

SALEM HELPS!

working for peace around the world · christian, charitable, social
 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



Because there is no-one else

Safe and Sheltered at SALEM: Samuel Mueller reports from the SALEM Children's Camp in Ecuador, South America

Children are noisily playing and running around. Some amuse themselves with marbles, some do handicrafts, and others help with the washing up. I arrive at the SALEM Children's Camp in Mindo, in the middle of the rainforests of Ecuador, to lots of laughter. However, their laughter masks unimaginable pain. These children had to endure poverty and tragedy before they found a safe haven here at SALEM.

Take for example Paulo, aged 13. Had he not been taken in by SALEM, his life today would be totally different - beaten by his alcoholic father, forced to work hard and unable to go to school - his was a life without joy and hope. It's likely he would end up on the streets, driven by alcohol and hopelessness, just like many of his other fellow sufferers. Instead, he is now one of the best pupils at school, loves all things

technical and has a sense of belonging at SALEM-Ecuador. He knows that his friends here at SALEM are there for him - a shoulder to cry on when things get too much for him from time to time.

Apart from 12 resident children, SALEM also looks after up to 35 other children during school term who have nothing at home.

A delicious meal is one of those things every child wants, and that's exactly what the children get here: a healthy vegetarian lunch. After lunch, it's time for learning and practise followed by plenty of time for play, crafts and running around. It doesn't sound much to us, but these children would not otherwise have a childhood. As the saying goes "an adult responds to acts, a child to love." This is not any different for our children at SALEM-Ecuador. Children who have experienced love turn into adults capable of giving love.

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Dear SALEM Friends,

This is a special editorial, as I am writing this directly from SALEM in Ecuador. The children in South America face a particular tragedy. When Christians settled here, they did so without any respect for the people who already lived on the land. It was therefore important to us some 10 years ago to build a place of peace there. As Christians, we wanted to show that our faith meant love and support. Because of this, the children here are happy. These are children who would otherwise have nothing.

In January 2010 I also went to the SALEM Camp in Uganda where I found the same heart-warming scenes: people who look after others with love, dedication and lots of experience behind them. It makes sense that any help provided allows people to take some responsibility themselves. SALEM in Uganda was founded in 1980 after the terrible civil wars, and now looks back on 30 years of experience! From Uganda I carried on into Sudan where I was saddened to find a country devastated and its people left poverty-stricken after 2 decades of war.

I was reminded of the saying "Some look on as the world changes, others get involved and act." SALEM definitely acts and we now have to put our trust in God as funding for our work is running out. We urgently need more people to help us. Please therefore consider making a donation to SALEM. You have our sincere gratitude!

Yours,



Samuel Mueller, Director



Soon, the new school year will start. It's not just the enrolment that costs a lot of money. Here are some other examples:

- The fee for the primary level for one child is 7 Euros per month
- The fee for the upper secondary level for one young person is 8.50 Euros per month
- Enrolment is 15 Euros per child
- A school uniform costs around 37 Euros per child
- Materials and books are around 40–80 Euros per child
- A healthy vegetarian lunch for all the children costs 40 Euros per day
- The cost of employing 4 teachers to help the children with their homework is 235 Euros per month

SALEM will have to find all this money for our children. What we do now will determine what kind of future these children have, and we need your help with this!

Paulo (13) would be living on the streets without SALEM. Kathrina (15) may now be an alcoholic and pregnant. I ask the current project leader, Jonas Lange, "Why do we do this, why all this effort?" After a short pause, he answers "Because there is no-one else."

SALEM has big plans: for example, we want to build a school for children whose parents don't have much money. Also high on the project leader's wish list is an organic garden where the children can train to receive a formal qualification.

Samuel Müller

We urgently need your help to secure the provision of safe water at SALEM-Uganda

Water is life

■ When Gottfried Mueller went to a Uganda devastated by war and suffering at the beginning of the 80s, he found a country destitute and affected by severe drought. The first operations in the SALEM camp were conducted in the shade of the only tree.

