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#### Dear readers.

"Nothing is as constant as change" - this realisation wasn't brought to us by today's experts in organisational development, but was clearly already apparent 2,500 years ago to the Greek philosopher Heracles as an insight into everyday life. Our preacher at the Worldwide Church Festival in 2020, Emmanuel Kileo from Tanzania, confirmed to us Christians that constantly being on the go is the momentum underlying our lives.

At Mission OneWorld, we therefore hope that you will share our enthusiasm for new ventures, as we set out to redesign our annual report. The reports from our departments are no longer factual, chronological lists of what has happened during the past year. Instead, our officers have endeavoured to reflect upon their work throughout 2019 from a personal point of view. We want to give you the opportunity to gain a better insight into our work in this way. The key events throughout the year are now summarised separately under the heading "Telegram", so you can decide for yourself in which order you'd like to read about things. We've changed the layout, too - the D. Min. Hanns Hoerschelmann idea being to capture the content more closely and highlight its essence.

We hope you'll appreciate this new approach as much as we do. Above all, our wish is that you'll feel well informed about what we do. Perhaps you will even glimpse a reflection of yourself here and there at the heart of what we think and experience.

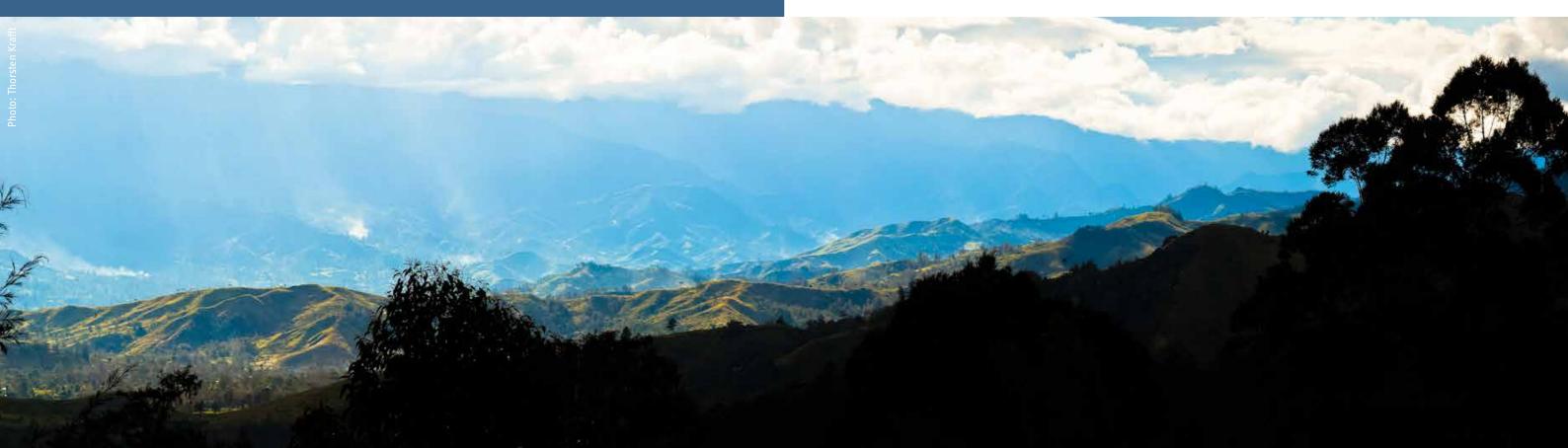
This would make us very happy indeed! Warm regards,

G. Hoesdidwaw Mr Gabriele Hoerschelmann

Director of Mission OneWorld

Yours faithfully,

Director of Mission OneWorld



Directors' Office



D. MIN. HANNS & DR. GABRIELE HOERSCHELMANN Director Mission EineWelt

# urturing relationships, ongoing encounters

As we look out of the window while writing this annual report in our office set in a red brick building, a peculiar sight meets our eyes. The sky is blue, the sun is shining and it's warm, yet the courtyard is empty. There are no international volunteers sitting together in groups on the lawn getting ready for their imminent send-off to one of our partner countries; no staff have spontaneously moved their team meetings into the garden to enjoy the beautiful weather; no guests are strolling from the seminar rooms for a coffee break in the canteen. It is quiet. The corona pandemic has also affected how things are done at Mission One-World. Things are different from just a few weeks ago, and utterly different from 2019.

And yet our life doesn't stand still, nonetheless. We are holding video conferences from the offices we have set up at home, study days are being run digitally – even the Worldwide Church Festival has been allocated a virtual venue. We are experiencing how

people from all continents can gather together digitally at the same time and relate to one another this way. This only succeeds because we have cultivated these connections over the years. In this regard, 2019 was also characterised by continuing to nurture partnerships, appreciating old companions and receiving new impetus.

Prior to our retirement, we both went on a final business trip with one of our longstanding national officers.

