

Namibia-Partnerschaft Gladbach-Neuss:

Nachrichten ab Mitte März nach unserem Besuch – Corona-Response

Am 12.3.2020 waren wir zu einer gut vorbereiteten Partnerschaftsbegegnung nach Namibia aufgebrochen. Doch schon bei unserer Ankunft war klar, dass die Corona-Pandemie die Reise überschatten würde, ab dem 14.3. wurden von Namibia aus alle Direktflüge nach Deutschland gestrichen. Am Sonntag war klar, dass wir schnell handeln mussten. Wir konnten einen neuen Flug buchen, um am Dienstag, den 17.3. über Johannesburg und Abu Dhabi nach Frankfurt zu kommen.

Schon am Montag, den 16.3. wurden in Namibia die Schulen geschlossen und ab dem darauffolgenden Wochenende alle öffentlichen Veranstaltungen verboten, ebenso auch die Gottesdienste – wir haben also das letzte Wochenende, an dem gemeinsame Gottesdienste möglich waren mit den Partnern an der Küste (Walvisbay und Swakopmund) erlebt. Am Montag konnten wir in Windhoek noch bei einem kurzfristig organisierten Treffen die Partner der Windhoeker Gemeinden der AMEC treffen. Naomi Kisting und die Mitarbeiterinnen des Nähprojektes sahen wegen der Warnungen keine Möglichkeit, uns an diesem Tag zu sehen.

Im Folgenden haben ich die Nachrichten von den Partnern, die auf Anfrage kamen, zusammengestellt. Es sind die O-Töne mit einer Auswahl der Bilder, die ihre Aktionen beschreiben.

1. Anise Stephanus, Schriftführerin AMEC-Swakopmund:



Bild:

Die Partnerschafts-Delegation am Montag, 16.3.2020 kurz vor der Abreise nach Windhoek

Ansie am 19.3.:

“We were fortunate to have you amongst us for the weekend, we were very blessed by your visit and the information sharing sessions. God had been our Master and we could met in

His Name and make music and to worship Him. Great was your blessings upon us as the Richard Allen AME Church. God bless you as the leader of the delegation and as a person. Greetings to ALL friends, blessings in abundance. Ansie“

21.3.:

“Good morning Reverend Sandner, it is sad to hear about the death toll and the infected number, which is very high and put us in insecure situation. I trust God will intervene for us, as this pandemic is like a enemy attack. May the Lord protect you and your families and keep this virus far from your tents, may He commands His angles to take charge of protecting you. We are also not having church services close until 14 April 2020. Take care of you well, Ansie“

24.3.:

„Please share if all my family is safe, also the group. I understand our number is now at 6 tested. The sectors been closed as of Friday, 27 March till 14 April 2020. Some areas in and out like Windhoek and coast also will be closed for travelling. *Prayer and being at home is the only option.* Have a blessed evening and greetings... Really this disease caused us many things just hold up, but what can we do! We had to adhere to what we have on hand. We will stay in prayer for everyone and for the entire world. Only God knows. More blessings and take care! Ansie”

28.3.:

“This disease take our time somehow. Preparation for the lockdown and so forth, but we are ok. Ansie”

29.3.:

“Thank you for all information, Reverend. Today I had my devotion and my scripture was Psalm 41, which also touchy. *The members had also home church,* we hope for all of the world that this man-made virus is over in Jesus Name. I hope that you don't have many death cases and take of you, Reverend. Can you please if possible send me Felisitas contact number? Thank you indeed for information sharing and blessings. ANSIE”

[14:38, 10/04/2020]

Ansie Stephanus: Join us for the Windhoek District Good Friday Service: <https://youtu.be/5gntldiKXsS> - Reverend this is how our District Presiding Elder organise for us the 7Calvar words, blessings for you

15.5. nach erneuter Kontaktaufnahme durch mich:

„Dear Reverend Sandner, good night in Namibia. We are doing health wise ok, but *still it's tricky to go around for visiting or any gathering in numbers our restrictions still is ten people. People are afraid to have Devotions at least with the 10 people, because of the virus.* We are so hungry for worship services, but still do our encouragement messages and Bible verses. *They had a service at one of our oldest Grandmother's house last week, she turned 105 years old on 5 May 2020.* I also did not start working yet, don't know what is inline for us. Thank you for the Scripture. When we open fully I would like to start with a project for the needy people, but needs to do a proper survey for accurate catering. I will forward the pictures of ouma to you. Thank you once again and greetings. Ansie.”



