



Dear SALEM supporters,

"For I have given you an example". These words are to be found in the Bible in the Gospel according to St. John.

Let's explore what it means to be an example in relation to God's gift of SALEM. Are we to remain fixed in our thinking? In business management, for example, it is impossible to strive for bigger and bigger returns through less investment. On the other hand, striving for profits is often not in harmony with the divine law of including one's neighbour on an equal basis.

Mrs. Ingeborg Schäuble from World Famine Relief said recently: "To have nearly one billion starving people on this earth is a shame for humanity. Unlike the banks, their dreadful position is not their fault. The hunger crisis is far worse than the financial crisis because it threatens people's lives a million times over."

Here at SALEM, we are at present experiencing a decrease in donations for those in need of our help. In addition to the care allowances needed for our institutions in Germany, continuing financial support is essential to maintain our relief projects in Africa, Russia and South America. Yet it is understandable that people are more likely to economise on giving when the financial situation is uncertain.

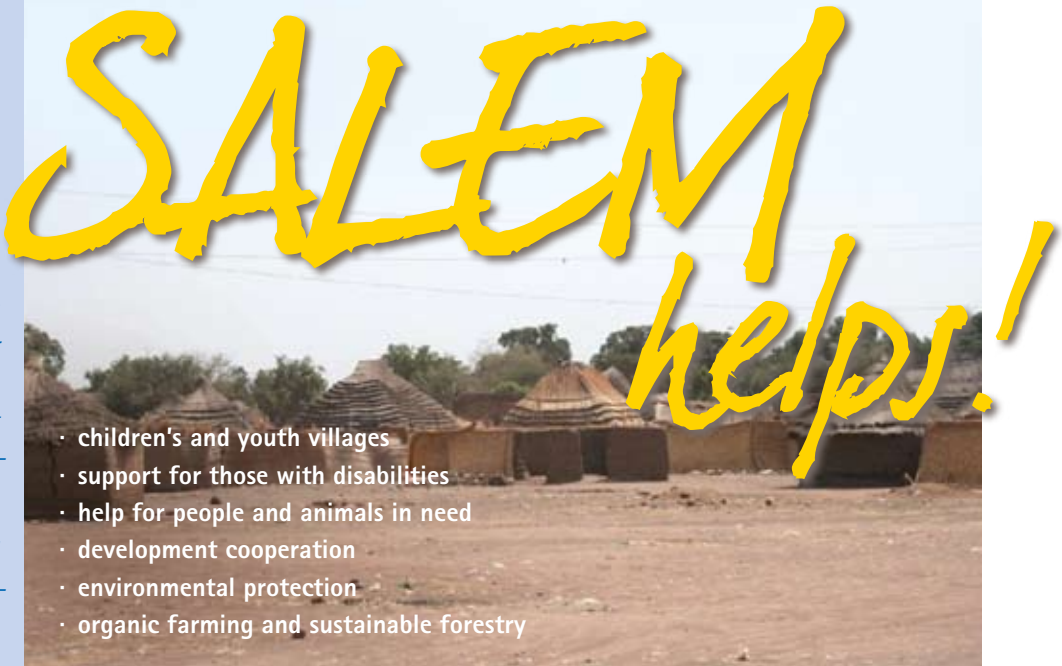
We would like to encourage you to reconsider. Someone who supports SALEM with a donation invests in the future of humanity and our environment. More importantly, SALEM respects the divine nature of life. Simply to love one's neighbour even if he is "dirty". Just like Dostojewski said, "If he was washed white, everybody would love him anyway."

Will you stand by us in the future?

With kind regards from Stadtsteinach (Germany)

Yours

Samuel Müller, General Manager



- children's and youth villages
- support for those with disabilities
- help for people and animals in need
- development cooperation
- environmental protection
- organic farming and sustainable forestry

SALEM on the way to Sudan

Many people in the Southern Sudan are living in poverty. That is why SALEM is going to send two co-workers to the Sudan to find out what projects might help in rebuilding this region and improve the living conditions of people there. This may mean help for the children through the provision of education, out patient services for those who are ill, preventive health care and other measures that would improve upon living conditions there.

In Europe, the image of Sudan has been dominated by news about the Darfur conflict in the North-West of the country. A civil war between the northern dominated central government and southern Sudan caused much damage for several decades. Religious differences between Christians and Muslims had fuelled the conflict. Even now people are being abused by those who seek power and who have political interests giving more reason for a common mistrust between

the people of the two religions. The results of the war are bitter, with more than two million dead and another four million people displaced from their villages, most of whom are now housed in refugee camps.

Although a peace agreement was reached in 2005 enabling many refugees to return to their home regions, the situation for the civil population in particular has remained critical. There is not only a general sense of uncertainty, but also a serious lack of clean drinking-water and the diseases that accompany this. There is no real health system and hospitals are few in number with only 1 out of 4 people having access to medical supplies. Education which may be a way out of poverty is hardly accessible in southern Sudan. Less than half of the children attend school at primary level. If all children were able to attend school there would be 1,000 pupils for every teacher!