Hanns Hoerschelmann:
With Traugott Farnbacher and
Regional Bishop Heinrich BedfordStrohm in Papua New Guinea

Anyone who knows Traugott Farnbacher will also know that trips in his company are never boring. His enthusiasm for the churches and people whom he has accompanied for decades is absolutely infectious. It was just the same on our trip to Papua New Guinea in January 2019 with Regional Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, whose first visit it was to this country and this church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria has had ties with this country in the Pacific for more than a century. Throughout the trip, we constantly came across signs of former staff members from Bavaria and witnessed the vibrancy of their work to this day. In the fellowship that has grown over the decades, the greeting "Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ"



is not simply a habit, but a reality. It is the foundation that we stand on together. Even when a road in front of us has been washed away by torrential rain, preventing us from reaching our destination, relationships and conversations quickly spring up. "We are Lutherans" – in the face of a six-metre-wide, five-metre-deep crevasse in the road, this brief introduction forms an invisible bridge for talking in confidence, a serious discussion and hearty laughter. Such encounters show me time and again how it's inevitably individual people who forge and fashion the relationship between our churches. But the real basis for this is the faith, hope and love that are bestowed upon us.

## Gabriele Hoerschelmann: In Liberia with Reinhard Hansen

My first encounter with Liberia was the final official visit to the continent for the Head of the Department for Africa, Reinhard Hansen. It's not rare for business trips to our partner churches to involve long journeys off-road in four-wheel-drive vehicles. It was the same on this trip to Liberia, when, after several days of meetings and get-togethers in the capital Monrovia, we finally left the city behind us to go and visit hospitals, schools and youth projects in the country. Our colleague in youth work at the Lutheran Church in Liberia, Deaconess Marianne Lorenz, took us into

the heart of the Liberian bush to a hope-inspiring project full of old memories and simultaneously visions for the future. At a spot on the riverbank, under a roof made of huge bamboo canes, a youth camp is being constructed. The place of worship already exists. Like a cathedral, the bamboo on the riverbank arches over an area with benches, where the young people come together to pray, sing and listen to God's Word. Bishop Jensen Seyenkulo himself recalls how he used to come here as a teenager to pray and hear about God in the congregation. What's new, however, is the youth centre that they are constructing here, investing a great deal of creativity into building houses for accommodation, a sports field and a kitchen. Their plans for commencing youth work there exude enthusiasm and conviction. Our party from Mission OneWorld is delighted to be on site and see for ourselves how new opportunities are emerging from these beginnings.





#### Waking the slumbering giant

Our Worldwide Church Festival in July was attended by Archbishop Musa Panti Filibus from the Lutheran Church in Nigeria, who is also the President of the Lutheran World Federation. Through the work conducted in Africa, he has already had close links with Mission One-World for many years. He came, for one, to wish Reinhard Hansen well for his retirement, but also to expand our network of relations. In doing so, he offered new inspiration. The Lutheran World Federation had launched a campaign called "Waking the Giant" to encourage churches to raise public awareness of their decades-long efforts towards sustainable development targets in their societies, likening the churches to a sleeping giant, unaware of his power and size. The message was therefore that we possess ideas, structures and dedicated people and can certainly change more in this world than we sometimes believe. At Mission OneWorld, we and our partners all over the world are already long-standing proponents of this effort to wake the slumbering giant.

Gabriele und Hanns Hoerschelmann

## +++ TELEGRAM +++

#### +++ JANUARY +++

bees!" was launched, one of the first signatories was Jürgen Bergmann, Head of the Department for Development and Politics at Mission OneWorld.

#### +++ FEBRUARY +++

Mission OneWorld attended the Nuremberg Toy Trade Fair to join the protests by the Nuremberg Alliance for Fair Toys against inhumane working conditions in the global manufacturing process.

Secretary of State Florian Herrmann became the new patron of the "Mobile Phone Campaign in Bavaria".

#### +++ MARCH +++

Weltuni addressed the risks and opportunities presented by digitalisation.

An era drew to an end as we said farewell to Traugott Farnbacher upon his retirement, marking the occasion with a study day, a service of worship and a special reception. During his 15-or-so years of service as the Head of the Department for Papua New Guinea/Pacific/East Asia, he made a distinct mark on the work conducted by Mission OneWorld in this partnership region.

"Reaching for the stars together": Mission OneWorld launched its EU elections campaign.

The panel of judges reached its decision, naming the Super Kwata Band from Tanzania the winner of the international song contest "Human Beings - Not for Sale" with its stirring reggae song "War is a Business".

#### +++ APRIL +++

There were changes to staff in the Department for PPO, with Thomas Paulsteiner and Arnim Doerfer assuming their new roles as Head of Department and Expert for Papua New Guinea.

#### +++ MAY +++

SCHÖPFUNG

"Creation - Not for Sale": Mission One-World launched its new campaign for the forthcoming year at its annual reception in Würz-

A delegation of church leaders from Malaysia visited Mission OneWorld, including talks with the Bavarian Synodal President, Annekathrin Preidel, focusing on ecumenical practices in Malaysia and Germany.

#### +++ JUNE +++

Under the umbrella of the German Evangelical Mission Agency (EMW), Mission OneWorld co-hosted a concert tition for volunteers at Mission OneWorld.

When the petition for "Diversity of species - save the with the acapella quintet VIVA VOCE. Choirs from the worldwide church also made guest appearances on the stage. The event drew an audience of 10,000 people.

#### +++ JULY +++

The "Teaching in Museums" sponsorships were awarded at the 20th Bavarian Museums' Conference in Neumarkt. One of the three award winners was the standing exhibition "einBlick" ("in-Sight") by Mission OneWorld, based on a learning-by-playing concept co-developed with elearning and the Department for Development and Politics. During the Lilac Night event and the Worldwide Church Festival, we bade farewell to the departing Head of the Department for Africa Reinhard Hansen and to Ulrike Hansen, Director of Studies in the Department for Mission and Intercultural Studies.

