

Soddo News – Project Emmanuel

St Anthönien, 22.8.2015 & Wynigen 23.9.2015



Dear friends,

How are you all? Did you have a good summer? I am using the early morning hours here in Graubünden (22.8.2015) before we start on another mountain tour to send you some Soddo News (news about Project Emmanuel in Soddo, Ethiopia).

I would also like to **sincerely thank everyone** who has supported the handicapped in Soddo during the last months, be it with donations for crutches, job possibilities, encouragement and/or prayer.

It has been around 8 months since I met Melese Eyob Heramo, the physiotherapist from Soddo Christian Hospital who is paralyzed by polio, and since we sat together in the evening and I talked with him for hours; since we bought the first mats and crutches for paralyzed and homeless beggars; since we

were able to purchase two braces for a little girl without legs, thanks to a generous donation, with which the girl can now walk with crutches.

Within the framework of Project Emmanuel, we have been able to create **20 jobs**, and the disabled beggars from Soddo are working with great joy. Thanks to the modest income, they can earn their living on their own. We have even set up so-called “Starting Kits” for small trades such as shoe cleaning, street kiosks, hairdressing or mechanics’ workshops, which should permit the handicapped to set up their own livelihood. I am greatly moved by the thankfulness of these young people in Soddo, their great motivation to work as well as their creativity. I recently received two photos from Soddo: they have bought themselves a few chickens and goats from their earnings to improve their income and meals!



Because so many handicapped people in Ethiopia must fight for their lives every day as homeless beggars due to a lack of education, funds and income, there are different areas where help is welcome and sorely needed.



Aside from **jobs, training and shelter**, **other aid** is also essential for these disabled people so that they can be mobile and work. There are hardly any public jobs, health or accident insurance or government institutions. Those who have no money can hardly buy crutches, wheelchairs or vehicles and must crawl on the ground, be carried by their family or try to move with the help of wooden poles. That is why Melese and I are working with the members of Emmanuel to set up a **workshop in Soddo**, where disabled craftsmen can produce crutches, simple wheelchairs and hand-driven bicycles themselves. The knowhow is locally available, not least thanks to contacts with the physiotherapy department and auxiliary aid workshop at Soddo Christian Hospital, where Melese works as a physiotherapist and crutch manufacturer. These appliances are very sought after, are partially ordered by the hospital, and the disabled artisans are very happy to help others literally “get on their feet” with their products!



In the meantime, **Institutions and the authorities in Soddo** have become aware of the newly created Project Emmanuel. This is very encouraging for the members of the Emmanuel group and for myself: Melese’s life story was told at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Soddo Christian Hospital. This young homeless teenager had received help through surgery, crutches, training and employment. He now is doing everything he can to encourage other disabled beggars in Soddo and its surroundings to receive auxiliary aid, a job and appreciation.

Some members of the group were recently invited by the government to **Awassa for a meeting regarding innovative projects** and were honored with an award.

I have regular email contact with Melese, and from time to time, **Swiss visitors** to the Soddo Christian Hospital (SCH) bring personal greetings and reports of their own experiences with Project Emmanuel. For example, Jacques Weber, a retiree who is very committed to the SCH, has already traveled to Soddo twice to bring letters, crutches and even a wheelchair to Melese and the Emmanuel group! This clever senior citizen let the flight attendants push him through the airports in that very wheelchair in order to save the freight costs!



Things have been happening in Switzerland, too. Together with Melese, I continue to plan, pray, calculate costs, set up shopping lists (for example to set up the auxiliary aid workshop) and compile budget sheets for the monthly reports.

In the meantime, we have begun a **cheese trade**, where alp cheese from the Diemtigtal and Simmental valleys is being sold at a reasonable price to benefit **Project Emmanuel**. The cheese is available directly from me or now also – as a pilot project – through the cheese shop in Wynigen. Please see the attachment for further information.

Furthermore, an IT pro has created a **Facebook page about Project Emmanuel** on his own initiative. I could never do anything like that and am overjoyed at this possibility, to make Project Emmanuel known and to place current information on that page. On behalf of the Emmanuel group in Soddo, I would like to thank this committed IT man most heartily and have added the link to this Facebook page below. Please pass it on!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Emmanuel/853326348095919?ref=tn_tnmn

PS: Everyone has Internet access to this page, even if they aren't on Facebook. I don't have any personal chats or a Facebook page, so you can simply reach me by email or phone:

rahel_medizin@gmx.ch (H), rahel_medizin@hin.ch (W), 034 415 11 63 (W) oder 078 900 62 15 (H).

