

Rundbrief

Berichte und Austausch über Missionsarbeit (Apg. 14,27 / 2. Thess. 3,1)

**"But he who was sown on the good earth,
this is the one who hears and understands the word, who really bears fruit;
And one wears a hundred, the other sixty, the other thirty.
(Matthew 13:23)**

Trier, June 2026

Dear newsletter readers,

When I wrote my last newsletter, I wrote about Egypt, South Sudan and Ethiopia: "It's still a little way off ...". But, today that is already a thing of the past. We are already back and everything went well – thank God.

The special thing about this trip was that the worldwide coordinator of the Emmaus Organization, **Marlon Govendor**, was there. And I have to say, that was very pleasant. We had a very warm, brotherly togetherness. Marlon is an ex-Hindu. He has converted from Hinduism to the Lord Jesus. In all three countries he has given the testimony of his conversion. That was impressive. You can also listen to this testimony on YouTube. Worth it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FX7EsYivbzo> from minute 4:50.



Marlon Govendor

I was very grateful that **Eduard Sudermann was also present in Egypt and South Sudan and Uwe and Petra Schäfer in Ethiopia**. We form such a good team!

Our Bible passage on the letterhead speaks of 30, 60 or 100 folds of fruit. It is so beautiful to see how so much has happened over the years, first in Ethiopia, then in Egypt and now also in South Sudan, so much fruit has emerged. When I look back, I am amazed at the amount of people who have taken our courses. And through the mouths of many, we hear that their lives have changed as a result. Did you know that in Ethiopia alone, well over 125,000 people have taken at least 24 courses and thus received a diploma? Praise the Lord for it. In addition, several 1,000 students have taken 48 + 2 courses and received a bachelor's degree in theology.

I could write something about all three countries now, but limit myself to South Sudan and something from Ethiopia, otherwise it will be too much.

South Sudan

At the airport in Juba, everything was very easy. Our brothers, who obviously have contact with the authorities, had arranged everything for us and it went like clockwork. That's a fine thing, because the whole thing at the airport was very chaotic. Afterwards we were invited to our Emmaus office, which is very close to the airport. There, at reception, we were lovingly told that they still need three computers and two motorcycles for work. It's nice that one can talk



Graduation Juba

to each other so openly, isn't it? Well, we've noted that ... There we were also shown all the booklets that had been corrected for the diploma ceremony: A total of 182 x 12 booklets. The next day there was the graduation ceremony with this amount (182) of students. The press was there; people from the television station was there. It was a big celebration with some testimonies, of course.

The next day (Sunday) Eduard, Marlon and I were each invited to a sermon in a church. I can only speak for myself, but I found it disappointing to see that so many people were there and didn't get anything right in terms of spiritual content (except my sermon hopefully). It was all as empty as in a disco: a lot of noise and dancing, without content. When I was allowed to preach, everything became quiet and people listened carefully. My topic: *"How to be born again and how do I grow as a child of God?"*. Afterwards, there was a heartfelt thank you from many sides. Marlon was in another church,



Press and Television



Conference Juba

experienced the same thing, and told me afterwards that he would not have been able to preach there. He would have been so restless by the fuss that he could not find words to preach.

In the next few days there was our first conference in Juba with our fellow workers from Emmaus. There was a little over 100 people present.

We heard again and again from many sides that there are many Christians in this country who know nothing about God's word because they have church leaders who don't know anything either. From the questions of those present, it emerged that there are many "prophets" with false teachings. From the reactions of the listeners, it was clear that they were very happy with our answers and knew that their suspicions were confirmed. We are pleased that through this conference we were able to reach many "bishops" and pastors from all over the country who would like to do our courses and thus get to know God's Word. Many came from far away, from all over the country.

We were also taken to a plot of land that the association "Emmaus-South Sudan" bought to build an Emmaus office plus community room, children's home and, and, and. Now we are curious to see how this develops. If you would like to support this project, please feel free to contact me. I can then forward it. As far as the children's home is concerned, on the last evening we were taken to a "children's home" where 100 children are housed in miserable conditions.



Plot of Land Juba

Pastor Ayman had seen this at the time and hopes to be able to do something good for them. As I said: If you are interested ...

All in summary: There is also a lot to do in South Sudan, let's help where possible.

Ethiopia



Plot of Land 03.10.2018



Plot of Land Today

On October 3, 2018, Degefa took me to Zuway to a memorial stone that had been laid: At that time, it was erected as a souvenir of the start of the construction of a conference center. I didn't know anything about it. Last week we were there and had our second Emmaus conference there. It's great what has become of it. I hope it will be similar in South Sudan!

We had a very nice time there last week. About 90 correctors had travelled from all corners of the country. Together with the staff we were over 100 people together. Some came from more than 700 km away to enjoy the nice fellowship.

The thing I liked the most was Sunday morning. With all those present, we were able to commemorate the death of the Lord.



The Conference Room at the Plot



At the Office

It's something they don't even know there. In peace and quiet, while singing beautiful songs a cappella and reading Bible passages, we thought of what the Lord Jesus has done for us. It was so beautiful. Praise the Lord! The reaction was so positive. Everyone was very happy.

On the last day we were with all employees in the office in Addis Ababa. We read Psalm 133 together and especially the last verse from it: *"There the Lord commands the blessing"*. It is so nice to see how our workers there have been *"working in harmony with each other"* for many years. And the blessing flows! We always feel so comfortable there! And again, I have to say: "Praise the Lord!"

Thank you very much for your interest and we wish God's blessing.

Wim and Anita Hoddenbagh

Bank details:

For Ethiopia (project number 20), Egypt (project number 21),
North Sudan (project number 24), South Sudan (project number 25)
Zentral-Afrika-Mission e.V. IBAN: DE29384621351503630016BIC: GENODED1WIL

for Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco: Onesimus e.V.: IBAN: DE75640912000209241004BIC: GENODES1MTZ