museum was opened by director Kurt Franke, who once fled from the former eastern German areas. The former Gässle house at the Friedhofstraße represents local history through more than 9.000 objects. In the agriculture section we learn how people became seden-

tary and later on started to grow cereals in Holzgerlingen.

The most important craftsman in the town was the blacksmith. The old forger from 1820 shows how the work was done back then. The development of electric engines enabled operating machines. But given that engines were so expensive, they had to fuel several machines through transmission systems. You can observe this and see how the transmission still works!

The potter of the town was also given a place. There are places for professions such as wainwright, carpenter, shoemaker, tailor and saddler. Houses around 1950 are also shown, and how they were damaged by the heavy bombings of WorldWar II.

The country house from 1800 has a bedroom, a livingroom and a kitchen. The weaving mill is fully working and shows how it was used back then. A classroom from 1850 is displayed.

The reformation reshaped this place for good. This is the reason why there is a special room for this event.

The official designation of Holzgerlingen is shown with the installation of "King Henry II in the throne" with a sceptre and an orb. A monk sits at his feet and writes the certificate.

Alemmanis, Romans, Celts and the neolithic age have their place in the next room.

The pottery klin is the final object in this exposition.



Scene from the Holzgerlinger local history museum; Holzgerlingen was settled in the 7th century by Alemanni, who also planted a cemetery in Holzgerlingen. The Alamannin and the Alamanne wear jewelry and weapons as they were found around 1925 in Holzgerlingen.

Image Roland Fuhr



The true sense of Christmas.
Singing Christmas carols in front of the big crib in the schoolgroundahre.

Image Lara Hönig

Christmas at Villa Independiente

by Lara Hönig [24]

Thanks to Claim for Dignity, a little Christmas party took place at Villa Independiente Elementary School on 18th Dec, 2015. After a moving presentation of Peruvian Christmas carols and cribs set out in the children's classrooms, headmaster Angélica made a short but beautiful speech about the true sense of Christmas and Jesus's birth, rounded off with a prayer. Hot chocolate and little panetones and biscochos (both traditional Peruvian Christmas pastries) were served afterwards to all children and their parents and siblings, who had joined

the celebration. Pilar and I had prepared two hampers for a raffle, all children were given a ball. Both, the children and the happy winners of the hampers, were happy about their presents. The headmaster, teachers and parents are thankful for the support from Claim for Dignity, and Angélica promises to do her very best to grant the children a good education, and to contribute to the improvement of the school. So we spent a beautiful morning with Pilar, the parents, teachers and pupils celebrating Christmas.



Image Lara Hönig

What happened to you, Europa?

by Pope Franziskus

source: Radio Vatikan [26]

The Pope's speech at the Karlspreises, 6 May 2016, in the Vatican

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I offer you a cordial welcome and I thank you for your presence. I am particularly grateful to Messrs Marcel Philipp, Jürgen Linden, Martin Schulz, Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk for their kind words. I would like to reiterate my intention to offer this prestigious award for Europe. For ours is not so much a celebration as a moment to express our shared hope for a new and courageous step forward for this beloved continent.

Creativity, genius and a capacity for rebirth and renewal are part of the soul of Europe. In the last century, Europe bore witness to humanity that a new beginning was indeed possible. After years of tragic conflicts, culminating in the most horrific war ever known, there emerged, by God's grace, something completely new in human history. The ashes of the ruins could not extinguish the ardent hope and the quest of solidarity that inspired the founders of the European project. They laid the foundations for a bastion of peace, an edifice made up of states united not by force but by free commitment to the *common good* and a definitive end to confrontation. Europe, so long divided, finally found its true self and began to build its house.

This "family of peoples",^[V1] which has commendably expanded in the meantime, seems of late to feel less at home within the walls of the common home. At times, those walls themselves have been built in a way varying from the insightful plans left by the original builders. Their new and exciting desire to create unity seems to be fading; we, the heirs of their dream, are tempted to yield to our own selfish interests and to consider putting up fences here and there. Nonetheless, I am convinced that resignation and weariness do not belong to the soul of Europe, and that even "our problems can become powerful forces for unity".^[V2]

In addressing the European Parliament, I used the Image of Europe as a grandmother. I noted that there is a growing impression that Europe is weary, aging, no longer fertile and vital, that the great ideals that inspired Europe seem to have lost their appeal. There is an impression that Europe is declining, that it has lost its ability to

be innovative and creative, and that it is more concerned with preserving and dominating spaces than with generating processes of inclusion and change. There is an impression that Europe is tending to become increasingly "entrenched", rather than open to initiating new social processes capable of engaging all individuals and groups in the search for new and productive solutions to current problems. Europe, rather than protecting spaces, is called to be a mother who generates processes (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangeli*
Gaudium, 223).

What has happened to you, the Europe of humanism, the champion of human rights, democracy and freedom? What has happened to you, Europe, the home of poets, philosophers, artists, musicians, and men and women of letters? What has happened to you, Europe, the mother of peoples and nations, the mother of great men and women who upheld, and even sacrificed their lives for, the dignity of their brothers and sisters? The writer Elie Wiesel, a survivor of the Nazi death camps, has said that what we need today is a "memory transfusion". We need to "remember", to take a step back from the present to listen to the voice of our forebears. Remembering will help us not to repeat our past mistakes (cf. *Evangeli*
Gaudium, 108), but also to re-appropriate those experiences that enabled our peoples to surmount the crises of the past. A memory transfusion can free us from today's temptation to build hastily on the shifting sands of immediate results, which may produce "quick and easy short-term political gains, but do not enhance human fulfilment" (ibid., 224).

To this end, we would do well to turn to the founding fathers of Europe. They were prepared to pursue alternative and innovative paths in a world scarred by war. Not only did they boldly conceive the idea of Europe, but they dared to change radically the models that had led only to violence and destruction. They dared to seek multilateral solutions to increasingly shared problems.

Robert Schuman, at the very birth of the first European community, stated that "Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achieve-

ments which first create a *de facto* solidarity”.^[V3] Today, in our own world, marked by so much conflict and suffering, there is a need to return to the same *de facto solidarity* and *concrete generosity* that followed the Second World War, because, as Schuman noted, “world peace cannot be safeguarded without making creative efforts proportionate to the dangers threatening it”.^[V4] The founding fathers were heralds of peace and prophets of the future. Today more than ever, their vision inspires us to build bridges and tear down walls. That vision urges us not to be content with cosmetic retouches or convoluted compromises aimed at correcting this or that treaty, but courageously to lay new and solid foundations. As Alcide De Gasperi stated, “equally inspired by concern for the common good of our European homeland”, all are called to embark fearlessly on a “construction project that demands our full quota of patience and our ongoing cooperation”.^[V5]

Such a “memory transfusion” can enable us to draw inspiration from the past in order to confront with courage the complex multipolar framework of our own day and to take up with determination the challenge of “updating” the idea of Europe. A Europe capable of giving birth to a new humanism based on three capacities: the capacity to integrate, the capacity for dialogue and the capacity to generate.

The capacity to integrate

Erich Przywara, in his splendid work *Idee Europa* [*The Idea of Europe*], challenges us to think of the city as a place where various instances and levels coexist. He was familiar with the reductionist tendency inherent in every attempt to rethink the social fabric. Many of our cities are remarkably beautiful precisely because they have managed to preserve over time traces of different ages, nations, styles and visions. We need but look at the inestimable cultural patrimony of Rome to realize that the richness and worth of a people is grounded in its ability to combine all these levels in a healthy coexistence. Forms of reductionism and attempts at uniformity, far from generating value, condemn our peoples to a cruel poverty: the poverty of exclusion. Far from bestowing grandeur, riches and beauty, exclusion leads to vulgarity, narrowness, and cruelty. Far from bestowing nobility of spirit, it brings meanness.

The roots of our peoples, the roots of Europe, were consolidated down the centuries by the constant need to integrate in new syntheses the

most varied and discrete cultures. The identity of Europe is, and always has been, a dynamic and multicultural identity.

Political activity cannot fail to see the urgency of this fundamental task. We know that “the whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of the parts”, and this requires that we work to “broaden our horizons and see the greater good which will benefit us all” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 235). We are asked to promote an integration that finds in solidarity a way of acting, a means of making history. Solidarity should never be confused with charitable assistance, but understood as a means of creating opportunities for all the inhabitants of our cities – and of so many other cities – to live with dignity. Time is teaching us that it is not enough simply to settle individuals geographically: the challenge is that of a profound cultural integration.

The community of European peoples will thus be able to overcome the temptation of falling back on unilateral paradigms and opting for forms of “ideological colonization”. Instead, it will rediscover the breadth of the European soul, born of the encounter of civilizations and peoples. The soul of Europe is in fact greater than the present borders of the Union and is called to become a model of new syntheses and of dialogue. The true face of Europe is seen not in confrontation, but in the richness of its various cultures and the beauty of its commitment to openness. Without this capacity for integration, the words once spoken by Konrad Adenauer will prove prophetic: “the future of the West is not threatened as much by political tensions as by the danger of conformism, uniformity of thoughts and feelings: in a word, by the whole system of life, by flight from responsibility, with concern only for oneself.”^[V6]

The capacity for dialogue

If there is one word that we should never tire of repeating, it is this: dialogue. We are called to promote a culture of dialogue by every possible means and thus to rebuild the fabric of society. The culture of dialogue entails a true apprenticeship and a discipline that enables us to view others as valid dialogue partners, to respect the foreigner, the immigrant and people from different cultures as worthy of being listened to. Today we urgently need to engage all the members of society in building “a culture which privileges dialogue as a form of encounter” and in creating “a means for building consensus and agreement while seeking the goal of a just, responsive and inclusive society” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 239).

Peace will be lasting in the measure that we arm our children with the weapons of dialogue, that we teach them to fight the good fight of encounter and negotiation. In this way, we will bequeath to them a culture capable of devising strategies of life, not death, and of inclusion, not exclusion. This culture of dialogue should be an integral part of the education imparted in our schools, cutting across disciplinary lines and helping to give young people the tools needed to settle conflicts differently than we are accustomed to do. Today we urgently need to build “coalitions” that are not only military and economic, but cultural, educational, philosophical and religious. Coalitions that can make clear that, behind many conflicts, there is often in play the power of economic groups. Coalitions capable of defending people from being exploited for improper ends. Let us arm our people with the culture of dialogue and encounter.

The capacity to generate

Dialogue, with all that it entails, reminds us that no one can remain a mere onlooker or bystander. Everyone, from the smallest to the greatest, has an active role to play in the creation of an integrated and reconciled society. This culture of dialogue can come about only if all of us take part in planning and building it. The present situation does not permit anyone to stand by and watch other people’s struggles. On the contrary, it is a forceful summons to personal and social responsibility.

In this sense, our young people have a critical role. They are not the future of our peoples; they are the present. Even now, with their dreams and their lives they are forging the spirit of Europe. We cannot look to the future without offering them the real possibility to be catalysts of change and transformation. We cannot envision Europe without letting them be participants and protagonists in this dream.

Lately I have given much thought to this. I ask myself: How we can involve our young people in this building project if we fail to offer them employment, dignified labour that lets them grow and develop through their handiwork, their intelligence and their abilities? How can we tell them that they are protagonists, when the levels of employment and underemployment of millions of young Europeans are continually rising? How can we avoid losing our young people, who end up going elsewhere in search of their dreams and a sense of belonging, because here, in their own

countries, we don’t know how to offer them opportunities and values?

The just distribution of the fruits of the earth and human labour is not mere philanthropy. It is a moral obligation.^[V7] If we want to rethink our society, we need to create dignified and well-paying jobs, especially for our young people.

To do so requires coming up with new, more inclusive and equitable economic models, aimed not at serving the few, but at benefiting ordinary people and society as a whole. This calls for moving from a liquid economy to a social economy; I think for example of the social market economy encouraged by my predecessors (cf. JOHN PAUL II, *Address to the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany*, 8 November 1990). It would involve passing from an economy directed at revenue, profiting from speculation and lending at interest, to a social economy that invests in persons by creating jobs and providing training.

We need to move from a liquid economy prepared to use corruption as a means of obtaining profits to a social economy that guarantees access to land and lodging through labour. Labour is in fact the setting in which individuals and communities bring into play “many aspects of life: creativity, planning for the future, developing talents, living out values, relating to others, giving glory to God. It follows that, in the reality of today’s global society, it is essential that we ‘continue to prioritize the role of access to steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning’^[V8]” (Encyclical *Laudato Si’*, 127).

If we want a dignified future, a future of peace for our societies, we will only be able to achieve it by working for genuine inclusion, “an inclusion which provides worthy, free, creative, participatory and solidary work”.^[V9] This passage (from a liquid economy to a social economy) will not only offer new prospects and concrete opportunities for integration and inclusion, but will make us once more capable of envisaging that humanism of which Europe has been the *cradle and well-spring*.

To the rebirth of a Europe weary, yet still rich in energies and possibilities, the Church can and must play her part. Her task is one with her mission: the proclamation of the Gospel, which today more than ever finds expression in going forth to bind the wounds of humanity with the powerful yet simple presence of Jesus, and his mercy that consoles and encourages. God desires to dwell in our midst, but he can only do so through men

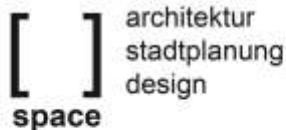
and women who, like the great evangelizers of this continent, have been touched by him and live for the Gospel, seeking nothing else. Only a Church rich in witnesses will be able to bring back the pure water of the Gospel to the roots of Europe. In this enterprise, the path of Christians towards full unity is a great sign of the times and a response to the Lord's prayer "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

With mind and heart, with hope and without vain nostalgia, like a son who rediscovers in Mother Europe his roots of life and faith, I dream of a *new European humanism*, one that involves "a constant work of humanization" and calls for "memory, courage, [and] a sound and humane utopian vision".[V10] I dream of a Europe that is young, still capable of being a mother: a mother who has life because she respects life and offers hope for life. I dream of a Europe that cares for children, that offers fraternal help to the poor and those newcomers seeking acceptance because they have lost everything and need shelter. I

dream of a Europe that is attentive to and concerned for the infirm and the elderly, lest they be simply set aside as useless. I dream of a Europe where being a migrant is not a crime but a summons to greater commitment on behalf of the dignity of every human being. I dream of a Europe where young people breathe the pure air of honesty, where they love the beauty of a culture and a simple life undefiled by the insatiable needs of consumerism, where getting married and having children is a responsibility and a great joy, not a problem due to the lack of stable employment. I dream of a Europe of families, with truly effective policies concentrated on faces rather than numbers, on birth rates more than rates of consumption. I dream of a Europe that promotes and protects the rights of everyone, without neglecting its duties towards all. I dream of a Europe of which it will not be said that its commitment to human rights was its last utopia. Thank you.

- [V1] Address to the European Parliament, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014.
- [V2] Ibid.
- [V3] Declaration of 9 May 1950, Salon de l'Horloge, Quai d'Orsay, Paris
- [V4] Ibid.
- [V5] Address to the European Parliamentary Conference, Paris, 21 April 1954.
- [V6] Address to the Assembly of German Artesans, Düsseldorf, 27 April 1952.
- [V7] Address to Popular Movements in Bolivia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 9 July 2015.
- [V8] BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate* (29 June 2009), 32: AAS 101 (2009), 666.
- [V9] Address to Popular Movements in Bolivia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 9 July 2015.
- [V10] Address to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014.

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Catholic Belief in South Africa

A review of the situation from the province of Limpopo

by André Stephan [69]

Have you ever been to Thohoyandou? Could you roughly say where to find it on a map of South Africa? Thohoyandou means as much as “the head of the elephant”, and is a big, constantly growing city in the farthest North of the province of Limpopo, which borders Zimbabwe and Mozambique.



Image André Stephan

During Apartheid it was built to be the capital of the formerly acknowledged Republic of Venda, and has now almost reached 70,000 inhabitants. The streets are always full of life. Around lunchtime students from university,

children and adolescents from various schools surge into the heart of the city, to which cars are led on a four-lane road all day long and late into the night. The Northern mountains reaching up to a height of over 1,000 m and Kruger National Park are not far from here. Right in this marvellous landscape the centre of the Roman Catholic Mission is situated.

The Catholic church, which has opened its gates in the 1960's in Makwarela, a city close to Sibasa and Thohoyandou, is still a rather small community if compared to the numerous

Protestant and Pentecost Churches. Despite all these church communities, the belief in magic is still very powerful and a self-evident part of the lives of the people in this province. If Christian values will permeate the culture of the Venda is questionable. South Africa is a rich country, but what does that mean for the reality of people's lives here? Still, crime, corruption and the enticement of drugs and sex play a major role in this country. Youth unemployment is high. Statistics state that 24% of women studying at university are HIV positive. Are the moral standards of a society suspended if hard drugs, alcohol and sex define the youths' and even some children's lives? Isn't South Africa a poor country then?

In the past schools used to spread the word of the Bible and of ethics. Today it takes a long time to find schools which provide this education for their students. In the face of these facts you have to wonder: Is this a basis for a society to change? And can people who have to face so much evil on a daily basis be happy at all? As preachers, it is our aim, ambition and passion to provide people with change, peace, justice and love; to make them see a different world, the presence and effect of Jesus in their



lives. South Africa has got a reputation of a violent country. Everywhere in the country people face violence, are constantly exposed to violent situations. More often than not violence seems to be the only way of problem solving.

Maybe you have seen a programme on TV about what happened in the platinum mines of Marikana in August 2012. The strike of the miners for higher salaries culminated in altercations with the police ending in bloodshed. 34 people lost their lives. All this violence fill the hearts of many people with much pain and misery. What can we do to bring peace to the people, to arbitrate arguments, if possible, and give them courage for the fight against all the evil that afflicts our society?

We dabble at little projects. The parish priest, a young colleague from Senegal, launched a four-day summer camp for children in July for the second time. He was so happy to see the children's joy about meeting and the commitment of the young camp counsellors who took care of the children. He told me: "One could literally observe the transformation."



Image André Stephan

All in all 130 children took part. When they reported on their experiences afterwards in their communities after Sunday service, their parents were enthusiastic. I have launched clubs to pass down the gospel, but it is difficult to join people. Many are searching for em-

ployment, and those who have a job often return home late. Still, we are trying in our different little ways to carry the word of God into their lives.



