

OPERATION RESCUE CHILD CARE PROJECTS



Newsletter NOVEMBER 2016

In August, this year I had the great joy of co-leading an all age team of 15 from my church to Operation Rescue in Mekelle. Since 2005 I have visited what I consider my second family each year but on my previous visit I prayed that if it would be the Lord's will I would not come alone the next time. How God answered that prayer. We had an amazing 2 weeks in which God did so much more than we could have ever asked or imagined. Each day we had a Bible teaching programme at Devotions, both morning and afternoon, followed by sessions of English, music, crafts and games. It was a joy to work with Getachew and the staff and the children responded to us in a

wonderful way. The team were overwhelmed by the love and joy in the centre and I know the experience has left its mark on all of us, albeit in different ways.

We also had the joy of travelling to Adigrat and Adwa to visit those centres, to deliver a shortened form of our programme and to distribute many of the resources we had brought with us which brought them and us much joy.

We pray that God will continue to water seed sown during the visit for His glory and that He will continue to bless this wonderful project.

Kate Doherty





Ethiopia

FOURTH PROJECT ON THE WAY!

The possibility of a new centre in Maichew, a small town about 100 km south of Mekelle, is actively being considered by Friends of ORE in the UK and Ireland. Land has already been offered by the Local Authorities and plans have been commissioned for a brand new facility. Construction and fit out costs of £150,000 stg present a huge challenge but the small team based in N Ireland is seeking God's Will as to how to meet the requirements over the next two years. A real sense of excitement and anticipation is building. Please pray for God's continued blessing on these efforts.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHURCH IN ACTION

For the second time we have had a visit from Church in Action in Frankfurt. Their vision "We want to see a small piece of heaven in our lives, in our town and in our world" corresponds very much to our own vision. Before their trip the group had raised a large sum to help build our guesthouse, and then they themselves helped with the work in situ for a fortnight. In addition, they spent a lot of time playing with the children. In the course of our fundraising tour with Nilma and Getachew we were invited to Frankfurt to present the work of ORE to Church in Action in various locations. Our partnership was strengthened through all this – a team will shortly be departing for India to help with the building of the Project there.



The Church in Action team 'in action'

IMPORTANT VISITORS FROM CANADA

Her Excellency Mrs. Karina Gould, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, and her team including the Ambassador in Ethiopia for Canada visited the Operation Rescue day centre in Mekele. Also present were journalists with their cameras from different Ethiopian media. Her Excellency Mrs. Karina Gould made a speech outlining the purpose of her visit to Ethiopia and specifically to ORE. She discussed the results with the beneficiaries of the project. She gave an interview to the 9 media representatives of the nation, including the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, saying that this was a practical project making a major change to the lives of a marginalized group of people who are in great need. In addition, she confirmed that the Partnership of the Canadian government and Operation Rescue will strengthen and continue. After the formalities, she donated footballs and took time to play football, and interact with some of the children.

Visit of the Canadian Parliamentary Secretary and Canadian Ambassador



PRACTICAL HELP – ENORMOUSLY VALUABLE

For the fourth time a team from the Factory Burgdorf visited our Ethiopian Project. In addition, we welcomed Kate, a loyal supporter from Northern Ireland who has visited Ethiopia many times, with a large group. The two teams committed themselves to various areas of the Project and lent a hand wherever they were needed. We're always very grateful to be able to welcome groups, and also families and individuals as volunteers to our Projects. They bring new horizons to the kids and later often do what they can as ambassadors for Operation Rescue amongst their own circle of acquaintance. Of course they often feel themselves enriched and humbled by their experience. If you ever want to visit one of our Projects let us know!





Brazil

THE NEW BUILDING IS OFFICIALLY OPENED!

Just over a year ago the first cut was made in the ground for our new building. The original intention for 2016 was to build one storey, and to do the upper storey as a second stage in spring 2017. However, the construction ran so smoothly and cost effectively that the whole building could be done in one go. In September already, activities such as dance and judo could begin in the building. The meeting room on the ground floor is partly rented out to externals which brings in income for OR. We are so pleased to have more space and above all, better and more appropriate rooms for our activities.



OPERATION RESCUE CHILDREN GROW UP

It's very important to us that we provide help towards independence: We want to equip the children during their school time with the chance of a successful future working life. But this process doesn't end when their compulsory school period ends – we support them until they can stand on their own two feet.

