

Report on 8th support trip to Sri Lanka from 29th May to 24th June 2007

Participants were Christine (4 weeks) and Hans Heinrichs (2 weeks) and the founding members Karin Tietz (3 weeks) and Udo Pape (2 weeks)

Wednesday, 30th May 2007

As usual on the first day of our trip we held meetings with our helpers on site.

The building for the school in Bentota is nearly finished.



The English teacher holds the weekly lessons for € 300 per class/year. For the pupil we did a drawing competition with great prizes.



Thursday, 31st May 2007

Together with our Swiss member Lotti Loosli we visited seven families that have been heavily hit by fate and for whom we have been able to organize German godparents.

Further five families have been given money and four fresh water wells have been handed over.



In the two English classes in Balapitiya which have been financed by us are currently 63 students. As a further 15 applications arrived we decided to open 2 new English classes. Fortunately we are allowed to use the building free of charge.



In Kosgoda we had 17 applications for the newly established English class. Here a Buddhist abbey gave us the buildings free of charge and the English teacher is happy with € 300 for the weekly classes per year.

Friday 01st June 2007

Today we visited 9 families with existing godfatherships (Patenschaften). The lives of all these families have been improved since the support from Germany. The six member family has moved into a simply brick house.



Saturday 02nd June 2007

For a 9-year old boy suffering from artery defect we donated the € 800 needed for the necessary heart operation. Furthermore we decided to pay an English teacher who gives extra lessons in a nearby temple the salary for another year (approx. € 260).

We visited 2 other families with existing Patenschaften who live further away.

We had the honor to be invited to the opening of a "Small luxury hotel" in Bentota which has been established by an English lady who helped our organization generously in the past.

Sunday 03rd June 2007

Sunday was under the motto "Ears-and Glasses Day". Around 25 ear patients were treated for free by the ear doctor support by us. For 21 patients the hearing aids we brought along were fitted. For three children special hearings aids need to be arranged. For a young blind woman we will need a transportable hearing aid, which will be organized by the ear doctor.



In the afternoon 200 patients congregated in the temple of Kosgoda, where we handed over their glasses which were produced in Germany according to their respective prescription.

In the early evening we visited 3 other families with existing Patenschaften. In the evening we met with members of the Lions Clubs Bentota/Induruwa, with whose help we were able to organize 20 eye operation costing € 50 each.

Monday 4th June 2007

Udo Pape and Hans Heinrichs visited 12 families with existing Patenschaften. Karin Tietz and Christine Heinrichs visited 17 families, some of which have Patenschaften, some have health problems and one new Patenschaft was arranged.



Tuesday 05th June 2007

Udo Pape and Hans Heinrichs visited 10 families with existing Patenschaften. Furthermore a craftsman who had become unemployed was given food help for the next 4 months.

To help a young woman into self-employment we donated € 700 for her to invest into a small shop.

With a young father we opened the car-repair shop as discussed on our last trip.



For Karin Tietz and Christine Heinrichs the day was under the motto "Medical Aid". The three children, whose heart operation we paid on our last trip, are doing very well. In the case discussed earlier it seems that the heart disease is inoperable. We will consult a specialist in Germany on this. A father of three children will receive an artificial knee soon.

A new Patenschaft was arranged for a family with a father dying of cancer, who has been sent home to die.

At the end we visited two schools in the country, whose equipment left a lot to be desired. None of the boards was functional any more. If our financial means will allow it we will support these schools on our next trip.

Wednesday 6th June 2007

Today we visited 5 families whereby one new Patenschaft could be arranged.

Three children with different health problems were seen to in hospital and the results will be available in October. Later on we visited 2 needy schools who need school equipment urgently. Lots of the children in these schools do not even have shoes and we will try to help here in October.



Thursday 7th June 2007

On our visit to the Induruwa-Hospital in Gonegalle we saw the improvement possible due to our support. The broken roof was mended, the washing machine and the fridge had been delivered and curtains were fixed. The dental department was renovated and the external painting as nearly finished. The thankful doctor we gave a blood pressure reader, blood sugar reader and an electronic thermometer.

With the financial help of the German godparent we could order a new house for a family living in a nearly demolished house.



Furthermore we visited three other families and one house ordered on our last trip was handed over to one of the families.

A young man who just successfully finished school we were able to help find a job in a printing firm.

For a fish seller we bought a new bike.

A family that started to plant and then sells its own flowers, spices and vegetables was helped with a donation of € 200 for a watering system.

For a family with nine kids who suffered under the Tsunami we helped with furniture and another family was helped with medical aid.

Friday 08th June 2007

Accompanied by a festival attended by the minister, the mayor and other politicians we handed over the mother/child clinic in Beruwala which we ordered in October of last year.



Saturday 09th June 2007

In the morning we went to the hospital of Bentota, where we opened a dental clinic in February. The dentist is sponsored by the government.

In the afternoon approx. 500 eye patients were given glasses made in Germany with the attendance of the minister and the mayor of Karadeniya.



