

Reward for the effort

The biggest worry for a person planning a big party like our jubilee is: will there arrive any visitors apart from the organizers and official guests?!



Our worries were all groundless, the response could not have been better. The doors had hardly been opened when the first visitors flocked into the hall and looked after a seat where they could spend the next hours with coffee and cake and could follow the program. Old and young filled the hall, so we had to look for more chairs to guarantee a seat for everybody. At least there were no more chairs available and still there were some guests left standing in the entrance of the hall and observing the course

from there. The messages of welcome and greeting, first of all from our patron permanent secretary Achim Grossmann and from Zambian ambassador's secretary Chalwe Lombe, were given relief to with the music of the Boischer Brass Band.



After that there was a performance of a drum group around Jo Koreman which offered an enthusiastic show of African rhythms.

Unfortunately, a planned film prepared by the youngsters of the pupil's job fair and a report about a journey to Zambia could not be presented because we had run out of time. What a pity! But it was already time to serve the evening meal. During the serving, Sr. Euphemia, the head mistress of the Zambian partner school of the primary school in Hoengen, elected the winners of the tombola. So, we had many lucky winners when the program was continued by the band Lagerfeuermusik. They played many hits from the 60s and 80s just after acclamation, nothing was unknown for them. It was a great pleasure to let the party come to its end with their music.



The success of our jubilee is due to the many volunteer workers who acted trouble-free from the background. We want to thank all of them for their effort.

Also we want to thank our sponsors. Without their support a party of that manner would not have been possible to take place. Last but not least we say thank you to our visitors. We are looking forward to the next jubilee!

Renate Remy

Differences in German-Zambian time or: how some things happen ...

As nearly all things in live, also volunteer engagement sometimes has to face tribulations and small-minded resistances. But *fair handeln* offers to us the great luck to have wonderful contacts to our partners in Zambia regularly which help us to remember what we are working for and why we should bear and forget those tribulations.



When we started planning our jubilee it was obvious from the beginning that we wanted to have Zambian guests to celebrate with us. First of all we thought of Solomon Phiri, the coordinator in the development office at Monze and our project partner and of Sr. Euphemia Mainza, the head mistress of Charles-Lwanga-Basic-School and the beneficiary of our biggest project so far. Unfortunately, Solomon could not follow our invitation, also in Zambia sometimes there are duties to follow which will not allow you to do whatever you like. But at least Sr. Euphemia could say yes to our invitation. Also for her it was not so easy to come because the jubilee took place during the Zambian trimester time, but the ministry luckily accepted the need to present her project on our jubilee. On October, 17th her journey should start. To go from Chikuni, where she lives, to Lusaka takes about four hours and at the airport you have to check in several hours before the flight starts. That meant she had to start from home already on the 16th, in the evening. But African time is sometimes different from German. (quotation Solomon: "You have watches, we have time.") However, Sr. Euphemia had marked "17th" in her mind and so she was busy with preparing her journey at a time when she already had to be in the aeroplane. For us, this incidence became a lesson about modern communication in the times of globalization. Already at 10.15 a.m. we knew that Sr. Euphemia had not taken her seat in the flight which had started at 10 a.m. at Nairobi. Oh dear! What shall happen now?! We didn't get the idea of calling directly to Chikuni and ask what had happened. We were very worried: what might have happened to Sr. Euphemia, where might she be? So we called Solomon to ask him what he knew, but he was totally astonished and very sure that Sr. Euphemia was travelling. He then called to Chikuni and the Sister herself answered the phone and could not understand the

excitement. Why, this evening I have to leave for Lusaka. No, your flight is already on its way to Amsterdam. She told us that she had been totally relaxed when Solomon called her, preparing all the staff she needed. She felt herself good in time ... The relaxation had gone within a second, however. Head-over-heels to Lusaka, all heavens set in movement in order to change the flight. But not a bit of packing all things with calm: she left the Tonga baskets for our fair trade shop as well as the papers she needed for a lecture she had prepared for the Marienschule behind ...

But fortunately: one day later we could take her into our arms. Thanks to KLM and the modern communication nobody had travelled to the airport in vane and surely it has been good that she knew there was a problem before doing check in and discovering the wrong date in the middle of the night.

It is always a pleasure to meet Sr. Euphemia. She is so warm-hearted and cheerful. When we hear her talking about the difficulties of her every day live we are always very impressed how she even though is able to be so optimistic and happy.



Our second Zambian guest was Mr Chalwe Lombe, the first secretary of the Zambian ambassador at Berlin. It was a great honor for us to welcome such an important guest. He arrived by train and for the night he stood at Haus Broichtal. By the way, he insisted in paying the costs for his journey and accommodation himself. We had been very worried about the looking after such an important person. But we found out that Mr Lombe was really uncomplicated. He was very interested to hear about the details of our work and he was absorbed in an interesting conversation with Sr. Euphemia immediately. Our worry that he could feel isolated in the jubilees' turmoil turned out as groundless. My greatest worry was the translation of his speech. Everybody knows German speeches which are stilted and boring - and that kind surely exists also in English. How to translate such manner?! What should I do if I didn't understand something? How to translate something that you haven't understood yourself?! But for great luck this worry turned out as groundless, too. Mr Lombe really was an easy-care guest and his speech was free from stilted phrases and easy to understand. The evening together with these two cheerful people was really wonderful. It is true that happiness rubs off. It is so good to hear how happy the people in Zambia can become even with our small means of help. I feel very affected by the "Please don't stop with your work, please continue your efforts!" from Mr Lombe's speech. I want to hand it out to you: please don't stop your support, please continue helping us so that we can continue helping our Zambian friends!

The day after the jubilee we had breakfast together in Haus Broichtal and it was almost like old friends sitting and talking together. Mr Lombe really made it easy for us with his being so warm-hearted and friendly, he was totally free from airs and graces that could be probably expected from a diplomat.



Besides the jubilee we had a lot of other stimulating meetings with Sr. Euphemia even if the time together was one day shorter than expected. The "African cooking" which she had brought the ingredients for from Zambia (she had them with her!) was another highlight.

To say good-bye was hard as it always is, a part of our board will meet Sr. Euphemia soon during the fair travel journey at Easter 2009. And Mr Lombe invited us to Berlin to the next National Day celebration - what a pleasure! As I said at the beginning: those are the moments that lead to happiness and that make forget the tribulations and resistances and that let you say: "It is good what are doing, go on!"

Gertrud Kutscher

We thank the following firms for having supported our tombola with their gifts:

Für die freundliche Unterstützung danken wir

We say thank you for their friendly support to:

Soon

13.2.2009: 7.30 p.m. wine-tasting at our fair trade shop at Mariadorf, Marienstraße 21

5.4.-18.4.2009: fair travel tour to Zambia



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