Image André Stephan

Christian parish work in South Africa

Being present for the people is a task demanding humility – sometimes it's a cumbersome sowing of seeds in the soil. However, after the death of former President Mandela we must ask ourselves the questions: "What have we done to his legacy of peace and reconciliation? Is this legacy still alive in the hearts of the people of South Africa?"

The picture that I have been drawing up to here seems sinister. But here, too, there are people with a firm belief, love of the poor, those in need, the orphans. There are young people who have the great desire to serve God. Even if there are not many of them, the Catholic church has sown a seed into this soil. May God make it grow and bear fruit.



Father Stephan, missionary of passion.

Image Louis Wörth



Image CfD

In Memoriam Father Stephan

by Michael Schliep [75]

FATHER STEPHAN WAS RECALLED AND REDEEMED BY GOD ON JANUARY 7TH 2018. BORN ON 28 AUGUST 1938, HE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY AS A MISSIONARY IN AFRICA FOR THE PEOPLE SINCE THE 1970S, FIRST IN SENEGAL AND SINCE 1993 IN SOUTH AFRICA.

WE COMMEMORATE TO A TRUE CHRISTIAN AND WE WILL CONTINUE ON HIS INHERITANCE.

Adieu André, god have blessed you.
Claim for Dignity



Image Michael Schliep

A Tribute to the First Beatified South African

by Gjon Radovani [16] [17]

Benedict Samuel Tshimangadzo Daswa, South Africa's first martyr acknowledged by the Church, was beatified in Tshitani, on Sunday, September 13th 2015. On January 22nd, 2015, Pope Francis authorised the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to issue the decree by which his martyrdom was recognised. On February 2nd 1990, Benedict Daswa was brutally killed on the same day the release of Nelson Mandela (alongside all other political prisoners) was announced (by FW de Klerk at the opening of Parliament).

A thanking gesture to a man who worked until the end of his life to bestow spiritual freedom on the people and to release them from witchcraft and evil's captivity.

A sacred place where the inward and the outward merge naturally with each other in transparency, harmony and balance. A structure capable to provide balanced accommodation within the space, to a small group of people on a daily basis as well as large crowds of pilgrims on Memorial Days.

Biography

Benedict Daswa was born on 16 June, 1946 in Tzaneen – Mbahe, Limpopo Province, in South Africa. At a young age he joined the catechumen group and soon after, he was baptized at the age of 16. He fathered eight children and became one of the most beloved and active characters of his community. Starting as a teacher of a primary school he later became the headmaster, animator and catechist of his community. Benedict Daswa was the educator as well as the center of the social life of his community.

In January 1990, during a wild thunderstorm, many roofs caught fire, which was interpreted as a curse and an act of witchcraft by the elders of the village. They decided to appoint a shaman to identify the responsible person for this act and punish him. It was Benedict Daswa who opposed the villagers in an attempt to explain the phenomenon of lightning and convince them that such phenomena have nothing to do with witchcraft or any kind of magic. A few days later he fell victim to an ambush, prepared by his fellow villagers, who were angry about his continuous efforts to convince them that a shaman's verdict had no real basis

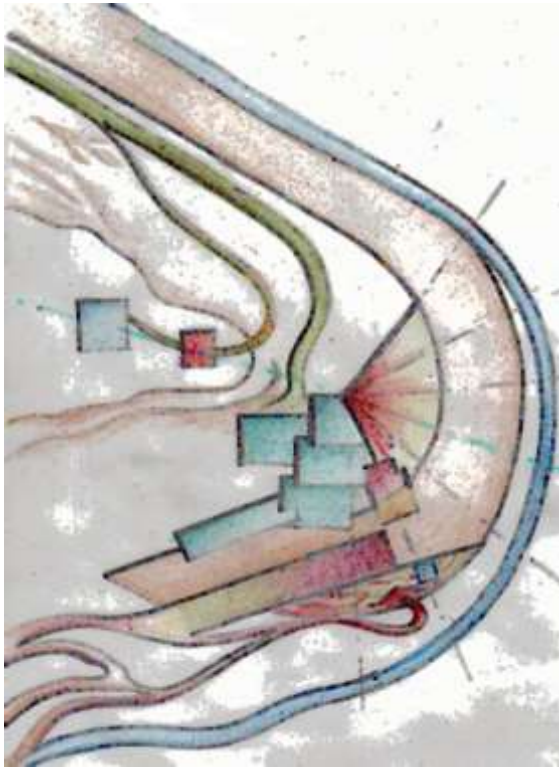
and hence they could not condemn innocent people.

A road blocked with stones forced him to stop his car and run for shelter in the nearest house in order to escape from his aggressors. They followed and surrounded him, threatening the lady of the house. Under these circumstances Benedict Daswa left the house, and stepping up to his pursuers he prayed: "Father, receive my spirit", at which moment a rain of stones and logs came down on his unshielded body. His body collapsed progressively under the brutal impact of the stones and logs. While the injured Benedict continuously repeated the prayer "Father, receive my spirit" in a fading voice, the aggressors' anger remained unabated, so they poured boiling water over him to ensure that his body would remain ultimately lifeless.

"Father, receive my spirit". Benedict Samuel Tshimangadzo Daswa's last prayer was fulfilled. The soul of this martyr of Christianity was not susceptible to the stones or the logs, witchcraft or the brutality of ignorance, that by power of a raging crowd annihilated his body. Benedict Samuel Tshimangadzo Daswa be blessed.

Benedict Daswa Project

The most fascinating and arduous challenge was to design an object worthy of communicating modesty and the greatness of the Christian dogma at the same time, as it is materialized in the life and work of a saint, and to make the same object offer not only a proportional spatial harmony for daily use by a relatively small number of local believers, but also for special use by a much larger number of pilgrims on Memorial Days.



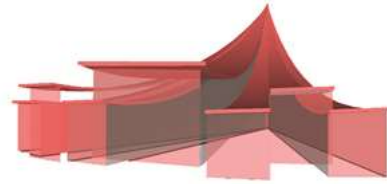
GR-01: concept art
Foundation-spirituality-way-tent

Each line, surface area and volume, each material, colour and texture as well as each integrated element in this sacral building complex should serve the Church's mission objective of the religious buildings, representing a backdrop for an intensive relationship between the devoted and the Creator. Wrapped in the charm and sanctification of religion's mystery, the message of the doctrine is conveyed in an indisputable and clear way without trivializing it.



The underlying theme of this complex's design combines South African culture, immense spirit, and extrovert characteristics of the country as revealed in deeply spiritual rites and forms that best demonstrate the amplified power generating, under the influence of the mystery

of faith, from the harmony of the group and of the rite.



GR-02: Interieur



GR-03-04: Tent as an association for pilgrimage

Since the main and most significant function of this sanctuary will be the hosting of all pilgrims from around South Africa as well as the surrounding states, it was thought adequate to find an element as a motive for the project that immediately associates with pilgrimage. On his way to the place of pilgrimage, on the one hand the pilgrim takes with him his unwavering conviction of the need for pilgrimage and on the other hand the tent that allows him to spend the nights towards his spiritual progress. It was exactly this tent that was chosen as a symbol of this important spiritual process, and that became the "Big Tent", the "Tent of Tents", an object that marks the culmination of the process, in a place where matter and spirit become one, merged into desire, need and natural destiny of the transcendental man, to get one step closer to his creator.



GR-05: uniting body and mind

The "Tent of Tents" will offer the possibility of performing all the rituals, at the same time becoming the new habitat of the saint's remains and facilitating the believers' community life.

The flexibility of this structure will allow not only the daily or weekly mass to get served with all the dignity and mysticism due to a saint and his small community, but through its opening it will allow from the same presbytery, the same altar, the same ambo and the same tabernacle to make room for thousands of pilgrims, making everyone feel included within the "Big Tent" of faith, to feel embraced and protected by it, to feel wrapped by the "Sacra Sindone" (Holy Shroud) and feel included in Saint Mary's blessing.

I am convinced that with such structure, the human respect that is being paid to the saint's martyrdom, and the radiation that it will transmit to the religious and profane world, will help tremendously in spreading the message of faith, peace and interpersonal coexistence, even in the case where the philosophies of life, social and ethnic origins are different.



GR-06: *functional schematic*

Like few other places in the world, South Africa has suffered severe torture of racial and social injustice. With the beatification of Benedict Samuel Tshimangadzo Daswa and with the construction of this church dedicated to him, the international as well as the South African community make not only a small gesture but also a very significant step, as an attempt to heal the social and human wounds caused to people by the people.

Through the “Benedict Daswa Center” we materialize the memorial of the life and work of every important martyr of the African continent, as Monsignor Slattery said on September 13th, 2015 at the beatification ceremony of Benedict Daswa:

"... Daswa is, like Mandela, a symbol of freedom. Daswa and Mandela have been driven by a vision of freedom from slavery. Mandela spent his life trying to free his people from apartheid's guillotine. Through his life, Daswa has experimented with the inner freedom from witchcraft and evil. He has tried to help others live and experience this freedom by opening to Christ. It can be said that Daswa and Mandela are complementary, because the people are in need of inner and outer freedom, in order to build a healthy and fair society.... "



GR-06-07-08



GR-09-10

Image AP



Benedict Daswa was only 43 years old



Mother of Benedict Daswa



Image Andre Bohas

Blessed Benedict Daswa: Work and Pray

by father Andre Bohas [79]

The event of the Beatification of Blessed Benedict Daswa is changing the people / community; in that they now see the power of prayer. They now engage more in Novena Prayer as communities and families asking for favours and miracles through the intercession of Blessed Benedict DASWA.

Blessed Benedict DASWA now stands as a model with his motto "Pray and Work". This has become an inspiration which makes people realize that cooperation with God in prayer makes work at all levels possible to achieve.

Blessed Benedict DASWA has himself lived a model family man; so people pray for his intercession to emulate his example to be better family. People are now growing in love as is witnessed by their charity to the poor; all this is growing from Blessed Benedict DASWA example. People now understand the special need to contribute the R5 campaign collection in view of the development of a Pilgrimage Centre at Tsitanini site in the Parihs of



Thohoyandou, in the diocese of Tzaneen.

The Beatification event has sparked a great prayer zeal and people are going for pilgrimage to Nweli church where his mortal remains lie. A notable example is about 80 St Anne Sodality women from Zimbabwe who spent a whole night-vigil prayer at Nweli church during the year 2016.



The Beatification event has made people to understand that God's family is not broken by death, hence they pray through the intercession of Blessed Benedict DASWA, knowing that he died in Christ who is risen and reigns over the living and the dead.

Blessed Benedict DASWA, Pray for us!

Image Andre Bohas

35 000 People came together for the
Beatification of BENEDICT DASWA



Gold mining in Peru

Event at Fair Trade Exhibition in Stuttgart

by Martin and Rainer Schlecht [14]

What? When? Where? Upon invitation from the SEZ (*Foundation for Development and Co-operation*) a very interesting event on the topic of “Gold Mining in Peru – Fair for Man and the Environment?” with succeeding discussion panel took place at the “International Exhibition for Fair Trade and Globally Responsible Behaviour” in Stuttgart’s International Congress Center ICS on March 31st, 2016. SEZ is a central player in development politics and strongly engages in Baden-Württemberg’s fair trade shops (*Weltläden*). Due to their motto “Act. Together. Sustainably”, the foundation encourages broad debates on global challenges. The event was an instructive moment for those interested and engaged in development politics to get an insight into the problems of gold mining in general and in Peru in particular, and to get a picture of so-called “fair” trade in gold and its pros and cons. The speakers’ input as well as enlightening and interesting comments from a partly expert audience contributed to the event’s success.

The topic was introduced as follows: “Peru is the fifth biggest gold producer in the world. The demand for this precious metal is at a constantly high level – its price has doubled since 2008. By means of large-scale extraction, but also by small-scale prospectors more and more gold is being mined. Highly toxic cyanide and mercury, which are used to separate gold from gravel, sand and mud destroy people and ecosystems. On a daily basis, pollution and violations of human rights can be observed, protests against large-scale mines are dangerous. Despite efforts of the Peruvian government to curtail the mining, a big part of the gold is still extracted illegally. Reinhard Seifert, author, for many years active as a development worker for CIM and GIZ in Peru,

where he operated with NGOs and ministries, reports on the current situation in the region of Cajamarca.

A small approach to improve the situation is Fair Gold. Two gold mines in Peru working as cooperatives have already been certified. This is time and money consuming, but guarantees the workers a stable minimum price, the observation of occupational health and safety standards and contributes to better protection of the environment. Angelika Grote from TransFair Germany will present this certification.”

Reinhard Seifert, activist who lives and works in Cajamarca/Perú, pointed out in his contribution that the hands of numerous small-scale prospectors have been utterly deformed by mercury contamination (a photo was shown). Most of the toxic substances elude in mining and ore dressing. Water is potable at a pH value of 6,8 to 8,5. Trout die at a pH value of 5. Measurements for heavy metals exceed tolerable guiding values up to 30 times. Yanacocha is situated at 4,500 m over sea-level. It takes the water about 30 minutes to arrive in Cajamarca, which, in case of an accident, equals a short lead time. 280 lagoons in Alto Peru are endangered by the gold mine in Yanacocha; the waters of the Maqui-Maqui area are contaminated. The area of the mine is where the poorest of the poor live. Corruption is a severe problem, for which one case is given as evidence: A state attorney gets evidence of a criminal case, which is dismissed; he bought 350 acres of land from a farmer for 50 US\$ per acre, which he sold for 2,000 US\$ per acre; profit of 600,000 US\$ by purchase from an American company.



Image Rainer Schlecht

On the Right to a Good Life – Concert Reading “Buen Vivir“

with Alberto Costa und Grupo Sal, 3rd May, 2016 in the House of the Catholic Church in Stuttgart

A retrospective view, by Martin and Rainer Schlecht [13] [55]

Welcome

The director of the House, Hermann Merkle: “The fact that the concert reading has been organised and supported by several organisations shows that the topic of Good Life is widely spread.”

Personal Information

Ecuadorian Alberto Acosta currently belongs to the leading intellectuals of Latin America and is one of the most significant advocates of the Buen Vivir concept. He is a professor of economics, visionary, politician, born in 1948 in Quito where he lives. He is influenced by the spirit of Ecuador’s native peoples. See Wikipedia for further information.

What is Buen Vivir?

Buen Vivir

- is an idea from the South. Usually it goes the other way round, and ideas travel from North to South. Buen Vivir has been existing for a long time in various communities in the region of the Andes and the Amazon Basin. There are experiences, values and many practices of Buen Vivir or *sumak kawsay*. There is no theory, recipe, model, no master plan. That’s why Alberto Costa rather perpetuates suggestions and impulses for the discussion.
- is not a development alternative, cannot be grasped by modern values and models. Buen Vivir represents an alternative to development.
- stands in contrast to exploitative forms of current globalisation tendencies and economic interest.

- wants to encourage our awareness of the relationships with our environment and with our fellow human beings.
- also deals with art, the joy of life, and music.
- strives for harmony, not for competition, growth, profit. – “What if schools taught our children the ideas and practices of harmonious lives?” Alberto asks.

What are the fundamental features of Buen Vivir?

- Buen Vivir is not a creation of academics or politicians. It is, as mentioned before, a reflection of values, experiences, and practices of the indigenous peoples. It’s rather an experience than a concept.
- Suggestions and impulses originate from the peoples of the Andes countries and the Amazon Basin, who are being ignored and discriminated against. The indigenous peoples try to live in harmony with “Pachamama”, Mother Earth (see photo: Grupo Sal, plastic). They are convinced that human beings harm themselves in multiple ways if they damage nature.
- Ideas of Buen-Vivir-Ideen also exist in other parts of the world, like for example in Ubuntu in Africa: “You are because I am, and I am because you are!” – This philosophical concept is close to that of Buen Vivir, not quite the same, but similar.
- The ideas of Buen Vivir are part of a global fight for emancipation and a more humane society. Contrary to the model of sustainable development, which claims universality, these suggestions cannot be reduced to a single model. They are heterogeneous, pluralistic,

but all stress the principle of harmony: a harmonious togetherness of all people as a part of a community, a harmonious togetherness with other groups, individuals and nature.

Why should we talk about Buen Vivir today?

- This is about the future of humanity. We live in a time of massive change, in which events go haywire.
- Every year millions of people die of air and water pollution.
- Neo-extractivism – the exploitation of nature and exportation of natural resources – lead not only to severe environmental problems, but also to social and economic drawbacks. So it is paid by the native population, often even resulting in existential consequences like poverty and hunger. The ecologically destructive oil drilling in Yasuni National Park is one severe problem after the failure of the Yasuni-ITT initiative.

One example how to realise Buen Vivir on a global scale is the suggestion not to extract raw oil in the Amazon region – Yasuni-ITT – and instead receive compensation for climate protection from the North. In reality it was the President of Ecuador himself who had not grasped the idea brought forward by the Ecuadorian society and couldn't handle it. Neither is it true that "the whole world deserted us", for it was the Ecuadorian government that didn't manage to develop a solid, coherent strategy for the implementation of the concept.

- About seven billion people live on Earth, but almost one billion is starving although food is being produced for 11 billion, i.e. we are spoiling 1.3 bio tons of food. Wheat is produced for speculative reasons only, not for the elimination of hunger. Biofuel serves to quench the thirst of cars, not the hunger of people.
- Easterling-paradox: Despite rising incomes people don't get happier.
- Development projects, development theories, development plans, development aids are being created, but this does not mean that we have developed.
- The so-called "developed countries" are not countries that are well developed in all respects as many bad developments can be observed, too.

- We should put more efforts into solidarity, community, sufficiency, emancipation, equality, mutuality and sustainability.

- Only a bio-centric and solidary concept of the world will render a future of social and ecological justice for mankind.

- In the face of ecological and economic crises in a globalised world common property must not be merchandised – neither privatised, nor nationalised. This property and nature must be de-privatised and must be controlled by communities.

General information

- The currently fundamental idea of "Buen Vivir" (Good Life) has been brought to a wider audience by Alberto Acosta: in his book: "Buen Vivir: On the right to a good life".

- It's all about a new definition of progress, which is stressed by the Pope in his Encyclical "Laudato si", the reading of which Alberto strongly suggests.