#### +++ AUGUST +++

Mission OneWorld and the Pacific Information Desk took part in the Remembrance Day for Hiroshima in Nuremberg.

+++ SEPTEMBER +++ Gabriele Hoerschelmann preached in St. Martha's Church in Nuremberg at the award ceremony for the Nuremberg Prize for Human Rights.



#### +++ NOVEMBER +++

Priceless treasure for Mission OneWorld: After five years of service as Director of Studies in the Department for Mission and Intercultural Studies and the Department for Partnership and Parish Work at Mission OneWorld, we bade farewell to Margaret Obaga and her husband, church musician William, who taught at the Technical College for Intercultural Theology in Hermannsburg.

At the Missions and Partnership Conference in Neuendettelsau, the Bavarian Deaconry Missions Officers and Deaconry Missions Pastors resolved to focus more heavily than before on "the topics of climate change and preserving creation as part of partnership work" in their deaconries and parishes.

#### +++ DECEMBER +++

Vincent Gewert won 1st prize in the photographic compe-

REINHARD HANSEN

KLAUS DOTZER

Are you familiar with the phenomenon that certain "first impressions" are branded indelibly into our mind's eye and our souls? Some such searing impressions remain with me from Tanzania, where I first worked during the 1990s.

Even more than 25 years later, I can still sense some of those memories and feelings created by strong "first impressions", often triggered by a particular turn of phrase, picture or smell.

# Faraja Diaconic Centre: Indelible first impressions and closing circles

One of these vivid memories is my first visit to the site of what is now the Faraja Diaconic Centre at West Kilimanjaro. It must have been in 1994 or 1995. When I close my eyes, I can still bring the scene back to life. I see myself standing there – a young man on the unfinished foundation of a house in the middle of undulating hills, a few fields and lots of scrub. Two or three spindly goats are searching for edible greenery in the strong wind. To the east, the snow-covered summit of Mount Kilimanjaro rises in the twilight; to the west, Mount Meru is clearly visible. This landscape moved me, along with the thought that here, according to the plan of the ELCT Northern Diocese, should be built a diaconal centre as the home of a Brethren for Tanzanian Deaconry. Right here? Here "in the midst of nowhere" between the mountains? I still know exactly how movingly beautiful I found the place, but also that my imagination hardly stretched far enough to picture anything more than steppes ...

... 25 years later, on 5 October 2019, I am standing right there once again. A house has now stood on that foundation for decades, surrounded by other buildings. It's a proper small diaconal village these days, including a boarders' primary school for children with physical disabilities. Over there is the school where young men are trained to become deacons, not to mention numerous houses for staff.

Today, instead of standing here on my own, I am surrounded by hundreds of people, all dressed in their finest attire. There's hustle and bustle all over the site, as we all make our way up to the church on

During the service of worship, the Mission OneWorld staff members Gabriele and Armin Raunigk are given a ceremonious send-off. This married couple of deacons have worked



Department for Africa Department for Africa



as managers at Faraja in recent years. Goodluck Emmanuel Nnko and Rector When the Bishop of the Northern Diocese, Fredrick O. Shoo, releases them from era. Mission OneWorld. in collaboration with the Rummelsberg communities, has been sending deacons and their husbands or wives to help establish the Faraja Diaconic Centre at Kilimanjaro since 1994.

Immediately after the Raunigks are decommissioned, the new Tanzanian managers of the Diaconic Centre are doesn't mark the end of our collaboraceremonially inaugurated. In future, the heads of training Senior Brother new level."

Elirehma Kaaya together with general manager Samson Mphuru will steer the their duties, this marks the end of an destiny of the Brethren at the Faraja De-

> The former Rummelsberg Rector Günter Breitenbach and his successor-in-waiting at that point, Reiner Schübel, have also come along especially for the occasion and promise in the packed church: "Even if we won't have any more staff from Bavaria here in the future, this tion. Much rather, it is about to rise to a

The typically Tanzanian celebratory service of worship lasted for more than five hours. Besides decommissioning the Raunigks and inaugurating the three new managers, seven of the Faraja Brethren were invested as deacons, giving the Faraja Brethren 33 in active service and around 25 in training. Among other things, they help disabled children, provide medical aid, care for orphans and attend to the financial administration of church facilities.

As we climb into the off-road vehicles at the end of the day and leave Faraja, I feel profound gratitude. The Faraja Diaconic Centre is a success story. All in all, I spent 13 years living and working in Tanzania. I have now been the Officer for Tanzania at Mission OneWorld for three years. Faith in God and an ample dose of optimism are absolutely essential in this job. FARAJA is Swahili for CONSOLENCE. The fact that God isn't concerned if my imagination, my faith in Him and my optimism aren't always sufficient, and he still allows great things to happen, is a very consoling thought on the evening drive away from Faraja Diaconic Centre.

Claus Heim, Officer for Tanzania



## +++ TELEGRAM +++

+++ MARCH +++

Study Day at the Protestant Academy in Tutzing: "AFRICAAAAAA..." was the name of a fully booked weekend seminar run by Mission OneWorld in collaboration with the Protestant Academy in Tutzing. Speakers included John Njenga Karugia ("What is China doing 'right' and Europe doing 'wrong' in Africa?"), Emmanuel Kileo ("Higher education and the educational landscape in Tanzania: Is education the key to a sustainable future?") and Valinirina Nomenjanahary ("The role of women in society, development and politics, including the effects on the global population"). The conference could be seen and heard far and wide thanks to a TV recording of the panel discussion between Aneth Lwakatare, Emmanuel Kileo and John Njenga Karugia by Bavarian Broadcasting (BR alpha).