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The Republic of Sudan with an expanse of more than 2.5 million square kilometres is not only half as big as Western Europe, but also as culturally diverse as Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Belgium altogether. There are only 40 million people living in the Sudan which means half as many as in Germany. Due to wars and violent conflicts and rough conditions in the environment, there is a lack of vital things like drinking water, medical care and school education in many regions. In the South, SALEM will try to find out how people may best be helped.



Agua Moses knows of the problems in southern Sudan having been born and raised there. As a young boy, he learned from his father how to thatch the roofs of houses with grass in the traditional way. But the first civil war forced him to leave the country. In 1966, aged 24 years, he fled to Uganda. As a SALEM co-worker he has passed on his knowledge. Till now he has thatched from house to house in SALEM where there are over 50 grass thatched buildings. He has also been responsible for undertaking repair and maintenance of roofs and constructs new ones whenever they are needed. Soon, however, he is going to return into his old home to help establish the basic conditions needed for a new SALEM project. He will be accompanied by Sebastian Müller, our new SALEM co-worker for Africa.

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

Help for Southern Sudan is still urgently needed. But we are going to be careful. Many development co-operation organisations have made mistakes in the past. Either the people concerned were not involved in the project or the local conditions were underestimated. Consequently, numerous expensive and apparent practical projects came to nothing.



SALEM will examine the needs in the area first to find out how SALEM can become active there. We will work in a way that enables people to become self sustainable similar to SALEM Uganda which neighbours Sudan. In this way, we guarantee that donations will be used sensibly and effectively.

Our founder Gottfried Müller already had it in his heart to help the people in Sudan. Together with SALEM you can, once again, contribute to make a difference to many people's lives. Can you spare a little of your resources to give hope and dignity and make peaceful living together possible for people in Southern Sudan?

Sebastian Müller, Dennis Buchmann

Sebastian Müller

native of Hamburg (Germany), has been a SALEM staff member since July. Through his community service (as alternative to military service) in Tanzania he gathered first hand experience of life in Africa. He took Applied African Studies at Bayreuth University which specifically prepared him to work in the field of development co-operation.

During this time he worked as an assistant at the Chair for Literature in African Languages and became involved with organisations that have an emphasis on African topics. During his studies abroad in Zanzibar he was employed as a German language teacher at the State University. Once graduated, he worked for a non governmental organisation in Kenya. He has three-years of practical experience working in Africa including Arab regions. He speaks Kiswahili and Arabic in addition to German and English.

During the coming months, together with Agua Moses, he will gain a good insight into the conditions in Southern Sudan.

WITH A WINK

Christianity and soap

In front of the New York cathedral a soap manufacturer said to a priest, "Christianity has not achieved anything within the last 2000 years, they preach and preach, but all they want is money and a beautiful life. People haven't changed."

The priest shows him a little boy with dirty hands and knees. "Soap has not achieved anything either. There are still dirty people around." – "Well, soap helps only if it is applied." Then the priest nodded and said, "Exactly, and it's the same with Christianity."

Food Crisis In Eastern Uganda

WHO DOES IT CONCERN?

In July 2009 the Project Co-ordinator of SALEM-Uganda, Denis Medeyi, alerted SALEM International Headquarters in Stadtsteinach that food shortages are leaving many people hungry in the Teso region of Eastern Uganda. People are dying and the situation is so serious in Malera Sub County in neighbouring Bukedea District, that Ugandan's President Museveni paid a visit recently to see the situation for himself.

The harvest has yielded less crops due to drought, yet any available food is being sold to Sudan at a high price leaving Ugandans short of food as they have no funds to compete in such a market. In the villages around Malera, people are having to eat leaves from wild plants in order to survive.

SALEM Uganda is also experiencing significantly higher food costs for the young people, children and babies it supports. In 2008, prices rose by 40% and are likely to keep increasing.

Famine results in higher levels of sickness and malnutrition. SALEM-Uganda needs to buy and store food now in order to reduce the effect of rising food prices and to be ready to help the increased numbers who come seeking help in difficult times.

Your help is urgently needed to meet this gap in order that SALEM may continue to help those in hard core poverty.

Hilary Storm, Project Advisor

SALEM stories: The “forgotten” child

Sometime in 1967 the telephone rang, “A children’s home is going to be closed, are you able to accommodate 16 children?” – I took a deep breath, then I answered, “Yes, we can. When is everything going to take place?” – “Next week.” Just at that point in time SALEM had opened another children’s home and there were enough places.

In the following week a bus with 16 children and their belongings arrived. There was a large welcoming committee and festivities to greet the new arrivals. In all that hurly-burly there was a telephone call: A child had been forgotten! There were

only 15 children, however the next day the forgotten child finally arrived – let’s call her Barbara.