- Buen Vivir is deeply rooted in the Ecuadorian and in the Bolivian constitutions.

- Indigenous peoples have been playing a role in political processes, such as in Bolivia since Evo Morales has been President.

- The German government founded the Initiative Citizens' Dialogue, but with regard to Buen Vivir, Angela Merkel made known that concerning the introduction of new ideas everything should remain at status quo.

- In Castrop-Rauxel and Tübingen such as other German cities, programmes have been developed for Buen Vivir. These are the first steps through civil society.

Maintenance of the Creation

- We should not consider nature as an object only, but as a subject, even a legal subject; all forms of life have a right to live.

- We must have a new sense of community.

- We must overcome egoism, moderate our consumption, curtail our greed of gain.

- We can fashion economy in a different way, focussing on common welfare. Example: Minka, these are co-operations for larger projects that are of use for the collective. Facilities are for example built together, projects are made for the welfare of the local community, such as schools, irrigation canals.

- What with all advantages of the indigenous concept of “Buen Vivir”, still it can and must not be forgotten that indigenous people must not be idealised, because some of them join in the traditional concept of development
- The human being is not the pride of Creation – the human being is the master of exhaustion.

Basic Ideas

- It is indispensable to take a shared look at the world and find solutions – the Southern and the Northern hemisphere.
- Ideas of Buen Vivir are not retrograde. Machines are made for people, not the other way round. Robot technology is supposed to facilitate life, not to augment profit and capital.
- Where, how and when can you experience or make use of Buen Vivir? In the here and now, by combined bottom-up efforts.

“Enough is enough” – Examples of failed development

- Top-down diktat: What can / must the grassroot movement do so that decision-makers in politics, economy and society make changes?
- Elimination of greed: Limitarianism means that a limit for wealth and property should be introduced. The richest man in the world, a Mexican called Carlos Simon: If every day he spent one mio of his wealth he would have to live 200 years.
- Exploitative conglomerates: There is a gigantic farm in the USA the agricultural land of which is bigger than the Saarland. Problem: monoculture, use of chemicals, genetically modified seeds etc
- Tax evasion: Tax havens (see Panama Papers) need to be abolished. Higher tax revenues would allow for more money for social programmes and infrastructure. Additional tax revenues are much higher than the expense for so-called developmental aid.

Featured Songs

- The first song entitled “El hacha” (The Axe) is dedicated to the life-giving power of the rainforest, but also refers to the impact of the destruction it is exposed to. Message: Man precedes the forest, but is followed by the desert.

- The idea for the energy transition came from small, co-operative circles, then started to spread. All this serves as a good example of how to realise the concept of Good Life.

- Did the left-wing project fail in Latin America? In fact, they were not really left-wing, but progressive governments. They didn’t realise Buen Vivir. They are coined by traditional development and extractive practices.

- Corrupteion in the political elite. Former President of Argentina, Cristina Kirchner cleared the way for Mauricio Macri’s government.

The term sufficiency (Sp.: suficiencia) did not, according to Journalist Thomas Pampuch, only know ascetic moderation, but can also be understood as a “Basta! Enough is enough!” (Fr.: ça suffit!)

Requests of Buen Vivir

- Life in harmony with nature
- An alternative to development
- Social and solidary economy
- A change in life styles and in the style of politics.

Social justice and ecological justice belong to each other.

Information Grupo Sal

Latin-American cult-band Grupo Sal see their task in abigger frame. They support projects, facilitates the encounter between people and promotes the encounter of people and the exchange of cultures. The talented musicians consider themselves cultural ambassadors for Latin America’s interests. *Grupo Sal* add to the discourse of topics like sustainable and solidarian life styles, set an important intercultural course and offers ambitious, expressive and creative entertainment. They are currently touring Germany for the firth time. The first one with Alberto Acosta took place in April 2014.

- EA song of indigenous origin, dedication to an indigenous resistance movement in the 16th ct. against Spanish oppression. Message: Indigenous peoples are characterised by a sense of community, affinity with nature, religiousness.
- A Peruvian waltz by Carlos Cabrera, composition for a deceased friend; Peruvian waltzes have a strong African component. They are

written in three quarter time, but played in six eighth time.

- Afro-Peruvian version of a Cuban song, “El Alacrán” (The Scorpion) Quote: “Don’t get frightened by the scorpion, if it discovers you, it can sting you...”
- One song entitled “Fantasía musical”
- An Argentinian Song, dedication to a beautiful woman: “La Poma”.
- Lied from Lisboa, a love talk between the city and the stream.
- Composition of a Puerto-Rican, “Un puesto vacante”

Conclusion and General Impression

“Good Life” also has to do with culture. The event appealed to the senses and the feeling for art, thus adding to the speech and the debate were. The current challenge consists in

implementing the concept of indigenous origin to our Western lifestyles.

Despite Bayern Munich playing Atlético Madrid at the same time there were still (or only) about 60 guests to the event that took place in the House of the Catholic Church for the fourth time in this constellation.

For us as listeners it was a successful, ambient night, leaving us with much food for thought. Many aspects of the topic have of course been known in general. One war or another, they are being treated and spread by various activist groups. Alberto Acosta, trying to avoid ideologically biased terming, addresses a broad target audience in order to find acceptance and create harmony. Alberto is an effable, modest person without airs, despite his provenience and merits. He speaks extraordinary good German.

Opening of Exhibition “Water – Element of Life” in Town Hall

by Martin Wolf, lord mayor of Bretten [35]

Water as the element of life is at the centre of the current exhibition in the lounge of the town hall. Mayor Martin Wolf opened the new travelling exhibition produced by students of Bretten’s Melanchthon High School (MGB), which will afterwards be shown in Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Peru.

Within the so-called “TheoPrax Project”, six students of MGB in tight cooperation with Tübingen’s association Claim for Dignity are focussing on the topic of water, aiming at sensitising the public on a topic usually considered as self-evident.

“Water is the so-called element of life, its root, and symbol of identification number one of our blue planet”, Martin Wolf illustrates the importance of the project.

Next to the project’s content he likewise underlines the methodical approach of Tho Prax: “It embeds creative, project-oriented teamwork in regular lessons” and “teaches values and experiences that will be of good use in their future professional lives.”

Elke Bender, principal of MGB, is enthusiastic about the students’ extraordinary achievements and their commitment. In her eyes, TheoPrax methods have proven successful and have been well established. Bernhard Steger, teacher and director of the TheoPrax branch at MGB, honoured his students’ courageous work, which had by far exceeded his expectations.

Michael Schliep, member of Claim for Dignity’s executive board, was more than happy about the good and constructive cooperation with the students. The results of the cooperation are now to be incorporated into an ambitious project of gaining drinking water from fog in Peru.

Martin Wolf invites all those who are interested to “dive into” the topic of water and the problem of its fair distribution and come visit the exhibition. It can be seen in Bretten’s town hall lounge until August 10th.

Ausstellungseröffnung „Lebenselement Wasser“ im Rathaus

Das „Lebenselement Wasser“ steht im Mittelpunkt der aktuellen Ausstellung im Rathausfoyer. Die neue Wanderausstellung einiger Schüler des Melanchthon-Gymnasiums Bretten (MGB) wurde gestern von Oberbürgermeister Martin Wolff eröffnet und wird danach auch in Italien, Spanien, den Niederlanden und Peru zu sehen sein.

Im Rahmen des sogenannten „Theo-Prax Projektes“ rücken sechs Schüler des MGB in enger Zusammenarbeit mit dem Tübinger Verein Claim for dignity das Thema Wasser in den Mittelpunkt. Ziel dieser Ausstellung soll es sein, die Öffentlichkeit mit dem sonst als selbstverständlich aufgefassten Thema der Wasserversorgung zu sensibilisieren.

„Wasser ist das sogenannte Lebenselement, die Keimzelle des Lebens und Identifikationssymbol Nummer eins unseres „blauen“ Planeten“ verdeutlichte Oberbürgermeister Martin Wolff die Bedeutung des Schülerprojektes.

Neben dem inhaltlichen Aspekt lobte er auch den methodischen Ansatz von TheoPrax: „Es bettet kreative, projektorientierte Teamarbeit in den regulären Unterricht ein“ und „vermittelt den Schülern wichtige Erfahrungswerte, die sie in ihrem weiteren Berufsleben gewinnbringend einfließen lassen können“.

Elke Bender, Schulleiterin am Melanchthon-Gymnasium, zeigte sich von den hervorragenden Leistungen und den Einsatz der involvierten Schüler begeistert. Die TheoPrax-Methodik habe sich etabliert und bewährt. Auch Bernhard Steger, Lehrer und Leiter der TheoPrax Dependence am MGB, würdigte die couragierte Arbeit seiner Schüler, die seine Erwartungen weit übertrafen hatte.

Michael Schliep, Vorstandsmitglied des Projektpartners Claim for dignity e.V. zeigte sich über die konstruktive, sehr gute Zusammenarbeit mit den Schülern sehr erfreut. Zusammen sollen nun die Ergebnisse der Kooperation in ein ehrgeiziges Projekt zur Trinkwassergewinnung aus Nebel in Peru einfließen.



OB Martin Wolff lädt alle Interessierte ein, in die Thematik Wasser und Problematik der gerechten Verteilung „einzutauchen“ und die Wanderausstellung zu besuchen. In Bretten kann sie bis 10. August im Rathausfoyer besichtigt werden.

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Quelle: Brettener Woche, Amtsblatt der Großen Kreisstadt Bretten, Mittwoch, 18. Juli 2012, Jahrgang 2012 Nr. 1462



„Wir wollen wirklich was erreichen“

MGB-Schüler konzipieren eine große Wanderausstellung über das Element Wasser

Von unserer Mitarbeiterin
Claudia Jordan

Bretten. Der Wecker klingelt. Man quält sich aus dem Bett. Eine Handvoll kaltes Wasser ins Gesicht wird seine Wirkung schon nicht verfehlen. Ganz selbstverständlich dreht man den Wasserhahn auf. Damit beginnt der alltägliche Wasserverbrauch eines Jeden, der im Durchschnitt in Deutschland etwa 130 Liter pro Tag und Kopf beträgt. Der größte Anteil davon wird für die Toilettenspülung, die Dusche und das Waschewaschen verbraucht. In Entwicklungsländern haben die Menschen deutlich weniger davon zur Verfügung. Im Armenviertel von Arequipa in Peru muss eine Familie mit etwa 30 Litern pro Tag auskommen.

Unter anderem mit diesen Unterschieden zwischen Industrie- und Entwicklungsländern rund um das Thema Wasser und dessen Einsatz beschäftigt sich die Projektgruppe der 10 b des Melanchthon-Gymnasiums Bretten. Die fünf Schüler planen eine Wanderausstellung zum Thema Wasser, die am 17. Juli im Rathaus Bretten eröffnet wird. „Die Ausstellung geht auf die Nutzung von Wasser über die Jahrhunderte hinweg ein, erklärt die Bedeutung, besonders in

religiösen Sinn und wirft einen Blick auf Wasser als Motor der Technik“, erklärt der betreuende Lehrer Bernhard Steger. Simon Zeeb, Julian Teller, Vanessa Mohr, Josefa Weber und Domenic Kratz führen mit der Wanderausstellung ein Projekt fort, für das schon der Jahrgang vor ihnen den Grundstein gelegt hat. Dieser trug Daten über die Wasserqualität in Peru zusammen, die auch ihren Platz in der Ausstellung finden. Die



Schüler arbeiten eng mit der Tübinger Organisation „Claim for Dignity“ zusammen, für die Michael Schliep die Schüler berät und unterstützt.

Mit der Ausstellung wollen die Schüler die Gesellschaft einerseits für das Element Wasser und den Umgang damit sensibilisieren, aber auch Sponsoren für ein Projekt in Peru gewinnen, bei dem Wasser aus Nebel gewonnen werden soll. „Wir wollen auch klarmachen: Wir sind eine Welt. Der Rohstoff Wasser wird zwar nicht unbedingt knapp, er ist aber sehr unterschiedlich verteilt“, erklärt

Schliep. Der Zehntklässler Julian Teller ergänzt: „Durch das Projekt weiß ich jetzt, wie es zum Thema Wasser in anderen Ländern aussieht. Wir wollen wirklich etwas erreichen. Die Leute sollen über ihren eigenen Wasserverbrauch nachdenken.“

Die Ausstellung organisieren die Schüler von Anfang an selbstständig. Sie mussten Sponsoren gewinnen, Materialien besorgen und einen Zeitplan aufstellen. „Besonders mit dem Sponsorenbrief haben wir uns richtig schwer getan“, erzählt Vanessa Mohr, „den mussten wir dreimal schreiben bis er gut war.“

Steger ist stolz auf seine Schüler. Ziel der Methodik TheoPrax sei es, ein Projekt mit realem Auftrag zu konzipieren und umzusetzen. „Die Schüler haben dabei auch gelernt flexibel zu sein und das Konzept gegebenenfalls verändern zu müssen.“ Das Projekt finanziert sich aus Sponsoren und Spenden. Alle Gelder, die nicht für die Ausstellung genutzt werden, fließen in das Projekt zur Wassergewinnung aus Nebel in Peru.

Spendenkonto: Förderverein Melanchthon-Gymnasium Bretten e.V., Sparkasse Kraichgau, BLZ: 663 600 36, Kontonummer: 5 004 097, Verwendungszweck: Wanderausstellung Wasser



ALLES SELBST GEMACHT: Lehrer Bernhard Steger betreut seine Schüler bei der Konzeption einer eigenen Ausstellung. Foto: Jordan

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The exhibition, a wonderful success

by Elke Bender, principal of Melanchthon-High School Bretten [36]

As a principal I am particularly happy about the results of the work of our Science students from class 10b, but also about how they came about and can be presented here and now.

From a pedagogical point of view, the exhibition is a wonderful success because the results show on the one hand, with which various and at the same time profound methods the students have worked. Not only did the students have to understand, transcend, categorize, evaluate and present the scientific contents of the topic, but they have also gained a global way of understanding. They have deeply looked into problems inherent in other parts of the world to an extent that we can hardly fathom.

In Europe, too, the topic of water penury is gaining importance, but still not in such existential ways. The insight into a different living environment and a different continent allows for significant scientific findings, but on top of that the preoccupation with the topic of this exhibition within its geographical context coins the students' personal development to an enormous extent. It is not only the change of perspective to a different world and culture, but also the issue of linking them to this scientific problem solving represents a particular

challenge, which they have coped with excellently.

The cooperation with out-of-school sponsors and supporters makes students experience the satisfaction given with their own results if all participants invest their commitment in the same thing. The whole is more than mere the sum of its parts.

Sometimes the present exhibits seemed to lead into dead ends, from which loopholes needed to be found. Difficulties were overcome, and in the end, a documentation has come to life, which doesn't reveal the numerous obstacles surmounted on the way.

On that note, I thank all the students for their achievement, and all companies and institutions involved, like the association "Claim for Dignity", in particular Michael Schliep und Gjon Radovani, Public Services Bretten, BRUKER company, Maisenhlder Printing Press from Karlsruhe and all other sponsors for the unique support that has led to this excellent final result. For Melanchthon High School Bretten I wish all good luck and success to our students' exhibition at all further venues worldwide, and interesting new insights and much pleasure on their walk through the documentations to our visitors.



History of the city of Bretten

by *Bernhard Wendel and Bernhard Steger [70]*

The district town of Bretten is located among the hilly landscape of Kraichgau, and it is also known as the „Pearl of Kraichgau“. It was mentioned for the first time in 767 AD with the name of „Villa Breteheim“ in the codex of the Lorsch monastery; therefore, it is considered as one of the oldest settlements in the region. Given its favored geographical location as a passage and as connection between the Rhine Valley and the Neckar region, this city experienced several changes of domination and pawning in its 1200 years history. In 1148, Bretten was awarded with market rights, and short after occurred the promotion of the city. During the XIV and XV centuries, the city experienced its biggest blossom period during the Middle Ages: it possessed market and city rights, as well as coinage prerogatives. Besides, it had a custom agency, given the cheap transportation of old trading routes. Bretten was also a cultural hub. Circa 1500 AD there was already a Latin school in place. And the most famous son of the city, Philipp Melanchthon, spread the name of its hometown all over Europe with his work as humanist, and also as a comrade of Martin Luther.

The Melanchthon secondary school in Bretten

by *Bernhard Wendel and Bernhard Steger [70]*

The MGB was founded on 31. March 1832 by a decree of the Grand Duke's Ministry of Interior for the construction of a superior townspeople and secondary school in Bretten (Protestant church section from 7.d.M. No 2030). In 1875 a new school building was inaugurated (the current old school of MGB). In 1954, the first school secretary arrived from the city council, and the school officially attained the name of „High school“ (Gymnasium). Given the growing number of incoming students, the MGB was divided and the city of Bretten built a new high school (Edith-Stein- Gymnasium) in 1997. MGB had from five to six classes for each level, and after difficult negotiations, it obtained the profile of music, natural sciences, and Italian as a third language. MGB is a general education high school. As defined by the big humanist and name-giving of MGB, Philipp Melanchthon, we understand general education as a continuous process that aims at giving persons the proper means to educate themselves.

Several teachers who originally came from Bretten taught in different European universities; for instance, Heidelberg, Tübingen, Paris and so on. In 1504 Bretten successfully defended itself from the siege of Ulrich von Württemberg – this is the origin of the annual festival from the end of June to the beginning of July, where around 100.000 guests visit the city. Since 1803 Bretten is part of Baden, and it became an official city of Baden for the county council district. The industrialization began in the middle of the XIX century. NEFF (the stoves procuding company) led the economic development for years. Now, the economic structure of Bretten is characterised by the mix of branches with several innovative companies.

On 1.1.1975, during an amalgamation of communes, the district town of Bretten experienced the incorporation of the neighboring towns of Bauerbach, Büchig, Diedelsheim, Dürrenbüchig, Gölshausen, Neibsheim, Rinklingen, Ruit and Sprantal. Nowadays, Bretten and its different districts have approximately 28.000 inhabitants.