+++ JUNE +++

voices heard in Germany

The Mission OneWorld homepage says the following about the Speakers' Tour: "The traditional European attitude towards African development and prospects is still often (neo-)co-

what's what. The Speakers' Tour with African managers seeks to overturn this attitude and initiate eye-to-eye dialogue between Europe and Africa."

Events were co-hosted with various African speakers to the Study Day on mission agencies around Germany in Hannover, Berlin, Hamburg and Munich and at the German Evangelical Church Conference (DEKT) in Dortmund.

The well-attended Speakers' Tour in Africa" and the Archbishop of the session in Munich at Nymphenburg Lutheran Church in Nigeria, who is Castle on 13 June 2019 focused on the subject of "Africa and Europe in dialogue: Church, politics and society". The General Secretary of the Pan-African Church Conference, Fidon as an Actor in a Global Initiative". Mwombeki, outlined the 2016 Agenda of the African Union, comparing it ving farewell service of worship inwith the United Nations Sustainability cluding a dialogue sermon by the Goals. Paul Muchena, Coordinator of Hansens. the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in war-torn Zimbabwe, In their joint sermon, among other "Speakers' Tour" - making African spoke about the importance of civil things, they voiced criticism of the society in African countries.

German viewpoint was represented by Regional Bishop Susanne Breit-Kessler and Director of Mission One-World Gabriele Hoerschelmann.

+++ JUJY +++

To mark their joint retirement, Reinhard and Ulrike Hansen once again succeeded in inviting two eminent "Unity as a task - impetuses on our joint path" in Neuendettelsau on 20 July 2019. Professor Faustin Mahali from the Tumaini University in Makumira spoke on "Beyond Traditional Approaches to Theological Education also the President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Musa Panti Filibus gave a talk entitled "Waking the Giant - the Lutheran Communion The day was rounded off with a mo-

EU's current treatment of the people attempting to flee to Europe over the The Head Bishop of the Evangelical Mediterranean. "Jesus would wish Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Fredrick for humane regulations that promote O. Shoo, focused on designating the human coexistence. But unfortunate-"preservation of creation" a core duty ly there are many areas where this is Ionialist - with Europe telling Africa for Christians all over the world. The not the case, said Reinhard Hansen,

placing his finger in the wound one example being rescue efforts at sea. "The rescuers are ending up in court. People are drowning in the life. After her retirement from Mis-Mediterranean, which is turning into sion OneWorld, the 62-year-old will the biggest human grave in history." The maritime rule used to be very straightforward: "Anyone in peril at sea is saved - full stop". He said that the EU seemed to have lost its values in the meantime. The Hansens urged the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria to speak out clearly on such wrongs: "lesus calls upon us to get involved."

Ulrike Hansen had been a Director of Studies at Mission OneWorld since 1995, focusing on supporting foreign bursary stu-

ecumenical work with women. However, her work at Mission OneWorld made up only half of her professional continue her other half-time role as a parish pastor in Vestenberg.

Reinhard Hansen worked as an Expert on Tanzania from 1994 to 2001 before becoming Head of the Department for Africa at Mission OneWorld, which he remained until 30 September 2019. On 1 October 2019, he embarked upon the passive stage of his partial retirement.

+++ OCTOBER +++

Reverend Klaus became the new Head of the Department for Africa on dents and 1 October 2019, explaining:

> with visits to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and the Staff Conference in Tanzania. That was the easy bit. The harder part has since then been finding my way into the "internal organisation", where, thank God, I have at my side a tried-and-tested, highly practised and skilled team in the form of Sigrid Kinkelin, Marina Ostertag, Simona Fuckerer and Claus Heiman, who are patiently and amicably assisting me. The same goes for all the staff here at Mission One-World!

I believe that "At the end of the day, whatever we do as churches must somehow filter down at some point to benefit the lives of the people at the grassroots in our parishes - in Africa, and here at home. This is how my own work as Officer for Africa will have to be gauged. I am looking forward to working with everyone during the years ahead. For me, Africa is the people there, whom I was able to serve as a pastor, and who enabled my faith and myself to grow into what I am today. I wish to be there for these people; and I also wish to bring these people closer to us here in Germany."

Klaus Dotzer now oversees Kenya, Congo (DRC), Mozambique and Liberia. Deacon Claus Heim remains responsible for the partner church in Tanzania. All the African churches "Reinhard's handover to me began partnered with Mission OneWorld are supported by Monika Caspary as the coordinator at the ELCB Project Desk Africa (PDA) based in Tanzania. The ELCB PDA now has its own office at the ELCT Head Office in Arusha, assisting our five African partner churches in planning, supporting and auditing projects. The range of activities performed by the office will continue to expand with the introduction of the new compliance processes to include documentation checks and auditing.

