



Aktive Direkt Hilfe Newsletter 31

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120 Children go to our School



Jos, Manuela and Blandine with four teachers and pupils who already have uniforms (up) and who don't have any yet (down)

solutions. Thank God for the miraculous and unexpected support of our dear friends, which encouraged us to continue without the farm's help.

Jean, the former foreman on the farm, was willing to work with us for half of his



The children are very happy for their new school setup with simple benches and their own first schoolbooks!



Left: Wolfgang loading up our materials in Kinshasa on a truck of Philippe's company. Right: Unloading of first full truck load on the farm in Mushapo: food for the team, mattresses, generator, shoes and clothes for the children etc.



Mr. and Mrs. Mpona with Wolfgang, dried fish and other food items for the Mushapo team.

former salary since he knows that we work as fulltime volunteers and have to raise support for everything ourselves. Next we met Philippe again, the manager of a big company in Tshikapa, who agreed to bring everything we stored in Kinshasa, all the way to Mushapo -- more than a thousand km by difficult road and partly by boat on the "Congo" and "Kasai" rivers. His company also brings us from Tshikapa to Mushapo and tremendously facilitates our work in many other ways. To transport materials on site, we acquired two typical Congolese „pousseousse" (push carts) since no more vehicles are available.

When another friend heard that we have no electricity, he bought us a new generator for our basic needs.

Since the construction of our school building had to wait because of the farm closing, we asked the owners if we could use their empty buildings until we have our own. They agreed and even let us use their land to grow crops, which will also be an advantage for them, as it will prevent the land from degrading back to wilderness. We eagerly accepted this offer because our own property still needs much work before we can grow crops on it.

Wolfgang, Jos and Jean worked on all these preparations in Kinshasa and acquired seeds, seedlings and food for the next few months. Then Manuela arrived from



Pineapple fields need clearing, on the back with weeds, in front already cleared



f.l.t.r.: Chief Mueji representative, Chief Mbumba Tumba, Dir. Bernard, teacher



Inspecting things: Jean, Bernard and Jos



Blandine teaches the children Sunday school and classes about hygiene and health. They have lots of fun together!



Director Bernard with parents of the students

Germany and helped too. Also Blandine, a nurse and Sunday school teacher from Kinshasa, agreed to help us in Mushapo. When the first team arrived on the farm they quickly set up camp, changed two of the big farmhouses into four classrooms and started the school, for which we, the children, the chiefs and the whole village are very thankful. We found a school director - Bernard - and three teachers in the neighbor village.

The longer we work in this area, the more we realize how difficult it is to care for the same children which we want to educate and train on a long-term basis. This is because many people there live like nomads. It is an area where diamonds can be found, although not so many, so it's not enough to live off it. It would be better if the people would engage in agriculture and raise chicken and goats, but because they hope for the big "finding", they prefer to keep searching. And once they hear that more diamonds are to be found in another area, they move. Their mud huts don't last long anyway and they just take along their few belongings.

The children are often used as labor force for work such as digging, getting water, preparing food or caring for the little ones. According to UN statistics, in Katanga, an area rich in natural resources, one third of the children are used for working in mines and quarries. This creates problems for a lasting and meaningful school education and our sponsor a child program. We will do our best to inspire the people to change their mindsets, but it will be difficult to bring them to the point where they start thinking about the future of their children and plan more for tomorrow. Anyway, we are thankful that we started the school and agricultural project, and that the construction of our building can resume.

In Prague, we slowly make progress on the setting up of our base for which we are very thankful as Lenka became quite sick and needed some medical check-ups. We are happy that she got healed



Jos takes out tree trunk



Outhouse outside the school grounds



Vegetable garden for carrots, onions, tomatoes, salad, pineapple



Pineapple for the children: so yummy and healthy



Planting acacia seedlings as border of our own property.

without an operation and is slowly regaining her strength. Anissa goes to kindergarten and learns Czech and we find many people who are interested in our work and want to help. Soon we are planning to add other languages to our website by Jens and Sergio. Here is the link to the German site: www.adh-kongo.de.

We wish you *Merry Christmas* with some time for rest and reflection and a good start in the *New Year*. Please pray with us that soon there will be found a more lasting peaceful situation in the East of Congo and that the needs of the poor in the country will be better taken care of and that we can continue to change a small part of the world and build a

better future for them. Thank you for all your help towards that!

Greetings from our hearts,

*Wolfgang, Lenka, Jos,
Manuela and Team*



Wolfgang with the German Ambassador, Dr. Peter Blohmeyer, who helped us with a grant for the school building



At a big family gathering in Mainz with Wolfgang's children and wife from his first marriage; back: Daniela, Samuel, Daniel, Wolfg.; middle: Anissa, Angi, Lenka, Mari, Sara, Daniel's wife Shanna; front: Joanna and Lisa.

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