

## Report on the fourth Mission of Mercy to Sri Lanka, February 11<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Day 1

Due to the German employees, lawyers and partners of an international law firm we have been able to order a new building for the charity school in Panadura in October 2005. As November, December and the first weeks of January have been rainy, the start of work could not begin before middle of January. All the same the groundwork for four classes and the base plate of one teacher's lounge had been completely finished and the wall was already built up to a height of 1,5 meters. If nothing unexpected happens the completion will happen in June 2006. Teachers and pupils have been happy with the teaching material (music instruments, sport equipment, books and cupboards) sponsored by us.



### Day 2

Acceptance of the ten stone houses, that had already been occupied by the families end of October 2005. All of the houses have water and electricity supply; the playground had been finished; the street had got its final cover of tar. All families are extremely grateful and would like to thank you all for your donations.



### Day 3

We visited three godchildren and handed them over their aid money for the next three months on behalf of their god parents.

### Day 4

Exchange of experiences with Susan, an English woman who lives in Spain and has established her own Charity organisation. Thereafter meeting with Mr. Kilgus and his delegation (Vocational school in Metzingen), who also has established a Charity organisation.

### Day 5

We handed over the god parent patronage to the family with two handicapped children. The medicine that will be bought by that money will aid the recovery of the younger son.



Then we visited a poor family whose five year old son urgently needs a heart surgery. We have provided them with the lacking € 1.500,- and announced a god parents ship.



#### Day 6

At request of a SWR 4 radio reporter, who commended our activities after a visit in Sri Lanka very positively, we saw a family in Mullapitiya/Beruwela. The father is casual worker, the mother is baking cookies in the morning for a street vendor. The income of both is not enough to feed them and their four children and to effort school attendance for them. We therefore decided to find god parents for that family.



#### Day 7

In Hettimula/Beruwela we visited an extremely poor family. It lives in an (unacceptable) hut made of palm leaves. On 9 square meters are five persons living: the grandmother (suffering from Alzheimer's disease), the parents and two children. The only earner is the father, who has to work as casual worker because he has no education or training. Only because of the generosity of their neighbour they are allowed to live on his property without having to pay for it. As the circumstances are pitiful we decided to build them a solid house of wood.



#### Day 8

Meeting with a god child and handing over of its financial support.

Delivery of an used boat that had been earmarked donation.

#### Day 9

Today we have visited "Sambodhi Home", a house for handicapped people in Galle. After our last report regarding the disastrous condition of this house, two of our members have filed a complaint to the president of the Malteser International relief service. This complaint has worked wonders. Now the "Sambodhi Home" is in almost perfect condition. All rooms are recently painted. The entrance area has very nice paintings at the walls. New toilets are installed. The kitchen is completely renewed. There are only some clean ups to do in the exterior area, that is not relevant for the residents. During our conversations with residents we learned, that the conditions of living have improved a lot. Generally we have to compliment the organisation "Malteser International" after initial difficulties. Preliminarily we rang up the interim manager of the "Sambodhi Home" and again he asked us for a food donation as the contribution of the government is more than short of money (the government pays for the 62 residents altogether € 120,- per month). We have loaded a truck with food (rice, potatoes, noodles, sugar, spices, milk powder, salt, dried fish, soap and several other goods, altogether with a total value of € 1.000,-). Because they now have a pool of staple foods, the management of the asylum is able to buy more fresh vegetables, fruit and fish in the next months.



**Day 10**

Today we visited two families to hand out their aid money from their German god parents family. Afterwards we visited the fishermen's village Payagala, where we had built 100 wood houses. About half of the wooden houses have been replaced meanwhile by little houses made of stone, that had been initiated by Caritas International. The other about 50 wooden huts are still inhabited by poor fisher

men, who are still hoping to find also an organisation that will enable them to live in a proper house of stone.