Philipp Melanchthon, his life and achievements are the example and the concept of MGB. As much as it meant to him, education for us means a confrontation with religious, ethical, philosophical and political questions, and the capacity of establishing interreligious and intercultural dialogues. MGB has three musical profiles (string courses), languages (English, French, Latin and Italian as a third language, as well as Russian, Greek, Hebrew in voluntary workshops) and natural sciences. In the field of natural sciences, MGB uses the TheoPrax methodology since 1997. This influences the methodology for teaching and learning, and it was created by Dr. Peter Eyerer and Dörthe Krause from the Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology in Berghausen. Since 2008, this methodology is used in all of the natural sciences courses from class 8 on, and it keeps on developing.

In this respect, **in 2009 MGB became a TheoPrax support school**, and since 2011 it is an independent branch of the TheoPrax center of Germany.

Travelling exhibition: “Water as an element of Life”

Following the exhibition in Holzgerlingen’s Schönbuch Gymnasium the large-sized posters and pictures on Peruvian Life shall now go on tramp

by Sabine Schliep [68]

This year’s Christmas donations will be turned into the CfD project “School Breakfast” in Villa Independiente in Arequipa, Peru.

Following the successful exhibition in Holzgerlingen, the large-sized pictures on Life in Peru, the meaning of water and the difficulties of water supply, will now go travelling to Barcelona-Spain.



Image cfd



Opening ceremony of the picture exhibition at the Gymnasium Holzgerlingen, Image cfd



Local news (25.11.2014) in the newspaper “Böblinger Bote” about the Relief campaign for starving school-children in Peru.

Christmas project at the Schoenbuch-Gymnasium Holzgerlingen

by Natascha Mainiera [67]

The "Society of Friends of the Schoenbuch Grammar School" and several committed pupils collected money for a school breakfast project in Peru.

The society of friends together with engaged students have organised a Christmas collection for children in need at school every year since the year 2000. This year the money will be used to finance a school breakfast for indigenous children in Villa Independiente, a poor settlement on the edge of the town of Arequipa in the Peruvian mountains.

In previous years it was only the students and the staff that were involved in the project and invited to donate. But this year the Christmas Project was connected with an exhibition in the hall of the grammar school. From November 25 to December 17 the exhibition "Water a vital element of life" was open to the public. The exhibition concentrated on the importance of water, the difficulty of providing clean drinking water and the poverty in the South American country of Peru. The Schoenbuch-Grammar School and the society "Claim for Dignity" joined forces in the project

The touring exhibition was conceptualised by students of the "Melanchthon Grammar School" in Bretten in cooperation with the society "Claim for Dignity" in Tuebingen. Under the auspices of the "Society of Friends of the Schoenbuch Grammar School" it was shown in Holzgerlingen.

"Claim for Dignity" is a non-profit organisation which was founded in 2001. It supports the recognition, protection and preservation of human dignity. Apart from supporting and organising projects abroad the society also enhances the development of environmentally friendly technologies such as generating water from mist. In addition "Claim for Dignity" is listed as

sending organisation in "weltwärts", Germany's developmental voluntary service, which entitles it to send interested, young people to diverse projects abroad.

First contacts between "Claim for Dignity" and the "Society of Friends of the Schoenbuch Grammar School" had already been established three years ago. This contact made it possible for "Claim for Dignity" to seek people's support at the Christmas Market in Holzgerlingen twice. However, the "Society of Friends of the Schoenbuch Grammar School" gives priority to projects in which former students work. For this reason it took until the year 2014 to make a joint effort. Representatives of the two societies decided to collect money for a school breakfast for indigenous children in Arequipa.

School breakfast in the school "Villa Independiente"

The school is situated in a poor quarter of the town in which the school breakfast is the only proper meal of the day for the students because their parents don't have the means to feed them sufficiently. Photographs and letters of those children were presented in one section of the touring exhibition "Water a Vital Element of Life". In this way it became concrete and evident who the children are that will receive the sum of 1850.- Euros which has been collected. This amount of money will be enough to give those children a healthy breakfast to enable them to concentrate and study at school for one year. All of them love going to school because they understand the importance of being educated. Our intention was to help them just a little bit in their struggle out of poverty.



From left to right: Raymond Chow (Association of Friends), Headmaster Rainer Deim, Gisela Plieseis (Association of Friends), Tatiana Blacker (Claim for Dignity), Mayor Wilfried Dölker, Sabine Schliep (Claim for Dignity) and Peter Görke (Association of Friends)

Image Natascha Maniero



Sabine Schliep, board of CfD, explains the students the situation in the poor areas of Arequipa

Image CfD



*Since 2011, members of Claim for Dignity have been involved in Peru's elementary school in the poor area of Arequipa
Image Pilar Tejada*

La Institución Educativa N 40657 “Villa Independiente”

by Pilar Tejada Saenz [7]

Arequipa is one of the prettiest cities in Peru and is the second wealthiest after our capital Lima. But there is still much poverty for us to fight, and one of the very poor districts is Selva Alegre, which started off as a small town and during the years has grown into a district.

Most of us don't get to see the whole picture; we don't see the poor people who really need us so we just keep living in our own bubble. I have lived in Arequipa since 2010 and we came here due to my husband's work. I have the pleasure of helping to take care of one part of Selva Alegre, the primary school, Villa Independiente.

The educational institution N 40657 “Villa Independiente” (“Independent Villa”) was created on April 15, 1994, being at first managed by

the citizens of Young People Villa Independiente of the Selva Alegre district.

In 1999 the government implemented the restrooms financed by the regional government budget.

In 2003, supported by INTERVIDA, and with the help of all the parents, it became possible to build the kitchen, an environment designed for the preparation of the school breakfast.

Today, the school counts 35 children in the primary years, who come from Villa Independiente in the Selva Alegre district, and are from poor and needy backgrounds. In spite of not having the right supplies to lead a fulfilling life, these children never lose or forget that great smile they have full of joy and love.

The school is now under the direction of Mrs. Maria Angélica Sanz Vilca, who, as the head principal, is working to get more kids to join the school who might profit from its excellent facilities.

I wanted to thank Claim for Dignity, who have been supporting Villa Independiente for years, for the opportunity to learn through this school, and to share all time possible with these children. They are so sweet and cheerful people; when they see us coming, they greet us with open arms and give us such a sincere hug - we really get that energy.

Thank you very much for all the support provided for the benefit of our children. The daily

breakfast they receive at school perfectly supplements the poor breakfast they get at home, and proper nutrition doesn't only keep up general health but is key to the development of intellectual potential and the capacity to learn.

Now with the roof of the dining room and the new all-purpose room, everybody is very happy. The children can finally have their breakfast, daily assembly and different performances can take place any time, and in recess the children can run and play freely in those areas. Before your help, none of this was possible due to the strong sun radiation in Arequipa the whole year. This will not just give us many opportunities but also will take care of the health of all the students and members of the school.



Breakfast in the elementary school of Arequipa. Image CfD



Image CfD

A Healthy Start in the School Day - A photography exhibition funds a daily school breakfast

Sarah Ament carried out her voluntary service in Arequipa, a city of the Peruvian Andean region. At the elementary school of Villa Independiente, Sarah volunteered by giving English lessons. Now, her photography exhibition provides the funds for several children to have breakfast.

by Daniela Helbig and Sarah Ament

A healthy breakfast is still missing

"I have often observed that the students of the elementary school use the money they receive from their parents, not for buying breakfast at the school cafeteria, but for buying sweets instead. Consequently, it is difficult for them to concentrate at school", reported Sarah, one of the voluntary teachers that supported Villa Independiente school.

Sarah realized the difficulties of this community, once one of the kids fell unconscious in class, because he had not had neither dinner nor breakfast. "I had an idea: I wanted to gather pictures and stories of the students, in order to organize an exposition in my former school in Germany and ask for donations for a school breakfast. The director of the Peruvian school liked the idea and authorized me to carry it out", Sarah said. She collected pictures from the kids, gathered stories and handcrafts from

them and interviewed their mothers and teachers.

The exposition becomes a success

In this way, 25 pictures were brought to Germany and shown by the sending organization, Claim for Dignity, which put it in canvas for exposition. The opening ceremony took place in Esslingen am Neckar.

"The goal of the activity was to raise awareness among the public about living conditions in Peru, and to find people that would donate for guaranteeing the breakfast of 52 students. And we made it", says Sarah with enthusiasm. The donations will help to offer a school breakfast for all of the students during a year.

It was important for Sarah, that the kids would receive a nutritious breakfast. For that reason, she created a diet with the help of a professional nutritionist.

“The breakfast consists of Andean ingredients like quinoa, oats, tumbleweed and vegetables. Besides, it contains only low amounts of sugar. In that way, kids learn how to eat properly and will continue eating like that all life long”, Sarah said. The breakfast is prepared every morning by the concierge and one of the mothers.

“Now I can concentrate much better than before!”

The exposition was taken to Esslingen, Tübingen and Langenau (Ulm). “My dream is to take the exposition to other cities. There are plans for places in Spain and Italy. Now we are work-

ing on translating it to other languages”, Sarah says with pride. The children receive their breakfast. The 13 year-old Celestina tells in a letter to the donors: “I am a student of Villa Independiente elementary school in Arequipa, Peru. There I can have breakfast every morning. Not every school in this country are like this. The breakfast helps me a lot, because it helps me to concentrate. At home I have breakfast as well, but some of my classmates don’t. For this reason, we are very happy about having breakfast.”

In the meantime, the breakfast is financed by the state and supplemented by fruit for Claim for Dignity.



Maria José García und Christian Engelhardt organized the exhibition in Esslingen in 2011



Local News reported 24.11.2011 about the exhibition *Kinderträume – Kinderleben in Arequipa , Peru*



Gjon Radovani (left) is satisfied with his artistic transformation of the studio into a picture gallery

Technological textile cluster of Neckar-Alb

by Birgit Krattenmacher [74]

The Neckar-Alb region, consisting of the administrative districts of Tübingen, Reutlingen and Zollernalb, is one of the most important textile hubs in Germany. This area gave birth to internationally renowned fashion labels such as Hugo Boss, Marc Cain, Trigema and Mey, and it is currently home to many textile technology specialists. Moreover, the region benefits from its geographical proximity to medical technology companies and the automotive industry.

Early on, the Neckar-Alb region perceived its technological textile potential, since it is specially strong in areas such as Mobiltech, Medtech, Protech and Indutech. In order to pool the traditional expertise of the region and promote innovation, IHK Reutlingen created the Technological Textile Cluster of Neckar-Alb in February 2012. By March 2017 this cluster already had more than 50 members. Interested parties outside the Neckar-Alb region can get involved as well.

The members of the cluster benefit from services such as technology transfers and the organization of collective stands at sectoral trade fairs. Furthermore, research-oriented work groups and information events are offered. These activities aim at strengthening the economic potential of cluster members. Are you looking for suitable project partners or subsidies to implement your own ideas? If so, the Technological Textile Cluster of Neckar-Alb is the right place for you.

The representation of the Technological Textile Cluster of Neckar-Alb enhances the international visibility and increases the awareness of participating companies and institutions. Besides, both collective stands at relevant trade shows and publications on innovative products and developments in specialized magazines are helpful for this sake. The management of the cluster connects regional actors and eventually establishes links to other textile regions abroad.

Contact:

Technological Textile Cluster of Neckar-Alb
c/o IHK Reutlingen
Dr. Stefan Engelhard
Email: cluster@reutlingen.ihk.de



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Peru Stall at Langenau's Christmas Market

by Tina Jafari [21]

In the course of the previous years, the number of activities organised by the school's committee for the partnership has gradually decreased. This is why not so many students know much about the twinned school any more, and why the link to our Peruvian friends has crumbled – a situation that has never been intended nor wished for by either side. As a consequence, the committee set itself one goal for the upcoming academic year: restore stability to the twinning of the schools.

Langenau's Christmas market offered an ideal occasion to realise our resolution: Another committee of our Students' Council, the Junior Council, has been entertaining a stall at the Christmas market for many years. Waffles, punch and home-made Christmas presents are offered. So we, the former Twinning Committee, now Charity Committee, planned to have another stall in order to sell items from Peru and send the returns to our partner school in Peru.

Thanks to the support of Claim for Dignity, the association directing the project, and Anne Laible, a former volunteer in Peru, we managed to organise the stall. Anne taught from 2012 to 2013 at our partner school and was so moved by the project that she is still committed to the project today and keeps in contact with both sides.

As we had hoped for, we could sell Peruvian souvenirs like magnets, dream catchers, key rings and little bags, and presented the project to interested citizens. The long and moving letter from a Peruvian student served as a little attraction and introduced people to the partner school. The items were very well received, and what has not been sold yet, will be of use at the projected Peruvian Week at school to give more students the opportunity to encounter our committee and our project.

We are the Charity Committee of Robert Bosch Gymnasium Langenau

by Silke Kamradt and Charity Committee [38]

For over 10 years we have been supporting Villa Independiente elementary school in Arequipa, Peru. We run different campaigns and activities like information days, sales, charity runs and many more. That's how we raise awareness of Peru and support our twin school.

Good continuous cooperation in steady exchange with Peru we have already accomplished much. There is, for example, a former student of Villa Independiente, who was orphaned at a young age, and is now having her further education as a cook financed by us.

The committee's activities are maintained by teachers, who have long been implicated in the project. Further assistance is given by former members of the committee, spending a social year in Arequipa and keeping up the communication. At the moment Lynn Scherzer is on site and supports teachers and students. She will soon take the children out on their very first school trip.



Image Silke Kamradt

We make new plans and project activities every year to best help the children, profiting from the contact with “our people” on site who let us know what is most urgently needed.

Water extraction from mist

Kickoff meeting at the MGB

by Marc Soedradjat [40]

In the school auditorium, the classes 10a, 10b and 10c had the chance to obtain information on the topics concerning their NWT project of the 2013/2014 school year. Besides, Michael Schliep (member of the board of directors of Claim for Dignity) made an exposition about water supply problems in developing countries. In this regard, Schliep pointed out the privilege of having access to drinking water, as he explained that a single person in Germany may consume far more water than an entire family in countries like Peru. Appropriate water supply is not a basic condition in many parts of the world. More than a third of the world population lacks of sufficient water supply. Additionally, since 1950 the global amount of drinking water has decreased in almost two thirds. This situation inevitably triggers problems and existential conflicts, and even armed conflicts. For instance, desertification in Peru has evolved into a deforestation problem. Nowadays, some Peruvian provinces (e.g. Islay province) have to undergo a serious reforestation process. In that place, efforts are made to take advantage of sea mist. With the help of mist nets, water is captured and used for watering. The task of the students is testing different materials to improve the gains of mist nets.

We have become a committed and well organised team. With the support of Claim for Dignity we have managed to achieve a lot even with only humble activities. Thus our new motto: A little action from us is big help for Peru!

In his exposition, Dr. Jamal Sarsour, from the Institute for Textiles and Chemical Engineering of Denkendorf, addressed the topic of Bionics, and clarified the technical aspects of the research programme for secondary schools in the Natural Sciences and Technology subject. Sarsour introduced the experiment set-up and explained the properties of textiles that are suitable for capturing mist. Students were informed about field tests made in the deserts of Namibia and Crete, and realized that this task is relevant for guaranteeing water supply in the future. Finally, the director of studies, Bernhard Steger, introduced the draft of a touring exhibition called “Water, element of life”. This touring exhibition was prepared by last year’s class, and will be further developed by the current class.

Each project team must create a poster about its topic, so they can document their own work. It is possible that an interactive exposition about the topic “Water, element of life” will be developed, in order to facilitate the international exposure of this project. The students from tenth grade do not only have an interesting and meaningful topic to work with, they also have a complex job to do. Given the importance of this topic for the future of humankind, the students will fully engage with their project.



Guest lecture at the Gymnasium Bretten

Image MGB

Dr. Jamal Sasour (ITV Denkendorf) explains to the students the principle of water from fog

Clean Water – not taken for granted in the developing world

Successful cooperation of “Claim for Dignity e.V.” and ITV Denkendorf with Melanchthon High School in Bretten led to an exhibition on the topic “Gaining Potable and Service Water with Regard to the Special Requests of Developing Countries”.

by Dr. Judith Albrecht [41]

In the academic year 2013/14 the students of the 10th form of Melanchthon High School in Bretten (MGB) worked on a science project to illustrate the various possibilities of gaining potable and service water by affordable and nonpolluting means. The clients were “Claim for Dignity e.V.” and the TheoPrax foundation from Fraunhofer Institute. An important cooperation partner was the Institute for Textile and Process Engineering in Denkendorf (ITV), which provided the students with materials and know-how.

The students of the three science classes under the guidance of their teachers Ms. Albrecht (PhD), Mr. Stadler and Mr. Theurer were charged with eight different tasks.

Research groups in the matter of drinking water

The first two groups worked on possibilities to gain potable water from fog. ITV Denkendorf provided a special textile material for this purpose, which is woven three-dimensionally. This 3D material is particularly suitable to catch and collect water from fog, which sometimes occurs in coastal deserts. One of these groups constructed a demonstration model to illustrate the absorption of water. The other group measured the difference in effectivity of a fog absorber fabricated of 3D textile in comparison to one fabricated of common 2D material.

The next two groups tried to heat service water by only using solar energy. Both constructed a water circuit to be irradiated by the sun. One of those circuits was filled with the 3D textile from ITV; in comparison the other circuit consisted of a simple blackened copper pipe.

Groups 5 and 6 built a low-cost water filter to purify dirty water. The students tried to use only such materials that were supposedly available in developing countries. Therefore these water filters were filled with simple materials like sand and gravel. Several experiments to clean waste water were carried out.

The desalination of sea water is an alternative to obtain sweet water. The seventh group produced various models to illustrate technical

processes like nano membrane filtration or salt water distillation.

Group 8 was charged with a special mission: The students had to develop a concept for an exhibition to present the results of the other seven groups.

Students plan exhibition

Each of the three groups from the three science classes created their own concept. Finally only the exhibition developed by the students of form 10a was realized because of the elaborate design and the consistent layout of the posters.