After 8 years of Project activity, there are some children, now young adults, who have grown up with OR. In the meantime we have been able to offer many of them a job. Four work with us in the Project Centre as porter, band leader and dance teacher which enables them to finance their studies or take further training courses. For example, Jose was one of our first children in 2008. Now he is employed by us and helps out in many areas: He's the assistant band leader, he helps with tuition and with the household and much besides. His job with us has enabled him to undertake training to become a fireman and first aider, which, in turn, is good for us as by law we have to have a qualified first aider on our team. A further eight young adults work with us as

helpers, earning a little while we try to find them jobs. Their help is hugely valuable as they know Operation Rescue well and know what values we try to instil in the children as they go on in life.



Jose, our fireman and Man Friday

Despite all this we are not happy with the status quo. The education system here is poorly structured and there are few opportunities for our young people as regards training and jobs – many still don't have jobs in spite of many attempts over long periods. For this reason our medium term vision is to build a vocational training centre, and to run this in partnership with a Brazilian institution which offers such vocational training. This would significantly increase the chances of our young people being able to stand on their own two feet.

FLOORBALL IN THE LAND OF FOOTBALL

Daniel, a Swiss guy with a passion for floorball, wanted to make the sport accessible to our kids. I thought back to the time, more than five years before, when I was in Brazil for the first time as a volunteer, and wanted to contribute to a somewhat more peaceful atmosphere with an educational program. If there was a new sport, such as basketball, to try out, chaos ensued. However, even the kids' daily football match, played under the supervision of the grown-ups who reminded them repeatedly and gently about fair play, eventually over the years helped them to develop a better attitude to playing, and a respectful attitude, outside the football field too. It was lovely to see that not just football, but also floorball worked really well – after just a short introduction. To my surprise, after a short time the youngsters possessed such a skill with the sticks that they were able to have an exciting, but fair, match. The fact that children, even when they come from the poorest backgrounds, and when their behaviour can only let us guess at how neglected they are, can play peacefully together, is the result of these long years of work by Operation Rescue Brazil. It demonstrates to us that these efforts really do leave behind results.



THE PROJECT IN INDIA IS WITHIN REACH

In India we are now a lot closer to founding a Project Centre: At the end of September Operation Rescue received official permission to work in Kolkata. In the meantime Marciano has been able to put together a Board of Trustees consisting of seven local people.

On his last visit he walked through the streets of central Kolkata with the local Indian coordinator, noting the places where families lived on the streets and marking them on a map. This will help us evaluate where it would be most valuable and sensible to build a Project Centre. It is, however, proving difficult for a charitable organisation to find a suitable place to rent. Up till now we have only been able to rent a small part of a building for an office. We hope that we will soon find a solution so that we can start building our Project at the beginning of the year, then fitting it out and opening with the first 100 children. You can support our work in India with a donation via PayPal, the link is on our website.

A NEW DOCUMENTARY

On his regular annual trip to Ethiopia this summer Marciano was accompanied by Simone Wenger. She is a teacher and passionate film maker with professional equipment and any amount of expertise. She filmed daily life in the Project Centre as well as the stories of individual children and has produced a beautiful documentary which is on our website or can be viewed directly from



WITH YOUR SUPPORT TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

For 15 years we've been able time and again to write success stories – and that is thanks to the support of people like you! We are so happy about all the people we have been able to help to a better life. However, at the moment we are confronted by several challenges: In Ethiopia we are faced with high food prices because of the long drought. In Brazil the prices have risen sharply in the past few years, and as the Real has gone up in value again, our money doesn't go as far. The founding of the Project in India is also proving to be a longwinded and costly process. So that we can help the children in our usual way, we are this year especially dependent on your generous support. You will be investing not only in a happy present, but in a more secure future for these children.

Many, many thanks!

Marciano Teixeira, Christian Baumann

Donations to Operation Rescue can be claimed against tax.

Marciano undertaking his needs analysis



The film maker, Simone, in Ethiopia



Financing

The project Operation Rescue is done through donation and sponsorship of families. Sponsoring one family costs Chf 45 | € 30 | £ 20 monthly.

UK and Ireland:

Nationwide Building Society 19
High Street Enniskillen 33333334
Account Number: 0949/704259263

USA:

Donate by mail or Pay Pal. For details please refer to the following website:
www.fieldsofpromise.org

Swiss bank account

AEK Bank Thun – BC 8704 –
account 161.004.603.08
IBAN: CH28 0870 4016 1004 6030 8

For payments in other countries please refer to our website:
www.operationrescue.ch