# "We can't just stay sitting within our church's four walls"

Interview with Aaron Yap



+++ JANUAR /FEBRUAR +++ Letzte Dienstreise von Traugott Farnbacher nach Papua-Neuguinea und auf die Philippinen, begleitet von neuer Leiter des Referats PPO. Ar-Landesbischof Heinrich Bedford- nim Doerfer wird neuer Fachrefe- +++ APRIL +++ Strohm.

The focus of the activities of Mission OneWorld in Asia lies in founding and nurturing parishes, theological training and mission. This is clearly exemplified by the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM). Bishop Aaron Yap offers closer insights in this interview.

Bishop Yap, the LCM is one of the dent from British Colonial rule in 1957. strongest Lutheran churches in South-East Asia. It was founded under difficult circumstances, and has continued to grow ever since. How important is it to the LCM to found new parishes?

Yap: Yes, we were founded during difficult times, just a few years before Malaysia became inde-



people and invite them to seek faith in Christ.

As a church in a minority situation, the Great Commission assigned in Matthew 28 is very important for us. Founding parishes is a cornerstone in our "Vision and Mission 2017-2021" strategy plan. We can't just stay sitting within our church's four walls, but are called upon to reach out to

A major part in founding parishes is praying for God's guidance, strength and clarity to determine the concrete steps that will move people's hearts the "priesthood of all faithful" and to join us. To start with, we form a new Bible group with a few people, which has a very missionary aim. This is supported by an existing parish that also offers financial aid for the first few years. However, the most important factor is the fundamental missionary, evangelical focus and inner conviction of all members of the parish.

What role does theological training for volunteers play in this process?

This is very important for volunteers and staff alike. We highly value encourage our parish members to invest their time, gifts and talent. In everyday life, normal parish members have much greater contact with non-Christians than our minsters, for example. This makes a solid grounding in the Bible and personal witness quite

Which skills and training are particularly important for your priests?

Yap: Most of our pastors have studied at local

Bible schools and in ecumenical theological seminars. A solid academic training is crucial, but not an end in itself. This has to be invested in God's service to invite people to seek faith in Jesus Christ. To preserve and heighten the Lutheran profile of our church, all trainee minsters have to take various courses aimed at strengthening their Lutheran identity. In terms of soft skills, it's important to us that our pastors are team players, can approach people and that their personal lifestyle corresponds with their preaching.

? How important is it for individual pastors to gain higher qualifications such as a master's degree or doctorate?

# +++ TELEGRAMM+++

+++ MÄRZ +++

lich in den Ruhestand verabschiedet. Thomas Paulsteiner wird

Demonstrationen in Hongkong beeinträchtigen auch den Unterricht am Lutherischen Theologischen Seminar. Traugott Farnbacher wird feier- Lutherische Kirche in Korea zerbricht fast an Korruption und inneren Machtkämpfen.

rent für Papua-Neuguinea/Pazifik. Ökumenische Studiengruppe aus Ma-

laysia mit 25 kirchenleitenden Personen verschiedener Konfessionen besucht MEW, die Lutherstätten und Rom. Ein starker Impuls für ökumenische Offenheit und intensivere Zusammenarbeit wird gesetzt.

+++ JULI +++

Upolu Vai, Principal des Pacific Theological College (Fiji), hält Festpredigt beim Fest der weltweiten Kirche.

+++ OKTOBER +++

"Wantok in Modern Times" mit über 60 Teilnehmenden – ein sehr gut besuchter Thementag.

+++ NOVEMBER +++

Studienseminar zur Predigtlehre und zur lebendigen Gestaltung von Gottesdiensten mit Teilnehmenden aus Australien und den Philippinen bei MEW und an den Lutherstätten.

+++ PERSONELLE VERÄNDERUNG ++++

Rückkehr: Fam. Depner (aus Hongkong). Fam. Schwöbel und Stock/Schmidt (aus Papua-Neuguinea), Alois Schwarz (aus den Philippinen).

Aussendungen: Fam. Wiesgickl (nach Hongkong).

Als Senior-Experts: Ehepaar Wild sowie Hubert Schildhauer nach PNG.



Yap: As the education level in our society keeps rising, we

encourage suitably gifted pastors to pursue higher academic qualifications. This enables us to discuss issues competently as a church.

The LCM is also very actively involved in working with the Orang Asli. what special challenges and opportunities does it present?

Yap: The Orang Asli are the indigenous people in Malaysia. The land originally belonged to them. In West Malaysia, they are currently the most marginalised group. Their traditional land was stolen from them, their children have hardly any educational opportunities, and there is very little public infrastructure.

We are called upon to counter these wrongs. In doing so, we place particular value on making school education possible for children and teenagers. Within our church structure, own district with a high level of selfgovernance and self-organisation.

The LCM is also conducts pro-active missionary work beyond Malaysia's borders, for instance in Myanmar, Vietnam and Madagascar. What motivates the church in this direction?

Yap: It was through the work of earlier missionaries that we ourselves encountered the Grace of God. We now wish to pass this on to others. During recent decades, we have managed to found new Lutheran churches in Myanmar, Vietnam and Madagascar and to build relations with Nepal and China. We thank God for the opportunity to partake in His

These international relations expand our own perspective and open up new horizons - inspiring, strengthening and enriching our own parish life and growth along the way.

As a church in a minority situation beleaguered by difficult political con-Why are you active in this field, and ditions, how can the LCM play a role in public?