2. Erna Rhoman, Dorcas Centre, Eben-Ezer, Katutura:

10.4. schreibe ich mit Bildern (s.u.):

“Dear Erna, while we have quiet times in our houses or going out alone for a walk in the green spring time... I often think of you and the situation of the people in Katutura, hoping everyone is well. I pray that this virus will not hit those who live in poor surroundings. Some of my pictures remind me of the helpful visit and your loving attention to the kids and those who look after them. Greetings for this Good Friday! God bless! Christian”



[17:08, 10/04/2020] Erna Rhoman:

“Good day my brother thank you also for your great concern about our kids till date no one was affected and hope the situations will continue as it is we are also praying for you and your Country and wish you all the best and safe passage of the pandemic, Amen. My birthday is tomorrow. - We receive a good rain on this Good Friday”

23.4. – Erna berichtet über Notfallhilfe, die durch unsere Spenden möglich wurden:

„Greetings to All you who visited Namibia recently. Hope you enjoy your stay in our Country. Greetings also to Dear Ulf and members of the Neus Parish Partners who did not have the opportunity to visit Namibia. *Let me start by thanking your for the additional cash donation you gave to the Dorcas Centre through our local Pastor, Rev Charles Mutambo. We utilized these funds to buy food parcels for the BGK AME Church Elders as well as those who participate in the Dorcas feeding program. All together 22 Elders benefited from this exercises. Thank you once again.* Attached are their picture's as they received their food package's and also picture's of the Centres newly established small garden. God blessings to you all during this Conora Virus Pandemic. Erna Rhoman”

Dazu 20 Bilder (hier eine Auswahl:)





2. Betty Schroeder, Presiding Elder Windhoek District AMEC

24.3.

Neues von Betty: *"We just had a meeting and will use the benevolent money you gave* to respond to the needs of the people during this COVID19. We will buy food, medication, hand sensitizers, tissue papers, soup, etc for those who are sick and old so yes, your assistance came at the right time and we are humbled."*

*"We had a zoom meeting... *the funds are only used for St. John's - my other church (Rehoboth) will follow the same emergency response plan but with their own funding.*

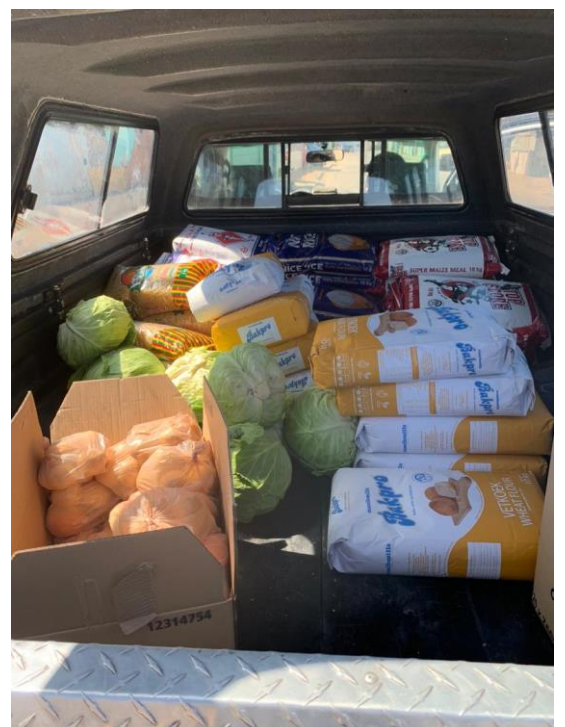
And then I will do the same for the district with some of the funds we raised during the Sports tournament and Bazaar... we have elders that need nappies/dippers, immune boosters, vitamins, daily soup and kids need that too so all I can do is to give them a bit of hope through what we have..."