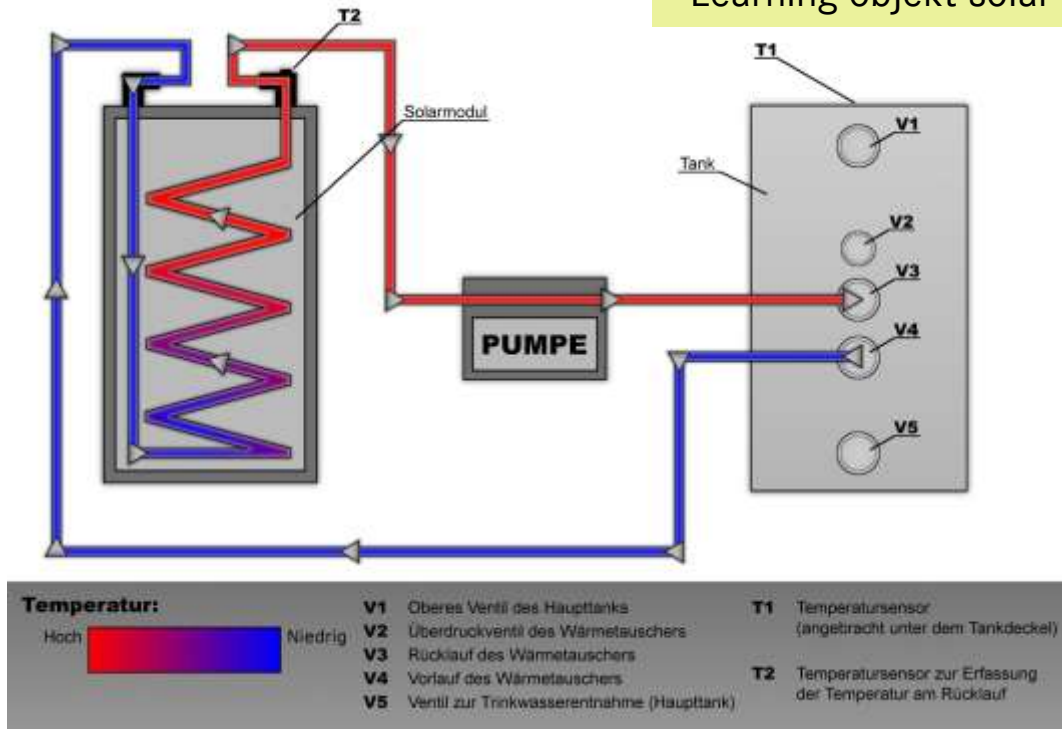
The students are proud of the group work results

At the end of the school year the exhibition with the title “Water – Necessity for Life” was shown in the rooms of MGB. The posters and some of the models are supposed to be shown in other schools or other public places to introduce the problem of water supply in the developing world and show the engagement of “Claim for Dignity e.V.” in this field to a broader public.



CfD, TheoPrax, ITV and MGB – a fruitful cooperation
Image MGB

Learning objekt solar collector [56]



Water treatment in developing countries

by Ann-Christin Pfeil, Alexander Doppelbauer, Simon Pelz [39]

During the last two years, a science group from the Melanchthon secondary school of Bretten (MGB) developed a project called „Water treatment in developing countries“. The objective of the project is to create alternatives for guaranteeing drinking water access to people. Concretely, this project focuses drinking water offer in the Ezbet area of Cairo, Egypt. This endeavour conceives water treatment as a process that should function in a self-sufficient, autonomous manner. The students of MGB developed this project in cooperation with the German Protestant High School of Cairo (DEO) and Claim for Dignity.

In the first year of the project (2015/2016 school year) it was decided that this task had to count with solar energy, given that solar radiation in Egypt is strong. Besides, it was necessary to heat water to destroy bacteria and pests. This must be accomplished with a solar panel that heats the water with the help of sunrays. The hot water from the primary cycle releases its energy in the tank through a heat exchanger, it becomes warm again by the solar panel. If possible, water temperature should rise above 70 °C, so as many bacteria as possible are eliminated. After water cools down again it is ready for consumption.

In the first year of the project, there was also the goal of completing the prototype of a tank and a solar panel. Based on an Atmega328P processor, different programs were created to



Specialist Edi Walter passes on his knowledge to the students, Image CfD

control the device and enable an autonomous mechanism. The prototype was finished and measurements were made. Just like before, the measures are essential to prepare further



Axel Deininger (left) and Alexander Doppelbauer evaluating the measurement results, Image CfD

optimization and improvements of the mechanism. In order to automatise the measurement process, a data logger was constructed and programmed to automatically save the collected data. With the help of such automatic record sensors, it was possible to control the measures for several days in a row.

After a couple of attempts, it was already clear that this prototype would not reach the necessary level of 70-80 °C in the tank. It was then decided to dismount the mechanism and fix it. In the school year 2016/2017 (2nd year of the project) a plan was created to optimize and finish the device. For the sake of gaining more energy for water heating, a photo-voltaic module was integrated. This module provides electric energy to run the pumps and the controls.



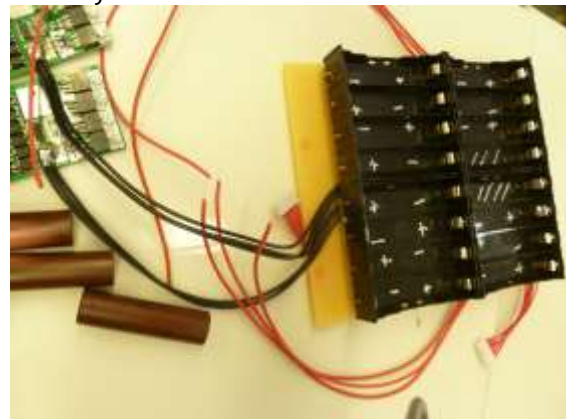
Strengthening after work: CfD expert Stefan Bartetzko (left) with the testing team, Image CfD

Besides, it provides energy for a heating rod that has been placed in the tank. It also charges a lithium-ion battery. Hence, this device can heat water even under bad weather conditions or during the night.

The module was sponsored by a company from the region. A concept was developed to construct the holder of the photo-voltaic module so it would turn towards the sun and gain more energy. This plan was implemented and the automatic holder of the module was finished by the team. Some sensors were installed to guarantee that the photo-voltaic module would automatically turn towards the sun. A program was developed as well.

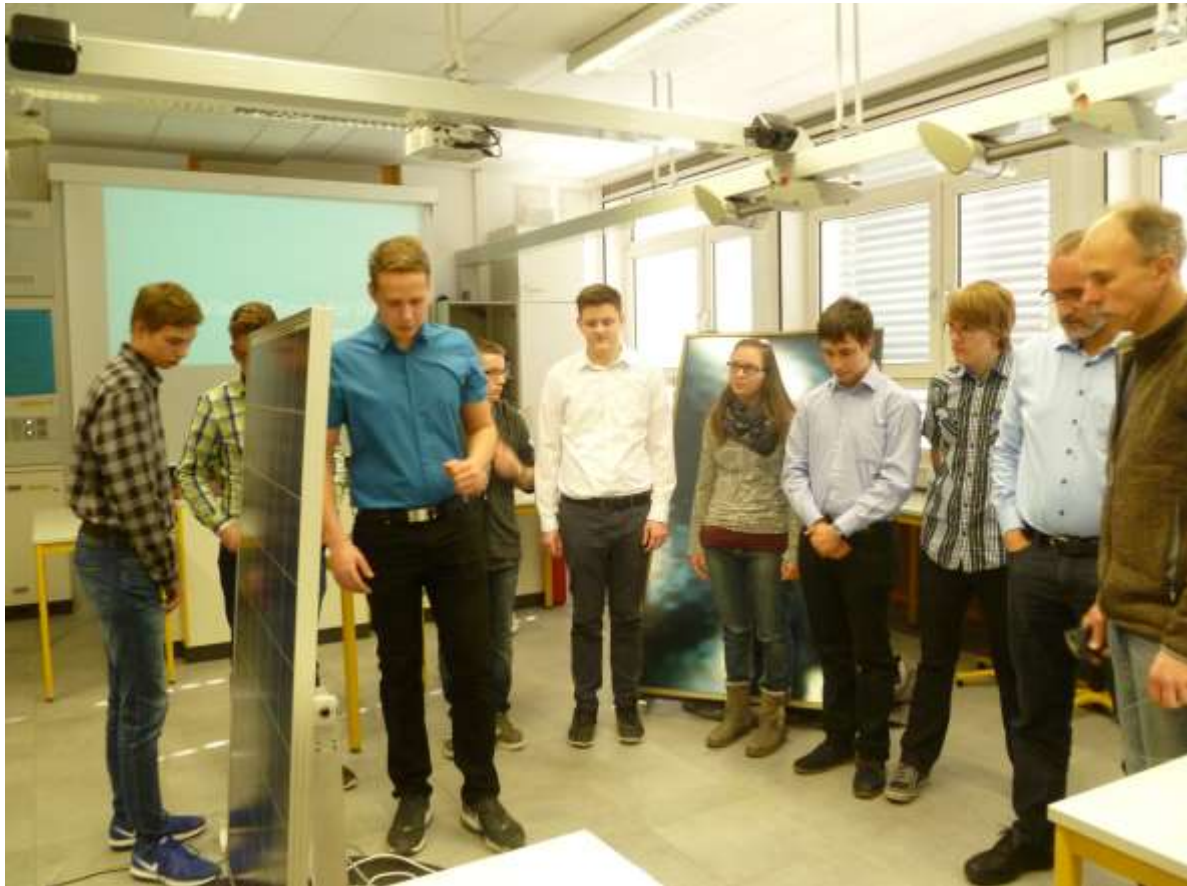


Another pending task was improving the existing system and the solar panel. After consulting our technical advisor, Mr. Edgar Walter, the previous 200 liters water tank was changed for a 150 liters tank. It was necessary to work with smaller quantities of water. Additionally, the hose between the solar module and the tank was shortened. The system losses less energy from the solar module to the tank in this way.



In the second year of the project, a constant knowledge transfer occurred between the MGB students and the personnel from DEO Cairo. Besides, building plans and parts lists were created to enable DEO Cairo students to effectively and rapidly reproduce the device. In order to finish the project, the water treatment device had to be fully implemented. Hence, the last programs were written, the measurements were completed and the final technical adjustments were made. On 14 July, this project

work for water treatment in developing countries will be graded, and it will determine the final grade (Abitur) of the MGB students. Despite the fact that the project has been developed to be implemented in developing countries, we must not forget that it is part of their final examination.



Discussion in the team for the further development of the plant in developing countries

Image CfD

A Special Project

How pupils from Melanchthon Highschool Bretten were able to support a school in Cairo

by Dr. Judith Albrecht [42]

This school year the pupils of the tenth grade of Melanchthon Highschool Bretten realized a very special project in their science classes.

In cooperation with “Claim for Dignity”, the University of Cairo and the Deutsche Evangelische Oberschule (German Protestant High-school) Cairo the pupils developed learning modules for the elementary scientific classes in developing countries.

“Claim for Dignity” has already been working together with the University of Cairo on projects in the Ezbet quarter, which is a very poor district of Cairo, for some time. In Ezbet there are official housing areas next to non-official dwellings some of them even on a Muslim graveyard.

The primary school in this area only has a very limited budget. The aim of our project was to provide some material for the teachers to educate their science classes. Therefore our pupils conceived several smaller scientific experiments, which were shipped to Cairo, packed in solid plastic boxes.

These experiments were focused on the subjects “renewable energy” and “water purification”.

42 pupils from two science classes worked in teams of three or four on these tasks. They had to think of suitable experiments, select the material and write an instruction both for teachers and pupils.

In detail the experiments approached these topics:

- Energy production with a solar cell
- Construction of a simple windmill
- Exploiting hydropower with a water-wheel
- Construction of a boiler using a parabolic reflector
- Water purification with low-cost filters
- Construction of a mill using thermally induced buoyancy

As both classes worked on these topics, twelve boxes with experiments were developed. The challenge was to use simple, easily

obtainable material and to think in space-saving way, because the whole material had to fit in a 30x40cm box.

The pupils realized their projects in most various and creative ways. On the one hand they built a solar car made of Lego on the other hand they made a solar-powered boat. One windmill was made of cardboard and lit an LED, another one was made of light wood. Especially inventive was a team that coated flexible wedges with a reflecting film and adjusted those in an umbrella to construct a parabolic reflector that focuses sunlight in a single spot. Even on a not so sunny day in Bretten almost 50° Celsius could be achieved. In Cairo even higher temperatures should be possible.

The accomplished learning modules could be delivered to our Egyptian partners on occasion of their visit in Bretten in February. Now the pupils of the Deutsche Evangelische Oberschule Cairo are supposed to translate the German instructions into Arabic.



The students hand over the experiment cases of the delegation from Cairo Image MGB

For our pupils here in Bretten this project was something very special because their work will have a direct benefit for others. It was a great experience for them to know that their “Experiments in a box” found their way to faraway Cairo.



Image Schuhmuckl

Bridging Towards a Better Future

by Stefan und Magnus Schuhmacher [9]

Schuhmuckl e. V. is a non-profit and registered charity, based in Spaichingen.

In 2009 Stefan Schuhmacher and his wife Sabine adopted a child from Cartagena, located on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. During the phase of getting acquainted the family learned a lot about the country and its people. Although Colombia is a very rich country, they realized the great poverty especially of many children. Back in Germany Stefan and his brother Magnus founded the club Schuhmuckl e. V. with the aim to help and support children and poor young people in need in Colombia.

Since the founding we have travelled to Colombia once a year to visit our projects and to assure the proper use of our donated money. We support various projects in Colombia. The main beneficiary of our donations is the Fundación "Amor sin fronteras" in Cartagena. The Fundación, under the leadership of our

friend Luz Elena Jiménez, maintained its own elementary school with 120 children until the end of 2014. The pre-schoolers and the first and second classes had lessons in the morning, and after lunch came classes 3 to 5.

With the money from Schuhmuckl e. V. a number of projects, programs and other necessities were financed last year. School uniforms, shoes and school supplies were paid – the whole equipment is necessary to visit a school in Colombia. Another important program is the food program, which aims at ensuring that the children, who all come from the surrounding slums, receive something to eat and drink at least once a day.

In close cooperation with Schuhmuckl e. V. the primary school has now, at the change of the school year 2014/ 2015, converted into a resource support center. The children, who previously went to the Foundation's Primary School, have been fully provided with all necessary equipment and material, and enrolled at

appropriate state schools. They attend the support center in the afternoons to be supervised and supported in homework and learning by qualified staff. This year, during our visit, Schuhmuckl e. V. initiated a new program to provide the children with good and clean drinking water, as well as other new support measures for an additional attractiveness of the new institution were taken.

One of the main advantages of the new Support Centre is that the children can be kept from the dangerous streets throughout the whole day. During our visit we could observe the positive development in consequence of the change of institution. Compared to our previous visits, the atmosphere in the school and around has changed significantly. There is concentrated and orderly tranquility. Extremely positive feedback from the teachers and staff, but also from parents and neighbors, confirmed the success of the efforts taken.

This year we were welcomed back very warmly again. Due to former visits we already know a lot of children and staff well. So it felt like a family gathering, which was once again accompanied by magnificent dance performances, lectures and plays.

Each time we are in Colombia, we strive to create as many incentives and to realize as many of our ideas as possible. Still, the verification of the Fundación's accounts and the appropriate use of our funds are of course of primary importance to us and the friends and donors of Schuhmuckl e. V.. This year we could again ascertain that each of our donated Euros arrived right where it was needed.

Among many other meetings and discussions, a further highlight of our trip was the meeting with two young men who wanted to thank us personally. They belong to the "first" genera-

tion of children sponsored by the Fundación where, since the beginning, supported and accompanied them. It was nice to see that the two men recently passed the very difficult entrance exams to local universities and are now able to pick up their studies. With such a university degree, the two young men will very certainly get a safe, and above all, a well-paid job in the future. It's their chance to break through the vicious circle of poverty and illiteracy which seemed their destiny. Schuhmuckl e. V. will continue to support these young men in the future so that they can realize their dreams and thus serve as good examples to the other children from the Support Centre.

The end of our trip to Colombia this year was marked by the visit of our projects in Bogotá. We were privileged to meet two very interesting new projects, one of them being a municipal program for street children and the other a special institution for children with disabilities. This institution is unique in Bogotá and 120 children with multiple disabilities join it on a daily basis. We have already been supporting this institution financially and have now entered into negotiations with the heads of the street children project to find out what joint efforts might lead to.

This year we again experienced intense days in fascinating Colombia. As always, we have made great and important experiences and were able to initiate new local projects and programs. Of course there is much more to be said, but that would be too much in this context.

We are happy to invite you to contact us with any question under info@schuhmuckl-ev.de, or to find information on our homepage – which we are currently updating.

ROWA

Nadelfilze
Wattevliese

D-73432 Aalen-Unterkochen · Eisenschmiede 20



The value of work

What does “Work” mean to you? Former Daimler employee Stefan Bartetzko and Chinese student Xin Shi answer.

by Lena Emmerich [62]

Work - both in economic, physical, as well as philosophical sense – becomes performed daily around the world. But which importance is the work as a job in society today?

In an Interview with Stefan Bartetzko, a former Daimler employee, and Xin Shi, a Chinese student, it becomes apparent, that the desired demands of work have changed in the course of time, but the attached value seems to stay the same.



Stefan Bartetzko starting his Daimler career in the 1960's as a coachbuilder Image Stefan Bartetzko

Born in Upper Silesia, the 63-year-old Bartetzko grew up with ten siblings under simple living conditions. As a consequence, school at first, and later employment became important for him. In 1966 he started his training as a coachbuilder for Daimler and especially liked the structured, patterned work. He thinks that his work today, which, due to technological progress, underwent a lot of change throughout the years, couldn't be compared to his original task field, but he rather considered this an advantage. At the beginning of his ap-

prenticeship he wanted to go abroad, but now he appreciates his work with Daimler. He really likes passing his craft on to young people like Xin Shí, and he wouldn't want to miss this opportunity.

23-year-old Xin Shí from China, in contrast to Mister Bartetzko, experienced her childhood in the northeast of China in a little town near the sea, about 40 years later. She started her school education at five years, which played a big role in her life. But after attending school for seven hours daily she enjoyed playing the piano, dancing, singing and painting. She adopted her parents' attitude regarding the value of work, observing them both work a lot. Therefore she started her study for chemical engineering after finishing her A-levels at 17. Because she enjoys travelling, she continued her studies in Germany. She would like to become a chemical engineer, no matter where, because the most important thing for her is that work gives her pleasure and presents a challenge for her. Furthermore she likes the German way of life, judging there was less work here, so that people could enjoy more free time. Although she prefers Chinese food, life there was more stressful and rushed. So she likes working in Germany, despite some initial language barriers.

