

Rasa, 31 October 2018

Verein Emmanuel

Emmanuel 9 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Valuable Benefactors!

As you can read above, I am in the Ticino (Italian-speaking part of Switzerland) at the moment, in the mountain village of Rasa, where I am volunteering at the annual wood clearing and carpentry week, during almost tropical rainstorms. Evenings are leisure time, so, aside from chatting, drinking coffee and reading, I also finally have time again to write a newsletter. This time, I want to focus on the BENEVOL FUND, which provides destitute disabled persons with auxiliary aids (such as crutches, wheelchairs or leg prostheses), for free, as well as necessary orthopedic surgery. What this means concretely is recounted in the many life stories of the persons concerned. In addition, the other activities of Emmanuel Ethiopia and Switzerland are mentioned with a few keywords. Enjoy reading the newsletter, and thanks once again for all your commitment through encouragement, donations and moral support.

News from Project Emmanuel, Soddo:

BENEVOL FUND: Because many disabled persons live as beggars on the streets, have not attended school and have not received any training, they cannot afford urgently needed auxiliary aids such as a wheelchair or crutches. They also cannot afford hospital treatments. That is why Project Emmanuel created the so-called BENEVOL FUND. Thanks to donations from Switzerland, auxiliary aids and orthopedic surgery can be provided for free to needy disabled persons. These persons can contact Project Emmanuel directly. In addition, 10 pairs of crutches and 1 wheelchair are delivered to the Mother Teresa Hospital in Addis once a month, where the Catholic sisters have 500 beds for the poorest of the poor. There are often penniless disabled persons among these patients, whom they provide with the equipment donated by the BENEVOL FUND.

Many of the disabled hear about the BENEVOL FUND by word of mouth, Radio FM or friends. Melese (Manager of Project Emmanuel and physiotherapist) and his team examine them carefully and give them advice about which auxiliary aid is most appropriate for them, but also if additional orthopedic surgery or prosthetics are needed. Surgery is funded by the BENEVOL FUND and carried out at the Soddo Christian Hospital (abbr: SCH) by Dr. Anderson and his colleagues. Leg prostheses and braces cannot be manufactured in Soddo Town, but are available Arba Minch, Awassa and Addis (large cities between 300 to 600 km away). Project Emmanuel organizes transport and accommodations for disabled persons who require such special auxiliary aids. The BENEVOL FUND has just started up, but I am always very touched to read about persons who have received such help and how "their wheelchair" or "their crutches" have

changed their lives in such a significant way. I can read about their great thankfulness, which I gladly pass on to all of our benefactors. Read it yourself and rejoice with them ☺!

LIFE STORIES – see separate PDF in the attachment

Here are just a few keywords from the individual activities of Project Emmanuel Soddo:

Workshops (Men – auxiliary aid production; women – food production), individual small businesses such as shoeshiners, street kiosks, seamstresses. The regular business is running. The food production in the women's workshop is almost self-supporting; the auxiliary aids in the men's workshop are primarily funded by the BENEVOL FUND and provided to needy disabled persons for free. A future goal is the regular sale of auxiliary aids to different hospitals in the country (as well as a self-supporting business in the auxiliary aid workshop, aside from the BENEVOL FUND crutches and wheelchairs for destitute disabled persons).

Bildlegenden: Auxiliary Aid Workshop

Food Workshop

EMMANUEL CENTER: The accommodations for disabled men are (still! typically African?) in the last stages of construction!

NEW LAND: Once again, the authorities have granted Project Emmanuel a large plot of land with a 99-year lease for their use. Together with the Emmanuel management team as well as the SCH Hospital managers Duane Anderson (surgeon and Project Emmanuel mentor), Gary Vanderkooi (accountant), Verein Emmanuel Switzerland is examining the possibilities of long-term use and development. A proposal for a construction plan and cost calculations has been compiled by Gary Vanderkooi. The top priority is accommodations for disabled homeless women (note: Until now, the 40 Project Emmanuel employees have been living, eating, sleeping and working in two workshops, but for some time now, the municipal authorities have been making pressure and demanding separate living/eating and working areas. Thank goodness, the disabled have not yet been thrown onto the street until now, but living accommodations are urgently needed. The men's living quarters can soon be occupied, but the women's quarters still need to be built).

BENEVOL FUND Assessment: Melese and his staff were invited by the municipal authorities of a neighboring village to examine 75 disabled men and women who all needed auxiliary aids or surgery. There is a great demand for free auxiliary aids and medical treatments for poor disabled persons. Verein Emmanuel is happy to be able to make a small contribution to give these people renewed mobility, job opportunities and a new outlook.

As an example: the Cure Hospital in Addis offers free surgery and medication for children under 16; food and the hospital stay are also free of cost. The BENEVOL FUND is also used to help the disabled children of poor parents cover the transportation costs to the hospital (Soddo – Addis = 600 km!).

News from Verein Emmanuel Switzerland:

There is “nothing new under the sun” to report from the board and Verein Emmanuel. Our main activities in the previous months were mentoring and coaching Project Emmanuel in Ethiopia, as well as intensive exchanges with the management team together with with Duane Anderson and Gary Vanderkooi. In addition, there was fundraising and presentations at various events. The new acquaintances with other charitable projects around the world are always very valuable. The exchanges with Swiss directors of other charities are very motivating and inspiring.

Thank you very much for your support, dear friends, foundations and benefactors! Great big thanks for all of your encouragement, prayers and financial support to benefit EMMANUEL—particularly in favor of the BENEVOL FUND and thus also the poorest of the disabled.

I wish you a wonderful autumn and wintertime and look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards, Adios!

Rahel Röthlisberger, President Verein Emmanuel, Rasa 31.10.2018

Last but not least:

- Date **Members' Assembly/Annual General Meeting 2019**: will be announced at the end of the year
- Sale of **Charity Mountain Cheese to benefit Emmanuel**: As always, send me your orders (Rahel Röthlisberger)

Attachment:

- **Emmanuel Flyer**

- Website Link: www.projekt-emmanuel.ch (you can find all forms, e.g. membership for Verein Emmanuel etc.)

- **Donations**: Payment slip – thanks from Emmanuel for your support

- Donations: Verein Emmanuel CH-3472 Wynigen; Postfinance Account no. 89-710260-0 / CH 49 0900 0000 8971 0260 0

- Verein Emmanuel Schweiz has been a tax-exempt organisation in the canton of Bern since 15 August 2015