

fair handeln aktuell 2. Ausgabe

What are they doing in the association?

Who is engaged there and what is happening? All interested persons found answers to these questions during the assembly of the fair handeln members. The members assembly, that took place on 21st, May 2007 brought the election of a new board, reports of the old board and a lot of good and interesting discussions.

The board changed at the top position. Mr Walter Kahn, the former second chairman was elected to be the first chairman.

Our priest, the former first chairman, Mr Heribert Brendt is no longer part of the board.

We want to thank him warmly for his support of the association, especially during the foundation period. All the other members of the board rested in their positions. New second chairman is Mr Karl – Heinz Schleibach. He is responsible for the pupil's job fair. Sylvia Staas, head of the pupil's job fair reported about the development of the pupil's job fair. 85 pupils are now licensed and waiting for jobs. Do you probably need help in the garden or the house and want to employ one of them?

The report of the one-world resort showed our closeness to Zambia. Last year, Sr.

Euphemia, head of Charles-Lwanga-Basic-School in Chikuni/Zambia, has been our guest. Her project, the chicken farm and the solar water pump for her school, could already be realized. Sr. Euphemia sent a video to say thank you very warmly and the video has been showed during the members assembly. This is a very big step to a better future for her school.

The development of the selling in our one-world-shop in Mariadorf was a great success in the last year. We hope that this is a stable trend. The more fair trade products you buy, the more projects we can support in Zambia.

You became interested in our association, want to work with us or support us with your donations? Please contact us!

"We cannot change the whole world, but we can change a small piece of it – you must only start somewhere" this was what a member said after the members assembly. There is nothing to add to it.

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FairTravel 2007 – "there is good and bad news ..."

„There is some good and some bad news" – Somehow this seemed to become the guideline that was present throughout the whole tour like a central thread. One thing in advance: The good news outweighed!

On March 30th, 2007 this year's FairTravel Tour started from Dusseldorf airport as usual. "As usual"? This sounds like some kind of routine. Travelling in Africa does not generally flow smoothly or follow the plan as usual. But exactly this is what makes travelling Africa so very special.

After a quiescent flight we reached Lusaka early in the morning. Now there were two information for our co-travellers. Good news first: All suitcases had arrived. And bad news now: The bus that was supposed to collect us from the airport had not arrived! Later we got to know that the bus had been delayed because of a truck accident on the street between Monze and Lusaka and reached us with a time delay of seven hours. The group took this with African equanimity (a huge compliment here) and so there was time enough to change money, to purchase telephone cards or simply time for sun-bathing.

The first days were spent in St. Kizito, the pastoral center of the diocese of Monze. Next to Palm Sunday's procession and church service in the parish of St. Mary's we visited some partner projects of *ewe* and *Fair Trade*. First part of the program was the "Lukamantano Village", a village near Monze, that offers a better life perspective for physically disabled people. The school which belongs to this project is very popular and is already undersized by now. Therefore a new building with two classrooms is under construction. But there was something new that was to be marvelled at: Short time ago a solar pump station had been installed into a drilling hole here. From 40m depth the water is pumped up into a 5000-l-tank affixed to a steel construction. Now clean water is continuously available for the village. Ralf Pauli reported this already in detail in *ewe-aktuell March 2007*.

Afterwards we drove back and visited the "Monze Community School", here we were welcomed by a big number of singing children. We received news here too: The good news was that the chicken house had been built. The bad news was that there were still no chicken! They had been ordered but not yet arrived.

After lunch we visited the Farm of Solomon Phiri. He showed and explained us in detail by which means farmers had to till their fields years ago. This was by a constantly rotating system of cultivation on the different fields in order to preserve them. He explained to us that some farmers cultivate sweet corn always on exactly the same field nowadays and that this implies that they need to use more and more fertilizer. On his farm we were shown that the methods of traditional cultivation are still very useful and effective today and that they even endure bad rain periods. In the evening we drove to a village near St. Kizito where we received a deep insight into the Tonga culture. For example we got to know how a young girl is traditionally prepared for becoming a woman and for marriage. She needs to stay in a hut for half a year and when she is allowed to leave the hut after this period she has to walk over a sacrificial animal. This procedure was shown us in an exemplary play. The sacrificial animal – in this case it was a goat – is then slaughtered and is the basis of the festive meal that is taken together with the guests. We also visited a holy place of the village where the ancestors are traditionally worshiped and where the traditional dances, e.g. the rain dance, are celebrated. Visiting this village deeply impressed us and this will stay in our memory intensely.

The next day the Fair Travel group visited further projects – all of them in Chikuni: the cultural center and the radio station and also the home base care project, which provides good supply for the HIV infected and guidance how to live with this illness. The agricultural trainings center and the oil mill there were also visited by the group.

Together with Phinias and Father Bert I myself went directly to the "Charles Lwanga Basic School" (i.e. the partner school of *Fair Trade*) in order to inspect the second solar pump that had been installed only short before. Here and there it had failed during the past days and together we tried to find out the reason for this. When we arrived the pump was running at first. We measured the water level in order to check whether the drilling hole was sucked empty and then not enough water would run in succession. But this was not the case, therefore we precautionary exchanged the controller of the installation and the swimming plug of the water tank with components that we had taken with us. In the meantime clouds had come up and we did not have enough energy any more to keep the pump running – so this much information to the bad news of the day. Finally the travel group arrived at the Charles Lwanga Basic School. Whilst visiting they noticed that meanwhile chicken had moved into the newly built chicken house. We were welcomed very warmly by Sr. Euphemia, director of the school, and by the teachers.