Both of them liked their cooperative work in Daimler's development department. Mr. Bartetzko liked it because he could exercise his patience due to the language challenges and pass on his fascination for constant technological progress. He also appreciated the interesting conversations with Xin Shi. She, however, cherished to constantly learn new things on a team and working with joy and excitement.

It seems that the actual value somebody ascribes to work isn't that easy to put into words. However, in the interview I could read between the sentences, that both Stefan Bartetzko and Shi Shí think that work is primarily a tool to earn money. But because money-making is quite a significant part of life, work, too, is very significant. If your work makes you happy the value of work rises even higher. In conclusion one can say that Stefan Bartetzko and Shi Shí, as an example for the plurality of our society, assign a high value to their work.



Xin Shí (left) and Stefan Bartetzko on an excursion

Image Stefan Bartetzko

When Hope Gets a Face

Until 2011 Benilda attended Villa Independiente elementary school, with the hope of carrying on her education at a new school afterwards. Thanks to CfD, Benilda now makes a vocational training as cook at the Instituto del Sur in Arequipa, Peru.

by Tatiana Blacker [37]

Hence, it is possible to think that stories can turn out just fine, and words like “perspectives” or “white hope” may turn into something concrete! As we met Benilda some years ago, she stole our hearts, and she let us know that her dream was to become a cook. Since then, we have continuously reflected on feasible ways to make her aspirations come true.



Benilda, her younger brother Juan Carlos and Pilar
Image Pilar Tejada

With the help of your generous donations, Benilda’s dreams are turning now into reality. Approximately a year ago, we started to investigate about alternatives to guarantee her access to further education. Firstly, we tried to obtain a state scholarship for her, but it did not work out well. Later on, Pilar found out about the possibility of directly applying for a partial scholarship at the Instituto del Sur. Before this, Benilda had to approve a challenging entry exam.

In this way, Benilda started preparing herself for both the written and oral admission tests. The preparation took her several weeks. We were delighted as Benilda approved the entry exam, and the Instituto del Sur in Arequipa confirmed she would receive a partial scholarship to cover the tuition fees. But, how could we obtain the rest of the necessary financial resources?

Thanks to the sales of the yearly exposition at the Holzgerligen Christmas market, to your donations and also to the tireless efforts of Pilar, we could finally make it: Benilda’s education is now a reality!

In August 2017, Benilda started the second semester of her three-year vocational training as a cook. As a graduate from the Instituto del Sur, Benilda may work in the catering industry as a chef, or even open her own store or pastry shop in the future. Benilda is a remarkable student and hopes she can help her brother to make a vocational training as well.

In the name of Benilda, we want to thank you for all your support. Now, we can honestly say that hope has many names, and it includes YOURS, given that YOU gave Belinda a chance!



Benilda at the Instituto del Sur. Image Pilar Tejada

<https://www.isur.edu.pe/carrera/gastronomia>

Up for Something New

by Jennifer Augustin [34]

Since 1966 Roland Hamm has shaped and accompanied 50 years in the history of Sindelfingen's business. He will retire at year's end and leaves his work area in vehicle interior behind, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Image Roland Hamm



Roland Hamm: Fashionable in 70's look.

"Go work with Daimler's, too", is his father's advice to then 15-year-old Roland.

"Well, why not?" he thinks, gives his father his application and is soon after invited for an entrance exam.

Even though half a century has passed since then, he can still remember the exciting day very well:

"In the apprentices' department in building 30 we were first examined in subjects like Maths, German and Common Knowledge, then we had to devise a rug beater from copper wire by aid of a drawing. We had to fold and twist the wire so exactly that he came as close as possible to the drawing. We had about three hours, all in all in order to solve all the problems."

On the same day, all tests passed, he received his acceptance for an apprenticeship as a vehicle upholsterer.

What was the first day of his apprenticeship like, standing at the entrance gate?

"I had mixed feelings. I was still a child coming from school, thrown into a world of adults, a very different, very structured, and – back then – patriarchal world", he remembers.

Werknummer: 10-1		vom 1.12.69 bis 31.12.69		Aus erster Anstellung bei der Firma Daimler-Benz AG	
Erstellung, Schichtentwicklung, Änderung durch die Firma Daimler-Benz AG		Spätere geändert, eingefügt		Ich bin von der Firma Daimler-Benz AG als Fahrzeugpolsterer eingestellt worden. Am 1. Dezember von 1969 wurden wir in der Erprobungsphase der Lehrgangsbildung aufgenommen. Danach sind wir unseren Meister Herrn Schilling vorgestellt worden. Er zeigte uns die Arbeitsplätze an denen wir häufig arbeiten werden. Anschließend teilte unser Werkmeister die Vorlesungen aus, um 8 Uhr mussten wir uns in der Berufsschule an den Tisch nach 12 Uhr bis 13 Uhr zur Prüfung setzen. Nach dem Abgeben stellten wir uns auf dem Personalbüro. Bei 13 Uhr bis 14 Uhr besichtigten wir das Werk Daimler-Benz AG.	
geprüft		geprüft		geprüft	
<p>Alles Anfang ist schwer</p>					
Roland Hamm		H. Hamm		1.12.69	

1966: "All beginnings are difficult" was the motto that young Roland Hamm first wrote into his report book.

Roland Hamm			
geboren am	30.9.1951	in	Sindelfingen
hat bei uns vom	1.12.1966	bis	30.11.1969
den Beruf	Fahrzeugpolsterer		erlernt.
Er erhielt während seiner Lehrzeit eine gründliche Ausbildung in den Kenntnissen und Fertigkeiten seines Berufes.			
Wir erteilen ihm folgendes Lehrzeugnis:			
Führung	sehr gut		
Fleiß	sehr gut		
Leistungen	sehr gut		
Sindelfingen		den 1.12.1969	
<p>DAIMLER-BENZ AKTIENGESellschaft Werk Sindelfingen</p> <p>H. Held</p>		<p>i.V. Bartscherer</p>	

1969: It can't get any better – Roland Hamm's apprenticeship certificate was constantly tops.

Image Roland Hamm

Today he admits that upholstery was not quite his cup of tea. But in hindsight he is happy to have taken this path – else he would never gotten into contact with the area of material testing, to which he transferred after his apprenticeship.

Image: Roland Hamm



1975: Roland Hamm (2nd from left) with colleagues in material testing. Image Roland Hamm

In the 80's Roland Hamm eventually took two trainings, one at REFA, specialising in vehicle manufacturing, the other one as a master of industries in textile engineering, in order to fully focus on the textile sector. Even today he is in charge of all operations in connection with vehicle interiors, ranging from the composition of delivery instructions over the determination of textile designs up to their transfer to sampling inspection.

After five decades at the factory Roland Hamm will enjoy his retirement starting at the end of the year. He will finally have time to pursue his

hobby: the writing of icons. More than four years ago, he and his wife signed in for a course in icon writing on a spur, and still they are enthusiastic about their pastime:

“It’s very enjoyable because you have to work with your heart and your brains. In the writing of icons Christian motives are elaborately copied according to historical specifications.”

However, he will be missing the encounters with clients and deliverers. He would like to continue working as a senior expert in a project for a while, and transfer his valuable knowledge and his experiences gathered in the course of the years as best he can. But he emphasizes that at some point even this era must come to a close:

“One has to be contended at some point, and be able to say: ‘Those were the days, now I’m up for something new!’”



Today Roland Hamm and his wife with heart and mind in icon painting. Image Roland Hamm.



2016: Roland Hamm at his desk in the Interiors Department, Building 40 (TF/VWK). Image Roland Hamm.



Image Adolf Diefenhardt

Farewell to Lubaga Hospital

For many years Adolf Diefenhardt lived with his wife Marygio and their six children in Africa. Dr. Diefenhardt ran various hospitals in Uganda, worked on mission stations and in a refugee camp in Sudan. Based on his rich experience, he explores the question of how to discover the good in others.

by Dr. Adolf Diefenhardt [57]

29.6.15

Greetings to everybody –the day has come to say Good Bye!

I. Trust in God's call

My coming to Lubaga Hospital a bit more than 3 years ago was the most unplanned thing. I was living an inspiring life as a Medical Coordinator and Deputy CEO of an NGO, active worldwide in 30 countries in the field of leprosy and tuberculosis. It was a fascinating job.

Then – out of the blue - I got a phone call in 2010 from Sr Christa Werner who had only read my name in a letter written by Dr Moser some 15 years before. She told me they needed a helping hand in Rubaga Hospital after 10 difficult years. I did not really know Rubaga. I had visited Rubaga in 1996/97 to meet Dr Moser for half an hour just before returning home from an assignment of 7 years as Medical Superintendent in St Joseph's Hospital Kitgum.

I did not accept immediately because of my family situation with 5 of our 6 children still in school and the secure job I had.

But I believe that God can also talk through unusual proposals. Therefore I accepted an assessment visit of a week in 2010, accompanied by Martin, a friend of mine: I wanted to have a talk first and foremost with the Board, The Medical Director Dr Bosco Mutakirwa and also with the Archbishop and the Chancellor Fr Joseph Ntuwa.

I was impressed with the seriousness and desire to make changes, and coming back home I then talked to my wife and the children. There was no opposition at all from them. Unexpectedly, even Misereor, the German Episcopal Conference seemed interested. This is very, very unusual and in itself was already a small indicator for me!

So – we got the offer in July 2011 and after talking to my employer we left in October 2011.

When I arrived I knew that this assignment would be much different from my 8 years in St Joseph's Hospital Kitgum 20 years ago, and also very different from my work as a Regional Co-ordinator for medical humanitarian work in several African countries for about 6 years in Kampala/Nairobi.

I understood that it is not first of all my experience but my readiness to listen and to be open to change which was asked for.

I knew that it was a great job – to serve in one of the most significant Catholic Hospitals in Uganda is really an exceptional honour and privilege. I knew that many of my countrymen and –women had given a lot of their heart-blood to Uganda and its people and in particular to this hospital which is part of the Christian history and the miracles of the Ugandan martyrs who are so crucial to this country.

So - what was my role?

I remember that at the first Christmas Party 2011, I said: I am like a football coach, a catalyst who is going to embrace the talents of everybody and I will try to mobilize the strength in everybody. I am not the player - I am just a facilitator.

And I am here to learn, to understand and to embrace a new situation with its people and challenges.

II. What did I do and what did I find?

Let me briefly tell you how I tried to address this new situation when I started as an ED in January 2012.

An organization consists in essence of people, structures and systems. All this leads to an outcome, a product, in our case: patient care. Patient care can only be sustainably improved if people, structures and systems are well organized. Only a good structure, a good soil can produce good products. If the soil is spoilt, nothing really useful and lasting will grow.

Just a small example: if the documentation of patient care is not accurate and does not reflect reality, it is very difficult to know what is going on and if something is really improving or changing.

So - I saw my task in focussing on the 3 essential elements: people, structures and systems.

After the first famous 100 days in office - in February 2012 - I submitted a report to the Board in which I offered an analysis with elements for a Master Workplan of the hospital for my period of stay with several proposals which took into account the Strategic Plan 2010-15 of LH too.

Let me talk about the people

When I arrived here, many people warned me seriously. A good Ugandan friend told me not to even consider the position because - as a German - thinking it wise to chair a hospital would be like falling back into colonial times. Others said I would get burned up, I would be cheated and people would try to take advantage. I was told and given names about kickbacks, corruption, people working in 2-3 different places and secret networks among staff. The main challenge would be the doctors - some of them behaving like the masters of the universe, they would only serve themselves. Many people told me not to trust any-

body and to basically start with a completely new team.

So I had gotten my warnings. But I had the strong presentiment that it was much more important for me to regard the staff with empathy and embrace them, rather than start my work with mistrust.

I think I tried to follow this with a sincere heart throughout my stay in Lubaga Hospital.

So - what was my plan?

In essence it was more a presence than a plan. I wanted to return the empathy God had bestowed on me. I rather wanted to live like a brother and friend and accompany the staff on a journey; to make the journey more cheerful, less tiresome, painful and sorrowful, to assist each one, more joyfully and more meaningfully by witnessing that the objective, the target and the destination were a good for each of us.

I decided to give support but also demand commitment from the staff ...

- I tried from the start to improve e-mail communication and the internal telephone network through CUG networks.
- I requested monthly reports from almost every employee (almost!).
- never tried to work alone but always together with the Board and key staff.
- I asked for clear separation, distinction of terms for full-time and part-time consultants.
- I pushed for yearly staff appraisal and contractual issues to be taken seriously.
- I expected yearly and sincere feedback from all HAT members to the Board.
- I introduced the time-clock machine.
- Regular staff satisfaction surveys, quarterly feedback to staff in GSM were launched.
- More than 20 people are currently under training and bonded (from mentors, tutors, Master in Public Health ...
- Every year 5-10% increase of salaries; Christmas Bonus 50% maintained

A lot of things are still outstanding when it comes to the staff: WISN (downsize or better right-size the cadre, more attractive working conditions, new head of units etc.), application of TCM results

I know I made some mistakes, too. I want to say sorry to anybody I have hurt on this journey or made the journey more cumbersome and painful. Some decisions - maybe taken in

good faith – might have disappointed people – sorry for that

And I have to apologize that I did not learn your language. I started 3 times but when I saw your complex language and the available time given to me here, I thought: rather than spend hours on learning a new language that is too complicated for my brain, I prefer to give you my heart in a different way by trying to focus as much as possible on improving things together in Lubaga Hospital.

Let me say something about the systems and guidelines

Internationally – at least in the health field – Uganda has a reputation of being very good at establishing guidelines, SOP's, manuals etc. When it comes to implementation, things are sometimes challenging.

Anyway ... whatever we did in this area was only possible because we did it together.

We managed together to re-do the HR Manual, the Procurement Manual and the Accounts/Finance Manual in the first 18 months. Regular Board and Committee Meetings were held quarterly and two-weekly HAT meetings also helped. It was essential to open HAT with important heads of units like: pharmacy, PRO, chaplain or Head of Pastoral Care, Clinical Mentor for students etc.

Between 2012 and 2014, several systems reviews took place with assessments of electricity, waste management, waste water management, laboratory, pharmacy and last but not least our HMIS system.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to finalize the new constitution of the hospital with Memorandum of Articles and the MoU between hospital and Bannabikiira Sisters.

Let me say some things about the setup and infrastructure

There are very few buildings which we have not touched, changed, improved or renovated in the last 3 years

- Completion of the wall fence around the hospital
- Pharmacy plus laboratory
- OPD, including an A&E section
- Stores, restaurants
- Administration (6 new offices for PRO, IT, HRD, NPP, Hygiene, IT workroom, PIO-NEER)

- Renovation of Medical and surgical ward with TVs in private rooms; isolation facilities
- Board Room
- Renovation Ch/Ward
- New Interim Maternity in Valley Hostel and new maternity ward with theatres, labour ward etc.
- Main Water tank repair, incinerator
- visibility, pictures, posters and display of the history of the hospital and the relation to the Ugandan martyrs history and Catholic identity (gates, chapel, corridor to OPD and grotto)
- Issues related to security (fence the whole hospital, gates, CCTV with 9 cameras)
- small children play area next to OPD
- Public TVs in OPD waiting area and reception

Still pending or unfinished issues: hostel for female students in the new school compound, the Kindergarten in the area of Hill Hostel and St Joseph Hostel opposite OPD. Also PNW, roof flat area, waste water management and main theatre urgently need attention.

PNW will be addressed by Malteser soon and funding for solar power plant is in the making.

Finally, let me also mention the outcome and the medical services

Outcome Areas of importance for me

Quality of services – regular assessments (ward performance assessment; in- and outpatient surveys every year by a questionnaire from UCMB and from the hospital itself)

Social protection and accessibility

– UCMB hospitals run the risk, especially if they intend to improve services and the package offered (see last AGM of UCMB in March 2015) to be pro-rich rather than pro-poor! So – we need to take care of budgeting a fund for poor people and ensure that salary can only be increased for all staff not for a certain group only which wants more privileges because they belong to a certain project or staff category. High quality of services, committed staff and to be social oriented at the same time is daring but it should be the touchstone for a Catholic Hospital.

Relevance of services – UCMB hospitals live in a very competitive environment, therefore in the last 3 years we have been keen to introduce or improve...

- New ultrasound machines with possibility to do 4D ultrasound and echocardiography
- State of the art diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy (gastroscopy, colonoscopy, ERCP, hysteroscopy etc.)
- equipment for Laparoscopic operations
- additional X-ray, dental x-ray, digital x-ray, C-Arm for x-rays during orthopedic OP's
- New laboratory equipment (CD4 counters, TB expert, biochemistry analyzer, FBC, centrifuges, fridges etc.)
- Cardio-tocography, sonicaids etc.
- cervix cancer clinic
- Re-equipping and re-organization of Physiotherapy department
- re-introduction of Dental and eye clinics with new equipment
- HDU in wards and oxygen distribution in almost all wards and rooms in Sur/Med and Children Ward
- Newly organized outpatient and emergency area with potential A&E facility

Presence and collaboration with organizations in the Community

- Importance of ACT, immunization, nutrition, NFP
- PHD programme in the community (more than 8 times /# month) and Cath H/C of AD
- More than 25 existing collaboration agreements with local institutions in the field of education, fund-raising, income generation and subcontracting services

Environmentally friendly

- Recycling policy of paper, plastic, metal etc.
- Waste water and strict separation of waste water and storm water
- Reduction and/or stop of the use of charcoal in the hospital by using environmentally friendly briquets
- new Incinerator reducing pollution significantly by using double burning chamber rather than just burning waste
- revival of the existing water source of LH in order to economize on our running costs
- use of 6 solar panels for warm water and plan to establish a PV plant soon that will cover electricity during day-time. The latter has the potential to economize more than 240 M USH/yr.