Yap: We are part of our society and don't just focus on our own spirituality. We play an active role in social welfare by running kindergartens, orphanages, institutions for people with disabilities, right through to old people's homes and mobile clinics. Ecumenically, we work closely with other churches and are members of national Christian umbrella organisations, where we advocate freedom of religion and resist the increasing Islamisation of our country. With regard to other religions, we belong to the "Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhist, Christians, Hindu, Sikhs the Orang Asli parishes form their and Taoism", the only interfaith association that represents all the religions practised in Malaysia, apart from Islam.

> ? What does "Lutheran identity" mean today in a modern Asiatic con-

Yap: Grace. The grace bestowed upon us by Jesus Christ is our primary focus. We are highly conscious of being members of the Lutheran World Federation and are deeply rooted in Holy Scripture. At the same time, we have ecumenical ties with other churches. We base the way that we worship on the Word and Sacrament, from which we derive our missionary and diaconal thrust. Mission and deaconry are an integral part of our Lutheran identity. However, our parishes enjoy great freedom in designing their services of worship and spiritual life. Differences should not lead to arguments and divisions, but be perceived as mutual enrichment.

Interviewer: Thomas Paulsteiner

# Magical beginning

"Every beginning has something magical" - people frequently focus on this quote by Hermann Hesse as they prepare themselves mentally to embark upon a new situation in life.

This particular magic was bestowed upon me on 1 March 2019. After spending several years as a pastor in Franconia, the wide world opened up once again for my field of work. I say "again", as I got the chance to carry on from where I left off at an earlier stage of my life, after growing up as the child of missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

The countries bordering on the South Pacific and their respective Lutheran churches are now my counterparts in nurturing partnerships with our regional church. I am the personal contact and bridge to Germany for our staff. We work closely and supportively together in alliance with other partner Church of Papua New Guinea.

The magic persists - not only as it's the Pacific, or how we Europeans like to interpret that. Not only for the chance to reconnect to my childhood roots. Not because life here is supposed to be more idyllic and better, nor because things seemingly wouldn't function without me or I could save something there.

The magic persists because I get to work in a fabulous team, in which the notion of partnership, friendship and the global Church of Jesus Christ is being tried and lived out. Throughout, I keep on thinking time and again about inherited mission and the very different ways of interpreting it. This also unfurls a magical beginning for me. After all, I have to freshly spell out my task alongside these people - today, in my time and life circumstances, to the best of my knowledge and conscience.

There are plenty of challenges. These often arise from cultural differences, but magic also dwells there. Mission has much to do with amazement - at the ways in which God works and moves people; at how people are happy living different lives; in the realisation that I am also a part of God's wonderful creation.

2019 was marked by encounters with many new people and my first two business trips to the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

Church President Antonio Reves from the Lutheran Church of the Philippines (LCP) arranged an outstanding first contact for me with "his" church. churches in the Evangelical Lutheran I experienced joyous and lively spirituality in the congregations, but also tensions between conservative and liberal wings in the LCP.

Every time my feet touch the ground

in Papua New Guinea, I feel life breathe and the soul answer. As one of the main suppliers of mineral resources and blessed with unimaginably beautiful nature, this country is also exposed to the ingressions of major international conglomerates. The big issues faced around the Pacific are preserving creation, overcoming post- and neo-Colonialist structures, and justice. The Bishop of the ELC-PNG, Jack Urame, is tackling them and helping to develop the Pacific's specific responses.

Pastor Matei Ibak from Karkar Island is also working tirelessly on these issues. He's an environmental activist and theological thinker. Together with young people, he is now onto their third big canoe constructed by traditional design. The group uses these "advertising vehicles" to talk with coastal communities about the dangers of deep-sea mining, deepsea tailings and over-fishing. The land and the sea have a special significance. Since time immemorial, they have formed the basis of life for the locals, and it's a matter of rediscovering respect for this creation.

The global community of Christians is a very beautiful thing. This communion is Church - and what unites us is Jesus Christ. So much magic lies even in every new day, which is also always a new beginning.

Arnim Doerfer



Pacific Information Desk Pacific Information Desk

# 30 years of information and networking

From its base in Neuendettelsau, the Pacific Information Desk works to create vigorous links between Germany and the Pacific region.

Information Desk in Neuendettelsau has existed for 30 years. This ecumenical initiative stemmed from the Pacific Network Association, which was founded in 1988 to campaign in Germany for a nuclear-free Pacific. After bringing together the many small protest groups spread all over Germany, the next step was to seek a coordination hub for the association's activities. The Bavarian Mission Agency, as it was known back then, made the ideal collaboration partner. The Mission Agency itself also maintained partnerships with churches in the Pacific, namely Papua New Guinea and Fiji. After negotiations, the Pacific Information Desk was able to set up an office at the agency's premises. By now, it even has two offices and a Pacific library there.

language office for information on events in Oceania appealed to other to the Pacific, so they agreed to help fund it and set up a group of patrons that to this day convenes twice a year. encompassing besides Protestant and Catholic organisations of course also the only non-confessional nongovernmental organisation Pacific Network, which itself by now has 220 members.