In 1982, an experienced volunteer decided to drill a well. Surprisingly, despite the sparse landscape, water was found at 64 metres deep, water that was safe enough to be drinking water! Trees were planted, and having their own well meant that they could water small seedlings.

In 1984, a 3,000 litre water tank was built by SALEM. This tank, supported by electricity, could soon be filled up with water pumped from the well. Even today this well has not dried up – it still provides excellent water, even during times of great drought. The pump has been running now for 26 years delivering a first class service!

When I recently went to SALEM in Uganda, I, together with our resident volunteers, had the chance to check out the water system. Unfortunately, it is apparent that immediate action is required. The water tank is starting to leak in some places and needs to be urgently repaired. There are also some cracks appearing in the foundation and walls.

The SALEM health centre and the children and babies' home all need safe water. To ensure a sanitary water supply, the waste water system also needs to be overhauled.

This will cost us 15,000 Euros and SALEM already have around two thirds of the money needed thanks to the very generous donation of one company, as well as the income from the SALEM Calendar Project. We still need around 4,800 Euros to ensure that the water at SALEM in Uganda does not dry up. Please help us, and give life! Many thanks! *Samuel Müller*



The ecological concept of the SALEM village in the Oblast Kaliningrad region – the first of its kind in Russia

2009 was an eventful year for our children's and young people's village in Russia. The new bio-sewage system means a future full of hope and plans. SALEM director Gerhard Lipfert reports:

When SALEM finally put their bio-sewage plant into operation, a major milestone was achieved and the building of urgently needed children's accommodation can now go ahead. The bio-sewage plant is an ecological project piloted for the whole of the Oblast Kaliningrad region. Russia is now planning to build a further 600 of these plants as a result of our project.



Opening ceremony of the bio-sewage plant

This would not have been possible without the support of the German charitable foundations Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, Bild Hilft Kindern and Stiftung des Instituts fuer Baubiologie Neubeuern. And of course none of this would have been possible without the generous donations received from SALEM friends and their families. On behalf of our director and everyone from the SALEM children's village in Russia, we want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all our supporters.

In 2009 alone, we not only managed to help and advise the families at the children's

village on welfare and care issues, but also over 240 children, young people and families from deprived backgrounds. The peer support group for children with disabilities plays a crucial role in this. Once a week, advice is available to parents with a disabled child. Also on offer now are therapy sessions and taster sessions in supported employment.

The next children's house will be purpose-built to accommodate and look after children with disabilities, for which we hope to raise much needed funds. This accommodation is a first and will be environmentally friendly and energy efficient. We want the house to use as close to zero energy as possible.

Despite adverse weather conditions, we received a considerable income from our farming, gardening and fruit production projects. A tenth of the money raised was used to support social care projects, such as orphanages, soup kitchens and church projects helping others.

In 2009 we organised an International Youth Camp. This was our contribution towards international youth work, recognising the need for a movement defined by harmonious and environmental principles. The camp was run by the Bonner Verein für Jugendförderung (Bonn Society for the Furtherance of Young People), with experts from youth social work together with young people from Russia, Germany and Poland. This was the first time young people from Eastern European countries had a chance to learn about specific environmental principles. They could see and experience this first hand at the SALEM



village in Russia and learn about our organic farming methods, healthy food, healthy living and the use of herbal medicines. We also ran workshops and events exploring the history and art of different countries. Our environmental day left a lasting impression on everyone. The day was attended by a representative of the DBU, invited guests from the Duma, churches as well as the German consul general and his wife. The highlight of the day was a tree planting ceremony. It was a befitting end to the youth camp, creating a natural landmark at the SALEM village in Russia, aptly named 'Bonn Alley'.