Last but not least: after your suggestions, the **Emmanuel Association was founded** on the evening of August 14, 2015 at my practice in Wynigen. The President is the author of the Soddo News, and I am pleased to introduce our treasurer, Bernard Junod from Koppigen and our vice president Esther Schaller from Wynigen! The goal of our association is to be able to support the people in Project Emmanuel in Soddo in a better way. Interested persons can get a copy of the association statutes from me.

We have **applied for tax exemption**, so that in future, charitable donations can be tax deductible. We also plan to create an account for the association, where people can transfer donations to Project Emmanuel. Here are the coordinates: Payment slips are available from: bernard.junod@bluewin.ch

Donations: thanks very much on behalf of "Emmanuel"

Account: Postfinance. Verein Emmanuel, CH-3472 Wynigen: Acct-No: 89-710260-0 or IBAN CH49 0900 0000 8971 0260 0

That's all for now, sometime later there will be another photo-party with information about Project Emmanuel, invitations coming soon... 😊! Thank you very much for your support, feedback, donations and prayers. Rahel Röthlisberger

I would like to ask all of you to provide me with feedback about how and in what form you wish to receive upcoming *Soddo News* and current information on the developments with Project Emmanuel. Thanks for your replies -> see **the reply form** to fill out and return!

For interested persons: **Cheese** can be ordered with the attached order form, see attachment.

Project description Emmanuel: see Attachment, to print out, read, pass on ...

Reply form:

Please fill out the form and return to: email: rahel_medizin@hin.ch

post: Rahel Röthlisberger, Luegstrasse 8, CH-3472 Wynigen, Switzerland

Last name / first name:

Address: Street, postcode, city

Phone (fixed or mobile) & email:

I would like to continue receiving *Soddo News* with the latest information on Project Emmanuel in Ethiopia & Verein Emmanuel Schweiz

I do not wish any further information on Project Emmanuel

I would like a copy of the Statutes of Verein Emmanuel

I would like a membership registration form for Verein Emmanuel

I would like _____ payment slips for Project Emmanuel in Soddo, Ethiopia

www.baerg-chaes:

win win win: Mountain cheese for sale - with a donation to project emmanuel, project for the handicapped in Ethiopia!

- www. means: win win win
- 1st Win: for the customer, a good cheese straight from the Alps (Niesen & Rinderalp)
- 2nd Win: for the manufacturer – cheese is sold directly at a fair price
- 3rd Win: for project emmanuel – an innovative project in Soddo, Ethiopia – the surcharge on the price of the cheese sold is used as a donation to project emmanuel: to buy prostheses, foot braces, crutches for paralyzed youngsters, shelters for homeless and handicapped beggars, etc.

Interested?

- as a buyer: Please send written orders to: Rahel Röthlisberger, Luegstrasse 8, 3472 Wynigen / rahel_medizin@gmx.ch / 078 900 62 15 (sms)
- as a reseller: Cheese for resale can be acquired at the same conditions

- prices (including donation for project emmanuel)

Alp cheese piquant CHF 30.00/kg

Alp cheese mild 27.00/kg

Mutschli 24.00/kg

Hobel (shaved cheese) 34.00/kg

Available as 250g/500g/1000g pieces, other weights available on request.

Delivery times: variable (depends on transportation: Rahels bicycle vs helpers' cars)
– vacuum packed cheese can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 1 year.

Questions?

**Rahel Röthlisberger – Luegstrasse 8, CH-3472 Wynigen, Switzerland
Tel. 078 900 62 15 email: rahel_medizin@gmx.ch**

Thanks very much for participating!

Ordering cheese to benefit Project Emmanuel

Last name, first name / Address / Telephone:

Order:

Type and amount (250g/500g/1kg / ¼ Mutschli = 500g)

- Hobel (shaved cheese):
- Alp cheese mild:
- Alp cheese piquant:
- Mutschli:

Invoice (Total amount):

CHF / Cash or payment slip (attached)

☺ THANKS VERY MUCH on behalf of the handicapped people in Ethiopia!

Finally, please note the attachments:

- Emmanuel Project description
- Life histories: all 20 members of Emmanuel tell about their lives
- Emmanuel Handicaps photos: Portrait photos of Emmanuel members