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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N°112

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*"To the anxious cry of humankind,
what is the answer? I do not know,
except that Jesus let himself be
beaten, tortured, crucified, and he
stood on the side of the weak, the
oppressed. "*

Dear Friends,

During our last Extraordinary General Meeting of 25 March 2011, it was decided unanimously to amend the statutory conditions under which people can now become members of the association.

As we had indicated in the previous letter, the current donors who wish to support our association without getting involved in its functioning, and who therefore do not wish to remain "members", will *de facto* become "friends" of the association.

As such, they will still be regularly informed of the activities and projects of the association through our quarterly newsletters and our website www.asase.org .

Those who wish to remain "members" are kindly invited to make a written request by returning the reply slip on the back. Would you not reply to this last reminder, you will become "friend" of the association and thus abandon your "member" status.

SOUTH SUDAN TAKING FALTERING STEPS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

We knew that South Sudan was not a land of plenty, but the development of this fledgling country concerns us even more now that over 300 beneficiaries of our Street Children Program have decided to migrate there.

- A recent article in the Khartoum Monitor reported that about 300 street children were identified in the town of Wau, capital of the state of Western Bahr El Ghazal and second most populated city in the South (somewhat less than Geneva).
- South Sudan is not yet a peaceful and fully unified country. After the referendum on self-determination, armed rebel groups opposed to the government have resumed raids in the villages and attacks against the official southern army. There have been hundreds of civilian casualties and thousands of people fleeing the areas of conflict. These militias are sometimes run by "warlords" who used to rent their sinister skills to the government in Khartoum to terrorize the population living in oil regions. Five of them recently rallied under the banner of the "South Sudan Democratic Movement" and George Athor's authority. Athor is a former leading member of the SPLA, the armed wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement who used to fight against the Northerners. This new alliance of convenience is primarily intended to challenge the prevalence of the Dinka ethnic group in the government body of the South.
- It is estimated that between October 2010 and August 2011, nearly 750 000 people will have migrated south.

But the country desperately lacks infrastructure to welcome all the displaced people.

We are particularly concerned by the destiny of the children. Their schooling is far from being assured. Let us not forget that in order to consolidate its power, the North has always kept the South in ignorance: today 90% of the population in the South is still illiterate. Launched in 2006 with the UNICEF support, the "Go to School" initiative aims at a general access to school and improved education standards. It is to be noted that the Church still plays there a significant role in youth education.

OUR PROGRAMS IN SUDAN

- In the South, our Lologo vocational training center works well. We must find the funds to ensure its continuation next year.
- In Khartoum, as more than half of the beneficiaries of our "Street children" program have decided to leave the South before the actual partition of the country, we had to reorganize the program:
 - The 151 remaining teenagers were grouped into the two Gebel Awlia farms; the one in Haj Youssif will now be dedicated to farming.
 - The home for girls El Takamul has been closed. The girls are currently living in the homes Eid Esseïn in Mayo (8 girls) and Sahafa in Khartoum (15 girls). We wish to thank Christine and Jean-Luc who, in these disrupted times, continue to support our action in favor of these girls .
 - SVDP is trying to find a housing alternative (in state homes) for the 14 girls currently registered at the university.
 - The increase of salaries decided to improve the quality of our programs is estimated at € 150 000 in 2011.
 - UNICEF has donated € 11 000 at SVDP, to create among other things a library and a basketball court in our farms.
 - Thanks to our friends from Hilfswerk (Austria), a family from Salzburg is donating € 25 000 to support a feeding center for children in 2011 (with a probable renewal in 2012), and another donor gives € 10 000. On behalf of the 660 children and their families who will benefit from these donations, *vielen Dank!*



Angelina Mill, 6 years old, 1st year primary sc

OUR PROGRAMS IN HAITI

- When Jean-Claude arrived in Hinche, during the cholera epidemic, there were 4 or 5 deaths per day. Called upon by the Department of Public Health, Haiti-Cosmos has distributed 700 treatments through its 28 clinics and its laboratory: it is of course our drug Diarrix that has been much in demand, even in Port au Prince. Within days, cholera stopped causing casualties.
- In the Bethesda college (750 pupils aged from 12 to 20), the limited resources of Haiti-Cosmos (including only twenty teachers) induce classes of over a hundred students. Some pupils stand at the window, others arrive one hour in advance. To remedy the lack of space, it was decided to erect a third floor on the building of the school.
- Our University has about 300 students. About 1000 were initially registered: 700 left to Port-au-Prince when universities resumed classes ; many are coming back after having seen the precarious situation prevailing there. Those who stayed in Hinche are often living in tents.

STATUTORY GENERAL MEETING

We invite all the members of the Swiss Association of Friends of Sister Emmanuelle to attend its Statutory General Meeting, which will take place on **Friday, May 20, 2011 at 18:30 at the Cenacle 17 Promenade Charles-Martin, 1208 Geneva (Malagnou)**

in the presence of Kamal Tadros, the head of our programs in Sudan.

Meanwhile I wish you a month of May full of Easter's graces.

Patrick Bittar
Director

REPLY-SLIP TO SEND US BACK

By mail: ASASE 19, rue du Rhône - 1204 Genève or by fax: 022 310 21 93

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I / we wish to **remain member(s)** of the association
 Name / Company name: _____ First name: _____
 Address: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Date: _____ Signature