The Information Desk goes to every length to live up to its name, providing factual and well-researched information on people, events and topics from the Pacific. I consider it particularly important to avoid spreading South-Sea clichés. You won't find any reports about bare-breasted,

It's hard to believe that the Pacific The idea of running a German- beautiful hula girls dancing on sandy beaches surrounded by palm trees set against the azure-blue sea. Nor "doo-German mission agencies with links msday scenarios" of islands drowning in the rising sea, corrupt states, beloved Tongan kings, or the like. The reporting is supposed to be balanced, So although the Information Desk is and that can only be achieved by lisituated in Bavaria, it works in the stening to many voices and using all name and on behalf of all patrons, the available media to read up on topics. Visitors from the Pacific are valuable in this regard. How fortunate that guests from the Bavarian partner churches so frequently swing by little Neuendettelsau, giving me the opportunity to tap directly into their first-hand experience of economic, political and social change. This often brings about curious encounters,

> Agency). Staff from Mission One-World were invited to toast the occasion with a glass of German sparkling wine and offered an overview of our everyday work at a reception held at the

At the BioFach trade fair in Nurem-Vanuatu and got to know the producers of Mount Hagen Coffee from the highlands of Papua New Guinea. The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, lack Urame, visited the Info Point. I interviewed him about MEW's annual campaign "Creation - not for sale".



the only ordained pastor in Cambodia, visited the Information Desk. He explained that he wanted to generate opportunities for income for his 300 parish members in Cambodia and was thinking of farming chickens. He asked if I knew anything about the subject. I don't - but the chicken farm a personal guided tour of the chicken work in Germany.

Our work also involves sad and devastating aspects, such as the meeting with human rights activist Theo Hesegem from Wamena in West Papua. He explained vividly how he helps to locate the mass graves of Papuas murdered by the Indonesian military, recover the corpses and deliver them to their families. Meeting visitors like these calls for a great deal of respect and delicacy. In my job, I have to be able to bear the sense of impotence of just sitting at a desk with a pen

#### +++ MARCH +++

met in Passau to consider the "Long in what context cultural relics from museums should/must be returned to +++ JULY +++ their countries of origin.

able to do anything.

Besides personal encounters, the highlights of my job include getting feedback on the Information Desk's publications. If someone calls and starts with the words "I've just read an interesting article in 'pazifik'...", this makes my heart race, as it shows in the next town was happy to give us that my work is getting across and that some people really are "keen coops and explain how chicken farms to stay on the case" of the Pacific. I consider the key role in my job to be networking these people from near and afar, enabling them to talk, exchange information and learn from

> the Info Point, Traugott Farnbacher, a fond farewell into retirement. The exhibition on "Land going under in the Pacific - the effects of climate change in the region" sparked discussion at the Church of the Resurrection

#### +++ MAY +++

in Fürth.

Members of the Pacific Network demonstrated at Fliegerhorst in Büchel in the Eifel region against the stationing of nuclear missile warheads. The Pacific Network emerged from Members of the Pacific Network and the movement for a nuclear-free Pathe Austrian-South Pacific Society cific 30 years ago. Back then, regional groups in the network were already shadow of colonial times". One of the protesting against the nuclear tests ge and the repercussions of nuclear questions discussed was whether and conducted by the French on Moruroa. tests in the Pacific. The Pacific volun-

such as this May, when Daniel Orn, in my hand and perhaps not being one another about developments in the Pacific.

> I thoroughly relish my involvement with Mission OneWorld and feel extremely at home in this big building with all its departments. I get to collaborate with almost everyone here at one point or another, whether preparing a day focusing on a specific topic, such as "Wantok in modern times", hosting a discussion on "overcoming trauma" at the Kirchentag in Dortmund, or organising campaigns, such as "One week without plastic". Sometimes, conversations link to-

pics and countries out of the blue in a way that wouldn't have seemed at all obvious. The fact that the basic right to clean water

visited Neuendettelsau and spoke at a meeting about "The Preservation of Cultural Identity in Changing Times". Strathern is a well-established expert on Papua New Guinea, having completed decades of research into the country.

#### +++ JUIY +++

The new cohort of IEF volunteers conducted a workshop on climate chanteers later wrote round-robin letters and took part in campaigns against The American ethnologist couple Pa- the impact of climate change in the We bade the PPO Officer in charge of mela Stewart and Andrew Strathern countries where they were stationed.

## +++ TELEGRAM +++

+++ FEBRUARY +++

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce invited specialists on Indonesia to a round-table discussion. I was able to speak unusually frankly with the Vice Ambassador from the Indonesian Embassy in Frankfurt about the difficult situation in West Papua.

+++ 1 FEBRUARY +++

We celebrated the 30th anniversary of

the Pacific Information Desk opening +++ FEBRUARY +++ its office on the premises of Mission OneWorld (previously the Mission berg, I spoke to cocoa farmers from



isn't only an issue for survival for Latin Americans, but also for the inhabitants of isolated Pacific island states with low reserves of fresh water at the heart of an atoll just goes to show once again how interlinked our world is. And the raw materials used to make our mobile phones actually don't just come from African countries, but also from Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia. Informing people about such things and identifying parallels with developments in other parts of the world is the task of the Information Desk.



Julia Ratzmann Head of the Pacific Information Desk

www.pazifik-infostelle.org

#### +++ JULY +++

Upolu Vai, Director of the Pacific Theological College of Suva (Fiji), gave a sermon on "Creation - not for sale" and reported to the Info Point about adding contextual theology to the curriculum of the college.

#### +++ AUGUST +++

On 6 August, a broad alliance of peace and human rights groups in Nuremberg commemorated the 73rd anniversary of the United States dropping atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hiroshima sends out a warning - even today!