So, what's next for SALEM-Russia? We have now managed this project over the last 10 years and feel it may now be the right time to consider more autonomy for the FONDS SALEM RUS charity and the SALEM children's village. It's time for them to begin to go it alone and come up with their own resources.

SALEM International will of course always be on hand to support and guide the project. We feel we have to make this decision because donations for the SALEM Russia project are slowly drying up. This is just one part of our work in Russia, and there is so much more we could tell you about our other work there as well as in other countries around the world.

If we want to continue to expand the SALEM village in Russia, we need your continued help. Many thanks!

Gerhard Lipfert



YOUR WILL DURING YOUR LIFETIME

helps people, particularly children, in need. Many SALEM projects would not have been able without the generosity of people remembering SALEM in their Will. Please do not hesitate to help ensure that our important work will continue beyond your earthly life. We would like to cordially thank you for this!

Samuel Müller

**CHALLENGES FOR
 SALEM-UGANDA CHILDREN'S
 HOME IN 2010**

Due mainly to the high increase in the price of food (see below) experienced during the past eighteen months, SALEM Uganda urgently needs to find an extra 171 Euros per month to maintain the running of the Children's Home. These funds are needed now! **Cost of food:** 2008: 5,623 Euros, 2009: 7,679 Euros
 We have 30 regular supporters of the orphans in SALEM Children's Home. This is wonderful and we are thankful to God for the good hearts of friends like you. **More friends needed!** The joy of sharing a little of what you have is a very great experience. In giving to SALEM's orphans, you are giving to those innocent children who have no material possessions yet who are joyful, full of laughter and loving. Are you able to share the good work of SALEM with your friends? Thank you once again for all the help you have given to SALEM's children. *Hilary Storm, Denis Medeyi*

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LEGEND:

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

Five in One Stroke

SALEM has dedicated the year 2010 to education. We are hoping to provide long term support to five projects with our Initiative "Education package" (Bildungspaket)

Education is a universal human right. Fine in principle, but what if there are no schools, what if there are no teachers to teach, what if there are no books to read? For 800 million people the right to education remains just empty words because they do not have access to education. Over 100 million children alone are not even able to go to primary school.

We all know that education is incredibly important. Access to education helps us gain knowledge of the world and makes us more likely to live a life in dignity and prosperity. Education affects many other areas of our lives – the very areas SALEM has always supported. Education makes us more receptive towards healthy living, the protection of our environment and social responsibilities.

For these reasons, SALEM will concentrate on education this year. The Initiative "Education package" makes use of experience gained through five established projects and hopes to support mainly children and young people to live a more independent life. The good thing about education is that its effect lives on. Parents who received a good schooling or further education can pass their knowledge onto their children. And the children who receive support through SALEM's Initiative "Education package" will one day become parents themselves and will be able to set an example to their own children.



Children at the SALEM-Uganda nursery

Education is a big uncertainty in poorer countries – but even in Germany some areas of education can still resemble those of a developing country. SALEM would like to give more support to the following five projects:

At SALEM-Uganda even the smallest children in the nursery are already learning through play. The older children receive vocational training in the health centre, to become, for example, midwives while some train to become tailors at our workshop.



Children's holiday camps in Germany

At the education centre in SALEM-Togo, people learn through our agricultural test areas, model forest and herbal garden that an environmentally sound approach is not only more sustainable but also more productive.

In Ecuador, SALEM enables 12 children from poor and socially deprived backgrounds to go to school. An additional 35 children receive homework tuition in the afternoon.

The One World Network Bavaria (Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern) has awarded SALEM the title of One World Station – identifying SALEM Stadtsteinach as a focal point for global learning. Recognising an ever increasing need to create a more global context, SALEM will not only provide education events for students but also for teachers.

Children's holiday camps in Germany teach children with attention deficit disorders to become more socially confident. Your donations allow the children of parents with a low income to take part.

Please help SALEM to support and expand these five projects on a long term basis. Thank you! *Dennis Buchmann*