Barbara stayed with us at SALEM for many, many years. She went to school, celebrated many birthdays with us, successfully completed a training course as a housekeeper and worked in a family with young children where she had a special concern and care for a child with Down’s Syndrome. Finally Barbara left SALEM in order to continue with her education. She met her future husband and to everyone’s great pleasure the wedding reception took place at the guest house at SALEM Lindenhof.

Following her training, Barbara became a housekeeping teacher for young women requiring a special support. She gave birth to four children: a son, then a second one, and finally, as a highlight, to twins.

Now Barbara’s sons are long grown up. She is a very competent mother, wife, and teacher who also provides a loving holiday residence for the young man with Down’s syndrome who is also now an adult. The “forgotten” child has grown up into a woman who has found value in life.

Ursula Müller



Creating the future: The SALEM children’s village near Kaliningrad, Russia

SEEDS OF HOPE FOR ORPHANS WHO NEED OUR HELP

At last the construction of the organic sewage-works has begun. The availability of very cheap filter gravel has avoided the need to import it at high cost.

A big question mark still hangs over legal security in Russia and particularly in the autonomous area of Kaliningrad. To our surprise, the bank to which we have transferred our monthly budget for years has closed abruptly. This is, most likely, due to the economic crisis. Even in Russia, the worldwide financial crisis is touching people in a hard way. Production is coming to a standstill in many companies and every day sees more redundancies. It is families from the working classes who are most affected by this.

We still are in urgent need of a minibus to assist the disabled with travel to and from

care centers and to help us carry supplies. We also need a tractor for use in organic farming.

Just as in other SALEM projects worldwide, here in Russia we are constructing our buildings based on sound ecological and biological techniques. Alone the Organic house, built of straw and mud (cob), and the Organic sewage works have set a precedent. The cooperation with the faculty of architecture here at the university of Kaliningrad and with the local authorities has been very constructive.

Yesterday two more girls arrived in the new family house “Ursula”. In this home we now have eight orphans living with their house parents. We are moving forward in the name of God.

Gerhard Lipfert

IN PRAISE OF SALEM

“I’ve been practising in Stadtsteinach as a general medicine consultant and have known SALEM for years. In 1994 I helped by working in an African SALEM project for six weeks. There they are doing a really good job, donations go to whom they are meant for.”

Matthias Olszewski, Stadtsteinach

QUOTATION

“The coldness of the world is powerless against the warmth of a heart” (unknown)

SALEM CALENDER



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QUOTATION

*“Go with the people:
Live with them.
Learn from them.
Love them.
Start with what they know.
Build with what they have.
But of the best leaders
When the job is done, the
task
Accomplished,
The people will say,
“We have done it ourselves.”*

Lao Tsu, China, 700 B.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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LEGEND:

- GENERAL
- SOCIAL WORK
- DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH AND DIET
- ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF ANIMALS



SALEM-ECUADOR: Very good reports for the children

WITH A CAUTION FOR THEIR CLEANLINESS!

What do good marks have to do with clean school uniforms? Not so much, one would think. A stain on the shirt may have no influence on the performance at algebra. However, in the Catholic school of the village Mindo in Ecuador with its 2,500 inhabitants, the nuns in charge keep a careful eye on scrupulous cleanliness of the pupils' clothes. "Otherwise there's going to be trouble", Malte Fähnders explains who is running the SALEM house in Mindo at present. "Sometimes the children may even be sent home because of that".

For 13 children in Mindo to go home means to go to the SALEM home. There they can live, learn and, much more importantly, just be a child. In their original homes, alcohol addicted fathers or young, single mothers out of their depths are waiting for them. Both are widespread problems in Mindo. 30 more children come to the SALEM house in the afternoon to do their homework there without being disturbed.

The way home from school is muddy in places and so it is inevitable for their uniforms to become dirty, especially when a spontaneous soccer match takes place. This is why the washing machine in the SALEM home has constantly been running: for six years, ten times a day, this means 15,000 washing cycles at a rough estimate. In the face of this you cannot blame the machine for becoming weaker: it does not pump up

the water properly any more. The clothes remain dripping wet and only dry hard in the tropical climate. "But it is nearly impossible to find an expert for repairing it here, never mind spare parts", Malte Fähnders says. "We just need a new washing machine."

The project manager would buy one in the capital town of Quito which is more than two hours' car journey away. "This is, of course, a waste of time, but if I could buy a new oven with a cooker at the same time we would have killed two birds with one stone." The new kitchen is SALEM's pride and joy. But the old gas cooker is on its last legs. "But cooking is the children's great passion!", the 36-year-old narrates with enthusiasm that leaves on in no doubt that everyone enjoys cooking in Salem!

This is something which the children definitely deserve. Recently, they received their reports. In Ecuador there are marks from one to twenty. Nine out of thirteen children from SALEM have no mark lower than fifteen! "We are more than satisfied with their performances at school", Malte Fähnders is pleased. His conclusion: "The waste of time and the support for SALEM-Ecuador are very much worth it!" Hardly anything else in Mindo will make the children's future bloom more than education.

Dennis Buchmann