**Day 11**

Today we visited the six families that we took out of the tent camp in June 2005 and provided them temporarily wooden houses in Kalutara. Four of the families had been able to move into stone houses provided by other organisations or were able to find better accommodation in another way. One family we had promised to provide the building material for a permanent stone house already in October. Their house was built by themselves and is ready for occupancy till mid-March. The second family that still was living in the provisional houses ensured us that they will stay at that place for the rest of their lives so we also provided them building material to enable them to construct their own house. This one will be finished in about 5 months.

**Day 12**

In Hettimula, close to our stone house settlement we were able to arrange god parentships to two extremely poor families. As their accommodation had been in a miserable condition we decided to order two stabile wooden houses for them. To one of the families we provided four plastic chairs at once, as the accommodation was unseated.

**Day 13**

During our meeting with Lotti Loosli from Switzerland who was authorized by us to build two large wells for up to 100 families each, we commissioned her to realize another two wells. Furthermore we charged her with furnishing some fishery supplies.





#### Day 14

Due to the generous sponsorship of the SEB Bank foundation and attended by a member of its board of trustees it was possible to open the library-building of the Bentota Gamini School. The Minister of Education and the tops of the local society also attended at the inauguration. Accompanied by the school band we marched into the school. Singing the national anthem the flew the flag. Afterwards the unveiling of the memorial tablet took place. Then speeches by the officials followed in turn with a music show of the pupils. The foundation of the SEB Bank is going to continue the support of this school. The same evening there was a short presentation on Sri Lanka TV.



#### Day 15

Some of the fishermen families in Payagala (the place where we put up 100 wooden houses) had built their destroyed houses without permission on the area of the national railway company. As this is not tolerated anymore and these families therefore are not entitled to get financial support by the government, we decided to buy eight small parcels (€ 7,50 per m<sup>2</sup>) to give them a new home. Only if they own land they are able to establish a claim for a house of stone at the church or one of the big relief organisations.



#### Day 16

In the whole Beruwala district there doesn't exist any mother/child-station. The national health organisation is not endowed with enough financial background (app. € 15.000,-). As it is such a large area the doctor and the midwife are not able to work in an effective way. Only in Aluthgama that is 10 Km away there is such a station but it is totally overloaded. Therefore we decided to establish a station for childbearing and immunization. The ownership structure of the real estate that we inspected has still to be cleared. Furnishing, equipment and maintenance expenses will be paid by the national health organisation of Sri Lanka.

#### Day 17

Today we've visited the Bay of Balapitiya together with Lotti Loosli. There we learned that the fishery combine of 60 fishermen has a satisfactory number of boats at their disposal but doesn't have adequate flues. They predominantly use flues made of coconut fibre. These are only to use once a day as they get wet to the core and have to dry very long. The biggest wish of the fishermen were flues made of Nylon. We decided to order adequate flues worth € 3.500,- for the fishery combine.



One family had managed a little tea plantation close to the beach before the tsunami destroyed it completely. They put up the building by themselves already again. To lead this family back to autonomy we have given them the technical equipment worth € 500,- to enable them to restart production of tea.



#### **Day 18**

We have visited a large number of families living in extreme poverty who were named us by natives. For the worst cases we announced god parent ships. Furthermore we handed over the support for the families that have already god parents.

#### **Day 19**

As promised in October last year we have visited the Bentota District Hospital once again. Unbelievable for us: because of the water shortage only three times a day the national water pipes are working without any notice at what time this will be. On top of that the hospital is situated on a little mound and the water pressure is anyway rather low so that by far not enough drinking water is available for patients and health professionals. The only possibility to produce relief was to build an own well and the installation of an adequately dimensioned water pump. As the government doesn't provide the needed money we have decided to provide means. Moreover we have provided some urgently needed furniture and a Doppler-machine (to auscultate heart sounds). This hospital will furthermore need our support.



#### **Day 20**

Today we have visited the girls orphanage in Induruha that in the moment gives shelter to 42 children. We delivered a large number of pencils as well as lots of painting books that had been donated by the printing company Gerber, Kirchheim. It was received overjoyed by the children.

Munich, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006