A new travel unit started the next day. Our group was distributed over the parishes of St. Mary's, Monze, Mazabuka, Choma, Fumbo and Chivuna, here we celebrated the liturgical Easter feast in the individual parishes. Lorena Markewitsch and myself spent these days in Chivuna at Father Shoba's and Father Royd's. These were some quiet and peaceful days because the parish house is situated about 3 km from Chivuna. Around here there are only some small villages situated and this means that the priests need to undertake long ways in order to hold mass in a remote church. We accompanied Father Shoba to Nkonkola on one of his trips and participated at the way of the cross. Apart from the festive Easter night this was a very special experience.

At one church service in the church of Chivuna we met Christoph Schlager, one of this year's *ewe* volunteers. It was very obvious that he had integrated here very well. On a side trip Father Shoba took us to a nearby village where we met Mazuba's grandfather, Mazuba is one of this year's *ewe* volunteers. I handed out a letter from Mazuba to him and I was happy to inform some news and to send greetings from Mazuba.

On April 08th, 2007 the third part of our journey started. All of us came together again and the group was taken to Maamba, here we met Sr. Mary and Alexandra, the second German volunteer. We stayed for two nights and reflected intensely on the first travel unit together with Solomon Phiri and we visited the "Girls for Computer"- project. We also visited the "Lake Kariba" and a crocodile farm. An early morning trip to a mountain close by was integrated spontaneously into the program by Alexandra in order to enjoy the rising sun. This was a very good transition to the fourth unit of our journey: the "sightseeing tour". With a big smile Solomon Phiri commented: "Now you will become tourists."

Our trip took us to Livingstone now, here we put up at the "Chapa Classic Lodge". It is close to Livingstone center and therefore an ideal starting point for walking to the market or shopping tours to supermarkets. We made an excursion to the national park close by and to the Victoria Falls, of course. At this time of the year huge amounts of water avalanche downhill and the thus caused atomized spray gets everything wet that is not especially water proof. But this wonder of nature compensates for everything and we deeply enjoyed the fascinated view and afterwards we started with a group of people down to the "boiling pot" below the falls. The path led us along really beautiful plants that grow here because of the warm and damp climate. The last meters we had to proceed on all fours sometimes across huge stones but finally we reached the "boiling pot". The enormous body of water constantly moves in a kind of swirl and now we understood the name giving: it looked like boiling water.

Apart from the excursions there was still time enough to visit the markets at the Victoria Falls and in Livingstone and to purchase souvenirs there before we started for our sun-cruise tour on our last evening. The Sambesi bid farewell with a marvellous sun set and we drove back to Lusaka the next day where we took our flight back to Germany on April 14th, 2007.

The travel group with its eleven members grew closely together during these two weeks and thank God they took all good and bad events with a healthy humour and with quiet manner. That made it easy and enjoyable for Susanne Moll and myself to be their travel guides and to be on tour with them. This was not my first time in Sambia and there were so many unforgettable moments that I would never have missed them. For sure this was not my last journey to this fascinating country.

Tom Schreiber

Pupil's job fair now in Baesweiler, too

On June, 4th, 2007 the new office of the pupil's job fair opened at Baesweiler after half a year of preparation and lots of discussions. Already during the preparation time, the local press had been very interested in this project. So, all were there at the press conference at the opening day.

The new chairman from fair handeln, Mr Walter Kahn, gave a hearty welcome to all those who have had come: beside the press mainly Mr Eckers and Mr Leuchter from the town administration of Baesweiler, Mr Schleibach and Mrs Schmitz from the fair handeln board with responsibility for the pupil's job fair, Mrs Staas, Mrs Wehren and Mrs Ergamagliolu who are employees at the pupil's job fair and members of the catholic parish and the "neighbours's meeting club Setterich".

Since the middle of April, Mrs Sylvia Staas and Mrs Sevgi Ergamagliolu built up the pupil's job fair at Baesweiler. In the meantime, 20 pupils have been registered and are now waiting for jobs. We hope that after the official opening of the pupil's job fair, there will arrive numerous clients to offer jobs to the pupils. Mr Kahn explained that the demand from the town administration of Baesweiler was the reason for the foundation of

the office at Baesweiler and Mr Leuchter was very keen on the initiative to start this project also in Baesweiler. So, everybody was very happy about the good beginning and very optimistic for the future.

The biggest advantage, the pupils will find from the opening. Beside the jobs for pocket-money, the pupil's job fair offers strengthening and qualification to those who need it.

Finally, we want to point out that the expansion of the pupil's job fair is financed by donations of the town administration and of private sponsors from Baesweiler.

For the further tasks of the pupil's job fair as well as at Alsdorf / Broichweiden as at Baesweiler we are still in the urgent need of donators. Informations about our work and the financing of the pupil's job fair, you find in a brochure which is available in our one-world-shop at Mariadorf and at all events organized by fair handeln. Informations are also available under www.fairhandeln-ev.org.