Learning environment for young people

- re-introduction of CMEs for doctors, as well as for CMEs for nurses and midwives
- Partnership agreements with 4 private Ugandan Universities (lab, medical students, nurses, clinical officers etc.)
- agreements in place with International research or training institutions in Belgium and US
- installation of a Clinical Supervisor for appr. 10-15 International - mostly medical - interns staying with us for a period of about 4-8 weeks
- getting 6 experienced consultants (2 surgeons, 2 in PH-HIV/AIDS, 2 in internal medicine and 1 in physiotherapy) from Germany, Italy and Austria to work with us for about a year

Financially sustainable

- More donations internationally and nationally
- Re-establishing trust and links to old and new friends and benefactors of Lubaga Hospital through several projects, to name especially Malteser International, Friends of Lubaga supported by the late Dr Moser's sister, Partnerschaft Gesunde Welt (with Mr Vorreiter and Mr Fischer), SUPPORT International with Maria Groos and her friends, and of course Sr Christa Werner whose heart is so close to Lubaga Hospital
- Raised the income from pat fees and we could increase our reserves by 30% (900M)
- Reduced the liability and creditors
- Broadened the income sources in order not to depend too much on patient user fees
- Look into alternative cost-saving technology like Photovoltaic plant, reduced water consumption etc.

Open to research

- SMS study
- 5 yr study with University of N Carolina on TB research
- Research Committee

All these changes and projects are excellent Still this is not what makes the meaning of life.

St Exupéry, the great French poet and writer described in his novella, *The Little Prince*:

"Grown-ups love figures... When you tell them you've made a new friend they never ask you any questions about essential matters. They never say to you "What does his voice sound like? What games does he love best? Does he collect butterflies? " Instead they demand: "How old is he? How much does he weigh? How much money does his father make? " Only from these figures do they think they have learned anything about him." *Little Prince, St Exupéry*

So ... all these developments **in themselves** are nothing – I repeat: they are nothing. It's not for them that my journey with you throughout the past 3 years would be meaningful for me.

My last 3 years were meaningful for me because it was a journey of change for myself. Little by little, my perception, my attitude changed. I am more grateful, happier, friendlier and more conscious of the value of my life and of your lives. I am still getting angry and disappointed with mistakes, negligence, unreliability, lack of commitment and complacency but it does not determine me anymore. The last 3 years have helped me to understand that I am not here to impose myself but to serve the Lord and ask for His will. He never came to condemn but to save and embrace. Who am I to say no, if He has said yes.

Because this perspective is so important, we – the core staff and "the procurement team" – started every morning with a homily, the general audience or the address of the Angelus of the Holy Father Pope Francis or Pope Benedict

These first 5-10 minutes every day were very dear to me: in fact they were the heart of everything that followed afterwards.

III. Gratitude

I want to thank each and everyone of you. For a specific time, God has given you to me and He has given me to you. We had a great time together.

You have so many talents, despite all challenges! To each member of the HAT team, I pay my deepest respect. It was good, sometimes even entertaining in the HAT meeting to listen and struggle with you to find the best solutions.

I could speak about Fred's cautiousness, Alex's seriousness, Ruth's tenacity, Resty's affection and zeal, Dr Peter's amazing potential, Immaculate's motherly care, Sr Jane Francis's

boldness, Deo's goodness, Margret's diligence, Sr Pauline's humility and wisdom, Sr Sylvia's caring approach, Sr Hellen and Sr Chrisanto's good work, Achelat's constructive comments, Mubiru's professionalism, Vincent's tireless efforts, Sr Janet's reliability, Ritah's never-give-up attitude, Anne's sobriety etc.

Every day it has been a pleasure to work with you.

I also have to thank the Board – each of you. Thanks for the support, the trust and guidance and the fair treatment that I received from the beginning. Especially I would like to mention the amazing friendliness of Dr Bosco Muta-kirwa. And – in absentia – Fr Ntowo who has put so much unconditional trust and confidence in me. This was also amazing. Credit goes to the Board – for the capacity to base almost all decisions (maybe not all!) on rational arguments and respect my desire to argue with them sometimes on procedures and people, for the stamina to stick to unpopular decisions, and I also want to thank the Board for the most possible patience with me and other HAT members. Without the Board we would not be where we are.

Thanks also to the Vicar General, the Chancellor and last but not least to the Ordinary, Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga who welcomed me in his house like a son.

I also want to extend a word of thanks to all the staff – in all departments. Continue on your way to discover the greatness of what you are called to in your respective roles. Fight against all the reductions and temptations of the short-cut. What makes you great is not only what you do but the conscience and gratitude with which you do things, knowing who you are in the eyes of God and that you are loved so much by Him! Even cleaning the floor or washing the dishes are part of your unique dignity and value in the eyes of God. Every morning, when I came at 7 am, there was a lady – Lilian – cleaning my parking space with such diligence, faithfulness and happiness. Other cleaners were often singing while cleaning my office at 6:45 am. It was a great start to the day to see them happy. They are great in the eyes of God, I am sure.

Thanks to all the people and groups, especially in Germany and Europe who supported us in these 3 years. To mention especially the Friends of Lubaga still supported by the sister of the late Dr Moser, Partnerschaft Gesunde

Welt, SUPPORT, Malteser, Misereor and so many others.

A special thanks goes to my wife - without her, I would not be who I am and here so relaxed and happy in life. In fact, she allowed me to return to Uganda.

Last but not least - another very special thanks goes to my friends of Communion and Liberation, the Catholic movement that I learnt to know well while I was in Uganda for the first time in 1983. As a young medical student, it was a life-changing experience for me that the human heart of a person from Sudan or Northern Uganda is made of the same substance, needs, of desires for truth, beauty and happiness regardless of race, age, position in society, income level or gender. Wherever we are - we are beggars for the meaning of life. Even the thief looks for something attractive. We might look for this meaning in the wrong places, as it often unfortunately happens to many people but we are all looking for it. The friends I met there were the reason why it was easy for me to accept to return to Uganda - their fraternity here in Kampala has given such a meaningful experience to me in the last 3 1/2 years.

To see young African children growing in a Christian family is wonderful. To stay close to married African couples taking marriage seriously as a call to follow the Lord through all problems and in the midst of the Western culture of self-righteousness and the African tendency to justify everything is amazing and has been a learning lesson for me.

This Catholic movement founded by a priest called Don Giussani in Italy has started to change my heart and without it, I would definitely not stand here in front of you.

IV. Some advice

I might bore you but I feel free to give some food for thought to the staff, to the ED and to all the people I am leaving behind in Lubaga Hospital:

Make your hearts soft not hard! Be moved – allow for yourself to be moved!

Pope Francis said once: "God gets involved, He comes close to our wounds and heals them with His hands by using our hands. God does not save us merely by decree or a law, He saves us with His tenderness, with caresses; He saves us by His life, given for us." This

means: Have a simple heart. He comes to us through reality, not through the clouds but His call to our hearts echoes through day to day reality. And also - what our heart is looking for starts inside this fragile reality and He wants to move and save our hearts through THIS reality, even if it is sometimes or often impossible to understand.

Be moved and touched by your patients and the people who approach you.

Be free in desiring more all the time - never be satisfied

A young monk speaks to an old and wise monk and asks him: 'I want to know God, I want to love Him. What is the right way to do that?' Then the monk takes the young one to a lake, and forces his head under water. After some minutes he raises the young monk's head out of the water and then he tells him: 'if you desire God like you desired to breathe while you were under water, then you will find Him, your desire will lead you to Him.'

I wish you to live a deep long life full of the desire to find the truth, to find beauty, to find justice, to organize your work for the better at Lubaga Hospital.

Never be a slave to success, appearance and to the dynamics that only bigger things are better

Do not believe people who think that the answer lies in always making things bigger or looking more posh. Things should be done better first of all, then sometimes there might be some need to make them bigger. It's quality first, quantity or appearance second.

Do not make yourself a slave to your work. To management I want to say: Be careful when people tell you you need a bigger car, a nicer suit or a more representative outfit or any other status symbol. Remember who you are and why you are here!!.

Yours is a contribution to the work of Another - the One who has called you to give your best and all your talents. Your success does not lie in your hands alone and success and status are certainly not the criteria the Lord will apply while looking at you on the Last Day.

Be free from self-satisfaction and self-righteousness

What did our Lord hate most? Moral misbehaviour? Prostitutes and sexual aberrations? No!

The self-righteousness, self-sufficiency and self-satisfaction of the Pharisees was what he really detested. It leads to complacency and putting yourself above your brother. This is terrible.

On corruption

Of course it is true that corruption is one of the big problems in Uganda.

But according to my humble assessment: the real problem is the mentality, which says: "The others up there are the problem". It perpetuates a mentality of being a chronic victim and that the other is always the real problem. This reflex of putting the blame always and first of all on others leads to the attitude that I need to change only when the others change first. What non-sense!

The first public word of Jesus was: "Convert - change!"

If you do not light your candle because the other candles are not burning, you will continue to see darkness, you will see nothing. It is more rational and meaningful even for yourself, to start lighting the candle.

Last but not least

Allow me a very last comment.

We would not be here sitting together, if all of us had not taken a big risk and an almost unconditional amount of trust. Sr Christa called me by phone, trusted me without knowing me, without having met me. Fr Ntuwa, the Chancellor who had never heard of me at that time was so positive of me coming to Lubaga. The Board and the Bishop were very bold to recruit a Mzungu who had never worked in an urban hospital with all its complexity. I myself took an unusual and risky step by coming here with 5 children in 2011, leaving one daughter behind in university and being well settled in Germany.

Anyway - for me this serves as a lesson: every new relationship begins with trust, respect and esteem. Then over time, it can become friendship and companionship.

It is good for us to remember the importance of trust in life and I wish Dr Andrew gets your trust and respect.

Due to my special family situation and Misereor, I have only served you for 3 ½ years, unlike the great Dr Moser who has served you for more than 25 years. To Uganda, I am not like a resident but more like a friend who comes in time of need. And- as we are not living any

more in the last century, my assignment was time-bound and I think it was right to hand over to Dr Andrew. You have all the resources to do a good job. If they are matched with a strong will and the grace of God, there is a very bright future for Lubaga Hospital.

It was an honour and a pleasure for me and my family.

"It is an experience that I will carry within me for the rest of my life." We came close to each other in the last 3 years – we will remain in touch.

May God continue to bless you and Lubaga Hospital and may the Uganda Martyrs be like the stars that guide you in your decisions in the future and in your noble work -

Mwelaba, Tujja kudamu tulabagane ...

Good bye, we will meet again

Waliwo obuyimba obunyumila nga "AKONKONA KU LUGGI" musobola oku ka nyimbira mu.

Some of your songs are so nice and I would be happy if you could sing the song Akonkona ku Luggi ("it is Jesus knocking on the door")

Thanks for having knocked at my door!



The Archbishop of Kampala, Dr. Cipriano Lwanga Kizito, Chairman of the Board of Lubaga Hospital Sseremba and the hospital chaplain (from left to right). Image Adolf Diefenhardt



Fog in the Namib Desert

Image ITV Denkendorf

Potable water from fog

by Maike Molling [58]

About 880 mio. people have no access to clean drinking water. The carapace of a headstander beetle of the Namib Desert could produce relief. Scientists are taking him as an example for water harvesting in extremely arid areas.

The World Water Report of UNESCO paints a sinister picture of drinking water. Climate change, strong growth of the population and the resulting increasing demand of food and energy make the vital element run scarce in many regions of the world. Today already, one eighth of the world's population suffers from lack of drinking water. Even local agriculture lacks necessary water supply in many places. A global problem tackled by engineers Thomas Stegmeier and Jamal Sarsour from Denken-

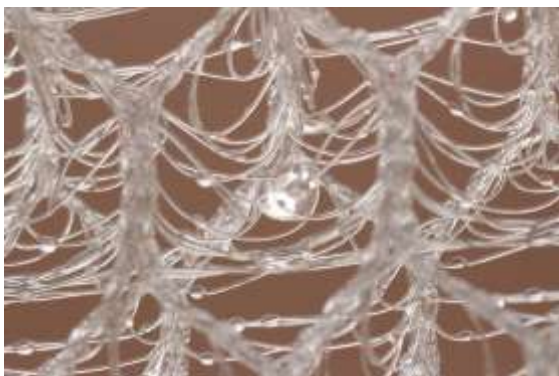
dorf's Institute for Textile and Fibre Research (ITV). In cooperation with geo-scientists of Tübingen University, the researchers developed a three-dimensional fog catcher, which is supposed to supply even extremely arid areas with water. A little headstander beetle served as an example to the bionic experts' invention *Onymacris unguicularis*, also known as headstander beetle, has developed a unique strategy to wrest drinking water from its inhospitable habitat. In the early hours of the morning, the insect scuttles up on top of the dunes and, tipping its head, pushes its hind-legs towards upcoming dew and fog. Its bumpy carapace collects little drops of water that melt into bigger ones, and are directed through grooves towards the beetle's mouth. The scientists of ITV took advantage of this principle:



A head-stander beetle (Onymacris unguicularis) native to the Namib Desert as an example.

Image ITV Denkendorf

They developed a three-dimensional spacer fabric with loop stitches resembling the structure of the carapace. This spacer fabric can collect aerosols from the air and drains them. It is fastened to poles 1,5m above the ground. The water, rolling off the surface of the polyester structure, is directed through a pipe and collected in a reservoir.



HighTex-material with many advantages.

Image ITV Denkendorf

The basic idea to harvest water from fog is not a new one. In the 1980's similar constructions for water harvesting were experimented with in Chile's Atacama Desert. But the fog collectors from Denkendorf offer more promising results in many ways. Tests in the Namib Desert and in mountain regions in Eritrea allow for the conclusion that the 3D collectors harvest three times as much water than their 2D predecessors. Depending on the respective positions, water harvests ranging from three

up to 55 litres of water per square metre of fabric and day can be expected, according to Stegmeier. In terms of service life the new HighTex material is also a surplus: Due to a special coating it is highly UV-resistant. The wide-meshed structure also allows for good air circulation, which makes the innovative textile much more resistant to hurricanes and storms than the conventional nets from Polyethylene are.



ITV fog catcher in Namib Desert.

Image ITV Denkendorf

Coastal areas with regular occurrence of fog offer ideal conditions for the operation of the new fog catchers. These can not only be found in Africa, but also in South-American developing countries like Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela, which also struggle with water shortages. At a cost of just three € per cubic metre of water, the collectors from Baden-Württemberg are a real alternative to by far more cost-intensive groundwater drilling for developing countries. The research team now hopes for serial production of their fog catcher. Only then the price per unit could be reduced to an extent that developing countries can afford this variant of alternative water harvesting on the long run.



mountainous region around Vlora

Image Marlene Hoppe

“Albania - a rich nation, but the population lives in poverty“

by Marlene Hoppe [23]

This is how Silvana, our guide from UNDP, summarized Albania's situation quite appropriately. She accompanied Günter Gäbler and me, Marlene Hoppe, during the 10 days we visited Qark Vlora in Southern Albania.

Albania went through a constantly moving history and has changed significantly after its recent past, the political changes of 1989/1990. We Northern Europeans particularly think of the struggles during the 1990s, but Albania has changed since then.

Currently, agriculture and environmentally friendly tourism are targeted as focus sectors by the Albanian Government. We embrace these efforts and hence accepted the tasks to evaluate Albanian agriculture and tourism, and to prospect for economic potentials. The initial trip to Albania took place in September 2016, at very high

temperatures. We were supported and accompanied by the UNDP and the Albanian Government. During our meetings with local stakeholders we tasted delicious fresh figs and grapes and learnt a lot about current problems and challenges of the agricultural sector. The raised points demonstrated the responsibility of the Albanian Government as well as the involvement of every individual farmer.

We were impressed with the real potentials and opportunities of agriculture we saw during following field visits. As expected, southern Albania has got many olive plantations and areas for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables and grapes. Unfortunately, many areas are lying fallow and are not in use anymore; in some regions, almost half of the areas are currently not cultivated. This is quite unfortunate, especially considering the abandoned, over 400-year-old olive trees. 25 years ago,

after the land was denationalized, many people stopped cultivating and maintaining their properties, and moved into the cities or went abroad. Applied infrastructures, such as irrigation and drainage systems, have been neglected or are lacking. Albania's agriculture has fallen into a deep sleep, whilst the general future and especially investments has been seen in the construction sector. As a result, countless half-finished houses and building shells can be seen in many parts of Albania.

A second trip to Albania took place 6 weeks later in October. This time, we had the opportunity to present and to discuss our impressions and preliminary results with representatives of the Albanian government. We also promoted using the existing advantageous preconditions to produce medicinal herbs, as the Albanians did in previous times. In the mountainous Balkan country gentians, sage, primroses,

rosemary, lavender, oregano, monks pepper and many other medicinal herbs grow under perfect conditions. In previous times, Albania used to export up to 350 different species, but unfortunately, the production of medicinal herbs has decreased seriously since 1990. There is high potential in the production and export of processed natural products, for instance herbal extracts or oils, and food products such as organic olive oil. We would like to support Albania to find sales markets in Europe.

In addition to agriculture, we encouraged the governmental representatives to promote sustainable and soft tourism. Everyone should get the opportunity to experience Albania, a country with many faces, either for its beaches, culture-filled hikes, mountain climbing, mountain biking or canoeing.

Olive plantation with old tree population. Image Marlene Hoppe





Whole-plant use of fibre nettle (extract from a presentation at the IFEED)

The human Side to Sustainability

by Evelyn Tetzner [6]

Sustainability is a principle of action for using resources, in which the focus is on maintaining important properties, stability, and the natural regenerative capacity of each individual system. For nearly ten years, implementing this principle has been the foundation of C.S.P. – Consulting and Service for Plant-based raw resources (Consulting und Service für Pflanzliche Rohstoffe GmbH).

Continually supplying renewable plant-based raw materials, with a focus on food stability and avoiding material waste is the main interest.

The following picture shows the use of the whole fibre-nettle plant, i.e. the possibility of actually implementing sustainability.

