

Report on 10th support trip to Sri Lanka in February 2008

With €70 000, Dirk Voss and Hans Heinrichs (3 weeks each) as well as Christine Heinrichs (9 weeks) started their 10th charity journey.

Friday, 1st February 2008

The first day of our trip we held meetings with our helpers on site to evaluate the current situation.

Saturday, 2nd February 2008

Our Swiss member Lotti had organized a "Glasses Day" in Gonegalle / Induruwa. With the help of the organization "Helping Hands Germany" the optometrist measured the eyes of 185 patients. 165 glasses were handed over whereas 9 glasses for children still have to be done. For 11 other patients an eye surgery is necessary which we will organize in cooperation with the Lions Club.



On top of the list of the chief surgeon of the Gonegalle Hospital was the safety of the patients. "Helping Hands Germany" renewed the broken fences, whereas we looked at the repair of the entrance road. Furthermore we sponsored a substitute battery for the generator and a new office chair as the old one was broken.



Sunday, 3rd February 2008

Today we visited 11 families, 7 of them have supporters. We established one more for a German sponsor family.

We gave medical aid twice and to one person some help towards the cost of an apprenticeship. Furthermore we handed over two blood sugar measures to two diabetes patients.

Monday, 4th February 2008

Independence –Day (National Holiday)

Meeting with Uschi and Hannes Gerlach from "Helping Hands Germany" to exchange experiences. In the evening we met with the mayor of Bentota. We promised to build 4 toilets in a poor area.

Tuesday, 05th February 2008

Today we visited the Popudi Montessorri-Kindergarden in Koratillawa / Ovitigala near Matugama. Currently 19 children are being educated here. The building is more or less in order, but everything else is missing. We discussed to extend the playground, to install two toilets and a fence around the property as well as to buy 5 tables, 20 chairs and two ventilators for the classroom. We agreed with the fathers present that we will provide the material and they will do all the work by themselves.



Later on we visited a family with an existing sponsor family in Maggona.

Wednesday 6th February 2008

Today we visited 18 families, 11 of them with existing sponsor families. 3 families received some aid to become self-employed, two families some food aid and another one some medical aid. Furthermore we talked to a technic firm to establish whether a well can be drilled in a small village with 12 houses currently without any water supply.



Thursday 7th February 2008

Over the course of the day we visited 14 families. 10 of them have already sponsor families. For a very poor family in Ambalangoda we organized a new sponsor family. In one case we gave some medical aid, in another some food aid. For the 21-year old unemployed son of a family with 11 members we gave €30 towards the driving license of a Tuk-Tuk. Now he can work as a Tuk-Tuk driver and support the income of the family.



Friday 8th February 2008

After doing some office work in the morning we drove with a doctor to Induruwa. He looks after an organization for the disabled covering 90 people. This organization is registered at the government but does not receive any states monies. Therefore we were approached with the request to put some money towards a workshop for the disabled (approx. €4.000). Between Kalutara and Galle there is no such workshop. A temple in Mahainduruwa has already expressed its willingness to provide three acres of land with two existing buildings for this purpose. In one of the buildings lessons shall be available to the disabled. The other building will be used for accommodation and food, as training programs for a week or longer are planned. Alternatively there is the possibility to use a former school. The people concerned all have either mental or physical disabilities. Depending on the individual disability different training units will be offered with the approach that the people learn to earn their own money in the future.

The District-Secretary which joined the visit of the property promised to make it wheelchair accessible and to provide water and electricity. Interested supporters can send the donation to the following bank details: Hypovereinsbank, BLZ 700 202 70, Account Number 66051170 under the reference "Behindertenwerkstatt" (Work-shop for the disabled).

Saturday 9th February 2008

Today we visited 11 families, 9 with existing sponsor families. For two very poor families we organized sponsor families from Germany. For 8 children in a poor area we bought new shoes for school.

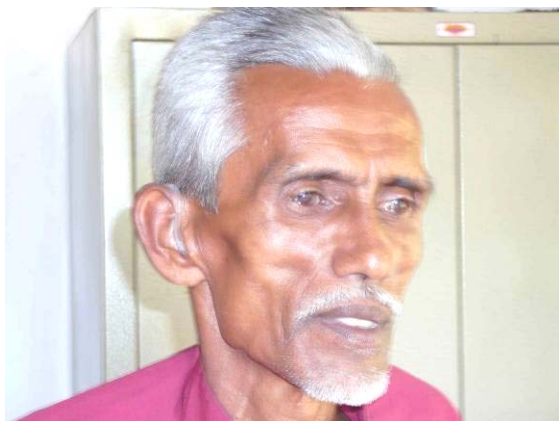


Our member Dirk Voss met his family for the first time in person.