1.4.:

Good evening Pastor,

Today we delivered food to the sick and Elderly. This was done from the funds you send. *During this time of lockdown it is difficult for everyone so the Social Action and Response Plan for COVID19 through your generous assistance enabled us to give something to the community.*

(Dazu schickte sie 21 Bilder aus ihrer Gemeinde AMEC-St.Johns /Kusebmond, Walvisbay:)



We thank the partnership for your timely assistance.

May God keep on blessing you and your families during this trying times.

Rev. Betty

We identified 13 families that really needed assistance. Food, veggies a bit of medicine and sanitizers. The municipality is giving water for free. We praise God for that!

15.5.20, 17 Uhr, Meine Frage nach ihrem Wohlergehen:

„Dear Betty, two months have gone by since our visit in Namibia which started so wonderful and so intensive. Many times I am thinking of your church members, how they are doing - we got the link to your service via youtube on Good Friday - how did you survive since then? Did you have more digital experiences like that?

And I am thinking of those vulnerable children we met in Katutura and simple houses poor people have to live in the townships - I hope, the virus did not hit you too hard, also economically! - How can you support them, can you continue with soup kitchens, etc. and would you need more help from us?

May God bless you and give you strength! I greet you with the Motto for our coming Sunday Ps 66:20: "Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removes his steadfast love from me!"

Best regards, Christian"

15.5. 17.30 Uhr, Antwort von Betty mit 55 Bildern:

Dear Christian,

We can not stop talking about your visit and the warmth and care we experienced with the whole team.

Our church members were affected severely because most of them are domestic and hospitality (hotels and food places) workers and had to be retrenched during this time. We are challenged with extreme situations but the God we serve is an awesome God.

Our Bishop has pledged a R100 000 to assist people in Namibia, South Africa and Angola- 10 people per district which comes to 360 people in the three countries.

As a district I have send out a survey to n order to assess the situation and draw up a plan of action for the Relief Fund.

I reached out to Pick-n-Pay (=Lebensmittelkette) and they assisted us for two days with cabbage, butter-nut, bread and cooldrinks . I have asked them to keep us in mind if they have damaged canned food or any food that may be close to expiry but which is eatable because the situation is becoming severe.

I will share pictures of what we did as well as the survey link for your perusal.

For (Sunday-)services we are still doing it virtually or through voice recordings or text messages and radio slots for those in extreme rural areas.

We are planning to re-open pick-up and go soup-kitchens with all the necessary regulations in place but at Windhoek, Swakopmund, Walvisbay, Okahandja, Groot-Aub and Gobabis so that we try to be fair and accommodative towards the entire district so if possible this type of support for the district initiative will be highly welcomed. It saddens me to reach out to some and not assist the others. So for COVID-19 if considerable, and God willing, whatever you can help with please do it through the district and we can equally distribute it through a fair feeding programme.

How is the situation on your side? We will remain closed for churches until further notice but we are prayerful and hopeful that some day this will end before many lives are lost.

We pray that you and your families will be protected and keep safe during this trying times.

Blessings,

Rev. Betty Schröder



Anhang: der Online-Fragebogen an alle Gemeinden im Windhoek-District der AMEC:

<http://www.sogosurvey.com/Survey1.aspx?k=TsQVYPWPsSsPsPsP&lang=0>

"The " new normal life" is a bit scary but we will have to trust God for the future. You are in a fortunate position. For us Government promised to assist through a stimulus support but they only looked at small business and gave those who lost their jobs a once off 40 Euro. Churches they promised to assist but three weeks after we submitted names of people who were severely affected they send a letter retracting their efforts. The situation with us seem to be a bit under control but the reality is that only 1500 were tested."



3. Sofima ELCRN (das Nähprojekt, das wir vom KK aus unterstützen):

Am 9.5. schickt Uli Baege von der VEM folgende Bilder:

Covid-19 response by ELCRN - SOFIMA preparing for the first phase