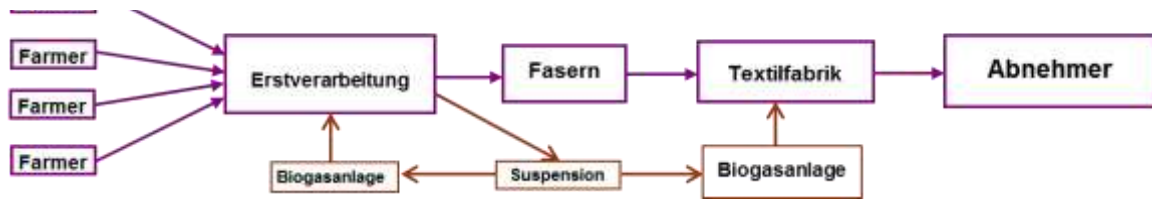
In its basic principle, sustainability offers an advantage for all those involved along a product's entire value-chain. Such value-chains are regularly established across country borders, which requires consideration of individual laws and rules of all countries involved. Within countries, this chain might depend on and vary according to people with different attitudes to morality and individual needs. Attitudes to personal financial involvement in the "value"-

adding-chain are often in conflict, based on past personal circumstances. At the beginning of the project, conflicts of interest, which can arise from the overall situation, must be recognised and acted upon. No standardised solutions are possible here – previous experience, insight into human nature, and stable contacts providing exact information on local conditions are required. For insight into human nature and experience, the situation in the target region must be determined, analysed, and evaluated based on the new project. One needs to answer the following question:

WHAT DOES EACH PARTNER REALLY WANT IN THE NEW PROJECT?

A contact person is the most important support for a project's sustainability. Backgrounds and certain procedures with potential players in the value-chain can only be determined with the help of such a contact. It is only possible to heed individual interests and successfully accomplish a project through a local contact.

Possible participants of a value-adding chain for using banana fibre in the Republic of the Sudan, Image C.S.P..



The human factor of sustainability

Example Sudan

A *Jatropha curcas* plantation at the University of Khartoum. Only by personally visiting the plantation did we learn about the actual problems of establishing this plant.

Example Ghana

An audience with the regional king Duayaw Nkwanta in Ghana. The permission to conduct preliminary research in this area was given here, without which we would have received no information.



Audience with the regional king, Duayaw Nkwanta in the Republic of Ghana. Image C.S.P.





The **Republic of the Sudan** is a country in northwest Africa with access to the Red Sea. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, Eritrea to the east, Ethiopia to the southeast, South Sudan to the south, the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west, and Libya to the northwest. With an area of over 1.8 Million square kilometres the country is approximately five times larger than Germany and the third largest on the African continent [2].



The date harvest in Sudan is ample, Image C.S.P..

As a desert plant, the **date palm** (*Phoenix dactylifera*) requires a lot of sun and, especially in the summer months, a lot of water. Besides this, the date palm is considered undemanding and can handle nutrient-poor soils. It grows slowly and is deemed more winter hardy than its relative, the Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). Over millennia, numerous varieties of dates have been bred, so that the fruit colour now varies from red to black. They are cultivated in palm orchards. The plants are useful for 80 to 100 years; a palm orchard must therefore be planned accordingly. Since the fruit only develops on pollinated flowers every other year, two to three male palms are planted for every 100 female palms. The yield per tree can reach 100 kg. Fructification occurs at 30 to 35 °C ambient temperature, for which the palms need a lot of water. For this reason, a palm orchard must be well irrigated or have good access to ground water [81].



The **Blue Nile** (Amharic: ላቢያ; transliterated: ‘Abbay but pronounced Abbai, Arabic: النيل الأزرق an-Nīl al-Azraq), together with the White Nile, is one of the two major tributaries of the Nile. It runs through Ethiopia and Sudan. Its water flow is larger, on average, than that of the White Nile and it is regarded as the largest tributary of the Nile. The White Nile, however, is the largest drainage line of the drainage basin [3].

The Republic of Sudan: A country that offers more than conflicts

Opportunities to foster the sustainability of Sudanese agriculture

by Günter Gäbler [66]

Every time we are faced with a new country during business trips questions like the following arise: How much of what we read in media reports on Sudan will be useful for our work on site? And usually we experience that official media describe only very few things correctly.

The Republic of Sudan in German Media

This time again, realities in Sudan were different from what we learned before. In Germany, we primarily know Sudan for political instability and various conflicts. Both are simply classified as conflicts because of currently opposed confessions between North and South Sudan. The comprehensive US and EU embargo that threatens political stability and economic development of Sudan is only mentioned occasionally. It is hardly known that North Sudan has to compensate all losses from crude oil production since the secession of the South in

2011. There is no mention of proceedings in Sudanese agriculture or simply on the beauty of landscapes.

Intensification of Sudanese Agriculture

In consequence of our company’s presentation at Germany’s fair "Internationale Grüne Woche" we had the opportunity to present our ideas regarding the intensification of Sudanese agriculture in the Department of Agriculture in Khartoum. We were pleased to accept this invitation. In October/ November 2013, during the first business trip to Sudan we found a wide range of resources in the agricultural sector.

The southern regions in Sudan are characterised by an intensive cultivation of various crops, such as mangos, sugar cane, bananas, sesame, wheat, millet, moringa and jatropha. We agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture in Khartoum that the focus of our efforts on site

will focus on banana and jatropha. As for banana the intention is to make use of the fine fibres found in the pseudo stem. Unfortunately, the pseudo stem of either banana or plantain is currently seen as residue only.

Regarding jatropha our proposed activity comprises the use of the plant oil as well as the residues.

In addition to economic aspects we also have to consider and integrate environmental and social issues of raw and residual plant materials on site.

New goals, new projects

The stated goals regarding our activities in Sudan are: contribution to provide jobs in rural areas and the expansion of regional markets in order to prevent migration to the cities and to increase quality of life in rural areas. The next business trip to Sudan will be within the first quarter of 2015; then we would like to renew old and establish new contacts.

We are looking forward to this trip, because we experienced a great openness and warmth. Especially the openness to our project and German technologies is enormous.



The Republic of Sudan in the North East of Africa, right on the Red Sea. Image C.S.P.



Evelin Tetzner, CEO of CSP in formal gown amongst her Sudanese hosts. Image C.S.P. Image C.S.P.

Republic of Sudan: We continue our work as planned

by Günter Gäbler [25]

Building on the groundwork of 2013, we started project work in Sudan involving additional partners. It should be pointed out that the last two years required immense amounts of groundwork, which needed lots of endurance, tenacity, and copious amounts of optimism. This included the many obstacles along the way, especially finding and choosing the correct project partners on both sides.

Finally, the contract for cooperation between C.S.P. GmbH, samirbuller AG, and a Sudanese company working in the area of agricultural residual materials and establishing polyculture systems could be signed in Berlin in June.

Over the course of several business trips, which, among others, led us to eastern Sudan, we were repeatedly impressed with the immense amount of resources in the Republic of Sudan. This includes the seemingly endless and fertile tracts of land, which are especially prolific in the drainage basin of the Blue and White Nile and comprise several million Feddan.

Wherever the problems of large-scale irrigation for agricultural crops can be solved with the help of irrigations channels, sprinkler systems, drip irrigation, powerful pumps, etc., an enormous amount of biomass-production per Feddan can be expected. Around the city of Singa, which lies along the Blue Nile, we observed a lush growth of the banana plantations, as we had not yet seen in any other African country.

The labour resources are also diverse, which applies to the number of labourers but also to

their age structure and willingness to learn. Well-trained engineers are present in Sudan, but there is a lack in trained technicians. It is estimated that young people from Egypt or Libya are better educated. We believe that central, government-run programs are required to remedy this deficit. In the first steps to establishing a poly-cultural system, in which Castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), purging nut (*Jatropha curcas*), and *Moringa* will probably be the main cultures, we could, however, rely on the support of young workers from the Zadna company.

In November, after many consultations and much design work, we were able to implement the first practical steps in propagating Castor oil plants. Different varieties were sown and placed at various locations. These varieties are not expected to have the giant growth potential of their wild relatives, but a relatively high oil yield per plant. In our work in the respective agricultural regions, we are looking for a high yield with a small amount of input. The quality of the raw materials produced is also a decisive factor in convincing German industries to use plant-based instead of fossil-based raw materials.

Overall, the work in Sudan is very gratifying and, if one is able to adjust to the mentality of Sudanese project partners, the different daily routine in Sudan is manageable.

As plant experts we were impressed with how naturally new things are tried out, especially with unknown plants. We were somewhat surprised, for example, when we were able to tour

our Sudanese partner's newly established wine plantation. While the plantation was not complete, Evelin Tetzner was able to determine that it was well on its way to becoming a productive wine plantation.

Looking back on the past experiences of implementing our projects we see that, despite all obstacles in cooperating with partners from different cultures over long distances, we have

been able to establish a fruitful and result-oriented project in cooperation with all partners.

This fact makes us confident and optimistic that we will reach our project goals within the scheduled timeframe. We would enjoy reporting the ongoing project work in due time.



Lush growth of banana trees on the Blue Nile. Image C.S.P.



Ghana Minister of Construction. Image C.S.P.



Image C.S.P.

The Republic of Ghana: New partner for the German economic policy.

How the German company C.S.P. (Consulting Service Plants) assists the Government of Ghana to create affordable high-quality housing

by Evelin Tetzner

The Republic of Ghana is seen as one of the up-coming and economically stable countries in Africa. The general policy has gained a certain stability after political unrests in the 1990s. Moreover, additional fossil oil and gas resources as well as diamond deposits have been exploited since 2010.

This development allowed for the initiation of a state programme for housing in Ghana with the government focusing on affordable, high-quality housing. In order to handle this ambitious task, C.S.P.'s assistance was asked to provide ideas and know-how to the former Ministry of Housing in Ghana.

Construction elements with plant feedstocks

The requirements are particularly:

- Saving costly cement
- Increasing the resilience of construction elements to weathering
- Creating a healthy indoor climate



Raw material extraction for the experiments, Image C.S.P.

To meet these requirements we mix plant fibres in corresponding relations into the material mixture. First tests were performed with promising results. Therefore, tests on mixing ratios and the construction of a building prototype are targeted to continue in 2015. The Ghanaian Ministry of Housing favours the incorporation of agricultural residues in the construction material. Leaves of the oil palm are the preferred additive.

A good opportunity for social engagement

During our trip to Ghana we got in contact with a state school and its principal in Nyakrom. In agreement with her, we brought towels from Germany as gifts for the pupils. The gifts were sponsored by *Frottana* Großschönau in Saxony. In addition, soap and toothbrushes were sponsored by *Schulwälder für Afrika*, a German association. At "Body Care Day" the school staff gave exemplary lessons in daily dental hygiene and hand washing after using the restroom. At the end of the day and at 38 degrees, the 300 pupils sang "Oh Tannenbaum" ("O, Christmas Tree") in German.



Construction elements largely made of vegetable, Image C.S.P.

Use of donated hygienic utensils is trained at "Body Care Day", Image C.S.P.



Cooperation with CfD - fog collector for Ghana?

Based on the collaboration with the association *Claim for Dignity* we discussed the opportunities to construct and supervise a fog collector in school. By collecting clean water the school's hygienic ambitions would be effectively supported. The recommendation kindled great interest. A first fog collector is intended to be built in future.

The kind of fog catchers that in the future might help gain drinking water from fog in Ghana.
Image ITV Denkendorf



Criticism of Climate Theory

by Elmar Zipp [1]

Reference: www.zippnet.de/ipcc-study.pdf

The Climate Change Conference in Paris received a great deal of media attention at the end of 2015 and its results are highly praised. It was generally expected that far-reaching objectives would be decided upon here, in order to change many areas of life of mankind and to intervene in the daily life of the world's population with the necessary measures of the individual countries. Just as former Federal Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen put it with his phrase "Climate policy is global governance". (Bundestag, 16.12.2011).

This political agenda is developed on the basis of predictions made by the officially recognised climate science grouped together by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an organisation that is itself a political institution. The basic assumption here is that the earth's temperature is directly affected by human activities, especially as a result of the change in air composition caused by carbon dioxide. The political agenda focuses on meeting the so-called two-degree target - even tightened in Paris to a 1.5-degree target -, which means to limit future increases in the earth's temperature by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the logic of the IPCC's predictions. With this focus on future scenarios, the debate is detached from the real situation in the world. In particular, it is not noted that the IPCC's forecasts have not been accurate for 17 years and that the official global average temperature since then has not followed the predicted trend. This was also not changed at the time of the Paris conference by 2015, which was a particularly warm year due to a strong El Niño anomaly, as the analysis of NASA's satellite data clearly shows. Many other changes in the Earth's system are associated with climate change, such as glacier sizes, Arctic ice cover, unusual weather phenomena or changes in flora and fauna in general. By means of extrapolations derived from this, a justification for climate policy is established, despite the long-standing deviation of climate forecasts.

In view of the obvious failure of the forecasts, the basis on which these fears about climate change are built is to be questioned. The latest report of the IPCC ("AR5") from 2013 claims to summarize physical knowledge and provides the official basis

for policymaking. However, a fundamental analysis of this work clearly shows that the climate theory, which links global warming to the man-made increase in carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere, has no scientific basis and must be completely rejected.

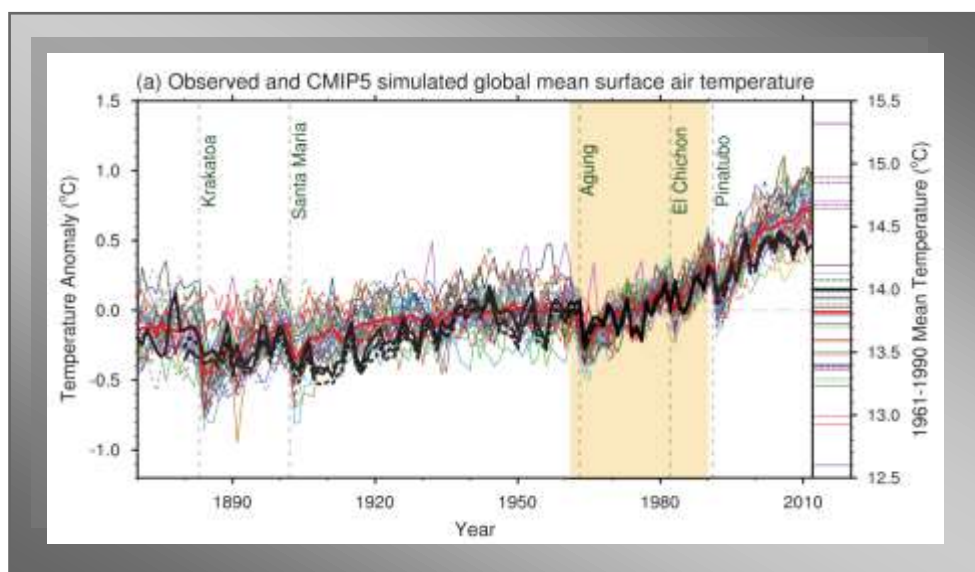
The IPCC's documentation does not include any empirically substantiated arguments that could support climate theory. If appropriate experimental studies on the exchange of energy in the atmosphere were carried out, it would be safe to assume that the undoubted thermodynamic laws which describe such processes as heat transfer, convection and in particular the phase transitions of evaporation and condensation as the dominant processes for energy transfer in the atmosphere would be confirmed. Within the atmosphere, the proportion of energy exchange through radiation from greenhouse gases is very low and limited to short distances; the radiation aspect therefore plays no role in the adiabatic temperature profile of the atmosphere generally used in science and practice. Only clouds have a relevant influence on radiation processes, but are explicitly excluded by the IPCC from the observation, since the dynamics of the cloud cover is highly complex and cannot be summarized. Without any experimental basis, climate theory thus proves to be a pure theory without validation in practice. The IPCC confirms this by the approach of deriving the climatic relevance of carbon dioxide exclusively from the computational results of the computer models used via the climate system. The term "radiative forcing" serves this purpose. These artificial arithmetic results are considered valid even though the IPCC openly declares that the computer models are only compatible with reality for a certain period of time and only due to arbitrary parameter adjustments. The inadequacy of the models cannot be improved by increasing computer performance, but is necessarily due to the fundamental errors of the theoretical approach, which consists in the attempt to approximate the non-linear differential equations of the climate system by means of mean value calculations. Since its first use in the 19th century, this fundamentally unsuitable calculation method has been the reason for the failure of all previous pre-

dictions in climate theory. Mathematically, it is not possible to extrapolate average values for non-linear systems into the future. Moreover, since the typical fluctuation of the incident radiant power as a function of cloud cover is even greater than the total heat radiation of the earth at average temperature. Hence, the significance of non-linearity in relation to the mean values is all the more obvious. Climate theory cannot, in principle, depict reality with its mean value methodology and cannot make any valid predictions. The speculative mean value assertion of climate theory has clearly failed its practical test, as it would be necessary to generally acknowledge a scientific hy-

pothesis. It is not to be expected that the political class will accept this fundamental failure in the short term. However, scientific criticism of climate theory has so far not touched this core of the theoretical problem and is still entangled in different interpretations of the observable fluctuations of climatic processes. This superficial form of criticism is therefore still not very convincing. This makes it all the more necessary to demand a critical reflection from science communities of all kind on the basic assumptions of a theory which, despite its obvious failure, is used to change the world order.

Addendum

1. The comparison of the climate models used by the IPCC itself with the (calculated) global average temperature shows that since 1998 the model calculations are becoming less and less accurate, whereas for the 30 years before they could be covered by parameter adjustments. The average global temperature has not increased since 1998. (Details see under <http://www.zippnet.de/ipcc-study.pdf>)



Quelle: IPCC report AR5, figure 9.8, p768 3.

2. Two surfaces of equal size with different temperatures produce a higher thermal radiant power than the total area with the average temperature. This is a clear consequence of the non-linearity of the Stefan Boltzmann law, which combines the radiated thermal power with the fourth power of temperature ($P = \epsilon \sigma A T^4$). An energetic balance can therefore by no means be based on average values, as all climate models and IPCC publications do (see <http://www.zippnet.de/ipcc-study.pdf> for details).

$$A / T_1$$

$$A / T_2$$

$$2A / \overline{T_1 T_2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= 0^\circ\text{C}; T_2 = 30^\circ\text{C} \\ P_1 &= 4,65 \text{ W}; P_2 = 6,35 \text{ W} \\ P_1 + P_2 &= 11 \text{ W} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{T_1 T_2} &= 15^\circ\text{C} \\ P &= 2 * 5,45 \text{ W} \\ P &= 10,9 \text{ W} \end{aligned}$$

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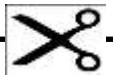
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