Sunday 10th February 2008

Following our last report we had 11 digital and 18 analog hearing aids given to us. Therefore we were able to organize another eye-and ear day with our doctor. The mayor of Beruwela chose 100 poor families and asked them to come to the mother and child clinic. 23 people received a hearing aid and 77 patients a pair of glasses. The monks, the people of the municipality and the visitors all asked us to offer these examinations in the future as well.



Monday 11th February 2008

The visit of 8 families was on the agenda today, five of them have existing sponsor families. In two cases we gave food aid and additional support for the study fees.

Tuesday 12th February 2008

In Kosgoda and Balapitiya we visited 20 families, 14 with existing sponsor families. A poor family, whose house had no toilet, received the toilet which was ordered on our last trip. Four families got food aid and for three children of one family we organized new shoes, backpacks and exercise books for school.

Wednesday 13th February 2008

After a 2 ½ hour drive we arrived at the Karapitiya-Hospital, the largest hospital in the district and the only heart centre in the southern provinces. There we were able to establish a contact to an Indian heart centre. Due to the support of the Schüchtermann-Heartclinic in Bad Rothenfelde, they will do 20 complicated heart surgeries and pay for the patient's transport from Sri Lanka to India, inclusive of the 2 week aftercare for 2 people each.

Thursday 14th February 2008

Today we had 14 visits, seven to families with existing sponsor families. In two cases we gave some medical aid and in 4 others some food aid.

Furthermore we visited a very happy grandmother, whose tin roofed house (see last report) had been replaced by a small stone house. Thanks to various donations we were able to realize this project very quickly. In the next few weeks we will build an extension for a wash house. The old lady asked us to say "Thank you" to all the donors.



Friday 15th February 2008

For the school of the poor Dedduwa Maha Viddyalaya/Haburugalla we had organized 149 pairs of shoes, school bags and materials for school uniforms. Through a small celebration these things were handed over to the children. The joy of the children was great as all these children come from extremely poor families and would have never been able to afford any of these things.



Saturday 16th February 2008

With the kind support of the German internist Dr. Schimke, who donated one day of his holiday, we were able to do a "Medical Day". In the afternoon we visited an orphaned boy and Dirk Voss spontaneously decided to become his sponsor. Afterwards we visited 2 families with existing sponsor families. For another family we organized a German sponsor family. In two cases we gave money for medical expenses or study costs. We handed over a wheelchair to an old disabled person.



Sunday 17th February 2008

Today we visited nine families, 8 with existing sponsor families. For a girl suffering from leukemia we gave some medical aid.



Monday 18th February 2008

We visited 16 families, 13 with old sponsor families. To one family we gave some schooling gear, another some food aid and another one some medical aid.

Tuesday 19th February 2008

8 of the 13 families we visited have sponsor families already. In two cases we gave some money towards medical expenses. In three cases we gave food aid. For a widow with a 10-year old daughter, whose husband died in an accident three months ago, we organized a sponsor family. The 38-year old widow never went to school herself and was not able to find any work to provide for herself and her daughter.



Wednesday 20th February 2008

Today we visited nine families, who had approached our helpers on site with the request for some food aid or help towards the study fees of their children.

We financed an arm-prosthesis for a girl.



For a 6 months old baby we paid the missing €400 and for a 3 year old girl the € 600 for their respective heart surgeries.

Furthermore we paid some money towards an operation of a girl whose urethra had to be transferred to her bladder.

We are still looking for a sponsor family for a very sad case. A family of 7 who live in a one roomed clay hut in Maha Induruwa. They receive €7 per month aid for the poor from the government. The mother earns approx. €1, 50 per week with the weaving of mats. The 51-year old father suffers from a head injury and is therefore not always able to work. For this family hunger is a daily companion. With € 25 monthly the family would be helped.

Thursday 21st February 2008

Dirk Voss and Hans Heinrichs returned to Germany today. Christine Heinrichs stayed until the beginning of April.

Our next trip starts Mid June 2008.

München, 6th March 2008