Sunday 10th June 2007

Great joy in the village of Katukele, as we handed over the Montessori-Kindergarten in this village situated near the rain forest. Currently 24 children are being educated there and can play on the playground.





Monday 11th June 2007

Office-day

Tuesday 12th June 2007

The dental equipment donated by dentists from Düsseldorf, Reutlingen and Munich respectively was handed over to the dental clinics of Gonedalle/Induruwa and Bentota where patients will be treated free off charge. In the afternoon we gave three wheelchairs to three disabled people.



Wednesday 13th June 2007

A catholic school in Hamburg and a lawyers firm in Frankfurt gave us specifically for the catholic school of St. Anthonis Boys's School the sum of € 3.900 to buy the necessary school equipment and school uniform for the children. The hand over was done as a special school festival.



Furthermore we had a look at the building progress of the 2-floor Pinwatta-School in Panadura. If the weather holds the school will be handed over in October. On the way back we visited a family who moved into the wooden house paid for by us and whose son was successfully operated on his tongue.



On our visit to another family we made sure that the Rollator brought from Germany had been fully accepted by the disabled woman. For a poor family without access to fresh water supply we ordered the digging of a well.

From late afternoon to midnight we sorted the 137 boxes of goods that had arrived in the meantime.



Thursday 14th June 2007

Today we visited families with five existing Patenschaften and one additional Patenschaft was arranged. In the early afternoon the results of the drawing competition were announced and the children were very happy as a prize was given to each of the participating children.

In the late afternoon we visited the Buddhist temple in Kosgoda to order furniture, a black board and electricity for the new English class.



Friday 15th June 2007

As the freight did not arrive timely for the opening of the Kindergarten in Katukele on the 10th we handed over the promised toys with a 5 day delay.



There we noticed that most children had never seen toys like this before. We saw a lot of big eyes and happy children faces.



Then we gave the Montessori-Kindergarten which is situated about 20 km further some toys too. These children have never had a cuddly toy or seen bubbles before. The joy there was great.



Afterwards we gave a wheelchair to a man with terrible leg injuries and crutches to three other disabled people.



During the examination of a 12 year old boy on Ear Day it was discovered that he could only be helped with an operation. As the chances of him recovering fully we agreed to pay for the cost of the operation.

Saturday 16th June 2007

With Lotti Loosli we visited various families who asked for financial help due to high medical costs. We were able to help some of them.

The afternoon was filled with office work.

Sunday 17th June 2007

The planned second Ear and Eye Day started off badly as there was no electricity in the area. Without electricity the technical instruments were not working which is why a generator had to be organized and which started to work two hours later. Approx. 25 patients had their ears and 15 patients their eyes tested. For most of them hearing aids or glasses could be provided.

In the afternoon we arranged a new Patenschaft for a very poor family. In the evening we bought shoes for two children who had no footwear.

Monday 18th June 2007

Day of rest

Tuesday 19th June 2007

We visited two families, one with an existing Patenschaft and one where we were able to organize one. The rest of the day we sorted the goods and prepared them for the transport to the various clinics, schools, kindergartens and poor families.

In the evening we met with the mayor of Bentota, where he asked for help or some of the very poor families in his region. He asked to build 12 toilets and the re-building of the Montessori-Kindergarten in Kanihintota.

Wednesday 20th June 2007

One young woman who was operated on her bowel cancer was handed the colostomy bags. We made sure that the house built for a family with an existing Patenschaft was ready.

The hospital in Kalutara got given the medical goods we brought from Germany.



Some seamstress received the sewing equipment from Germany. Their greatfulness was overwhelming.

Thursday 21st June 2007

Today Christine visited families with existing Patenschaften. In one of the families they held a small party called "Big Girl Day". This day is celebrated when a young girl finished her first period. For one week the girl was not allowed to leave the house and was only allowed to be visited by women.



An old pair of siblings we promised medical aid, a bed and a wheelchair.



Another fish seller we bought a new bike with a cooler box. A family with 5 children who had to give two of their children into an orphanage due to lack of money we gave food aid to last until October. To be able to get the two children back a new Patenschaft would help.

Friday 22nd June 2007

We followed the wish of the mayor and met with a small building company in Kanihintota. Here we ordered the rebuilding of the kindergarten as well as 8 toilets. We visited 4 families, three with existing Patenschaften and one where we were able to arrange for a new one.

Saturday 23rd June 2007

Today we visited three very poor families. For one we arranged a Patenschaft for the other two we were only able to help with food until October.

The rest of the day was spent with the purchase of beds, cupboards, chairs, mattresses and mosquito nets.

Sunday 24th June 2007

For an existing Patenschaft we ordered the repair of a broken well for a blind woman. Three other very poor families we could only help with food and money for the school due to the lack of new godparents.

In the evening we met with the local helpers and agreed on the work to be done until our next visit.

There is still much to do. The next trip starts on October 8th and will be for three weeks.

Munich, 10th July 2007