#### +++ SEPTEMBER +++

New members of staff at Mission OneWorld got to the chance to view artwork, some from the Pacific, on an on "China in the Pacific: opportuni-"art tour".

from Chile, a short one-to-one dis-

#### +++ OCTOBER +++

More than 60 people attended a and ukuleles. one-day event focusing on "Wantok in modern times", at which Profes- +++ DECEMBER +++ from an ethnological viewpoint.

#### +++ NOVEMBER +++

cific Info Point hosted a symposium exceeded 260.

ties - dependency - conflicts". More When the Nuremberg Human Rights than 60 visitors attended various pre-Award was presented to an activist sentations on the question of Chinese involvement in the planned maritime cussion arose about the meaning of silk roads in the Pacific. Afterwards, "water" for the people of Oceania, at the reception, the string band Fas-Fowod from Cologne set the audience swinging with songs in Bislama accompanied on bamboo instruments

sor Mückler from the Austrian-South We spent two days on the Supervisory Pacific Society approached the topic Board of the West Papua Network discussing the worrying deterioration of the human rights situation following racist attacks in the district of Nduga. To mark its 30th anniversary, the Pa- By January 2020, the number of dead FRIEDERIKE DEEG

## ALL-ENCOMPASSING:



# aid and care for refugees in Central America

The tannoy announces the departure times for the next flights. There is still some time until my flight to Germany, so I open my emails. A member of staff from the Lutheran Church in El Salvador has written to me and thanked me for our positive collaboration. As there is no particular reason for thanks, I wonder a little and read on. He reports that he had to leave the country two weeks earlier because his children were threatened by Pandilla 18, a youth gang, that they would be murdered if they didn't join up. The family tried to flee the danger by moving house, but they were located via their workplace and the children's university. The email closed with the words: "I plea to God that the situation

will change so my people will stop having to emigrate." Tears well up in my eyes.

A few weeks later, I am sitting in my office and reading a message from one of the church workers in Honduras, reporting that at the end of September he no longer saw any alternative but to flee to Spain - because of threats and extortion by Pandilla MS/13. They had kept on demanding more and more money until he could no longer meet their demands and fled for his life.

Two personal life stories during the previous year from the very heart of two of our partner churches that typify the fate of people in Central America. From one day to the next, their lives can become endangered, people can lose their jobs and homes. For many,

> there is no alternative any more than to flee. The two church workers escaped to Europe. But the majority of those who emigrate from Central America remain on the continent. Some seek

> > refuge in one of the wealthier states in Central America, including Costa Rica. The difficult situation for members of the opposition in Nicaragua has led to a significant increase in the number of people seeking protection there.

> > > The Lutheran Church in Costa responded spontaneously by building accommodation for refugees in the middle of the





church grounds. Where the kitchen once was, now stands a house. So the multi-purpose hall for meetings and worship lies at the heart of the complex, between the accommodation and the church offices.

At Christmas, the church's administrative workers had a surprise in store for the nigh-on twenty children who had found refuge on the church land. Everyone had noted on a long list who was bringing hotdogs, a rice dish, ice cream, cake and the obligatory piñata that takes centre stage at every children's party in Central America - a papier maché figure filled with treats that all the children take turns in hitting with a stick until it bursts and disgorges the sweet contents.

Thanks to some cash donations by staff, there were even gifts for the children. For an entire afternoon, the kids were able to forget their predicament and eat, drink, play games, get their faces painted and simply have a good time.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria provided financial aid for the refugee hostel project. Besides accommodation and provisions, the people there are also help with bureaucracy and offer psychosocial support. But more important than all the practical aid is the human warmth offered by the locals, as demonstrated at last year's Christmas party.

Friederike Deeg

# Seek peace ... My peace I give to you.



As the sound of Schweinfurt's samba group "Ritmo Candela" filled the room, the little girl happily began to dance. She smiled at the other girl taking her hand, and both danced enthusiastically each in their own way, but completely in harmony. More people "caught the bug" and started to dance, smile or clap. This scene in the assembly hall of the Gustav Adolf Congregation in Schweinfurt summed up the theme of the 23rd Brazilian Day: "Seek peace ...

14:27) and "Seek peace and pursue it!" (Psalm 34:14).

My peace I give to you." This slogan is a combination of the annual verses from the Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil (IECLB) and the ELCB: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." (John

## +++ TELEGRAM +++

#### +++ EL SALVADOR +++

- Nayib Bukele was elected as Pre- project for the homeless. sident. There were different opinions on this outcome within the church in • Reverend Balduino Gómez, the el-El Salvador.

- dest son of Bishop Medardo Gómez, +++ NICARAGUA +++
- Hans-Jürgen Johnke reached retire- Celebrating the anniversary of the opponents continued, although an ment age and immediately got him- episcopate in August, 14 new pastors amnesty law saw many political priself re-seconded as a senior expert were ordained after completing the soners freed in June. on the church's advanced theologi- church's own advanced theological cal training programme and to work training programme. On the same • The Lutheran Church "Faith and in the "El Buen Pastor" parish in El occasion, the joint song book for the Hope" in Nicaragua (ILFE) took part

Volcán and the "Casa Esperanza" Communion of Lutheran Churches in Central America (CILCA) was presented to the public for the first time.

- succumbed to a severe illness in June. Repression of the government's

in a programme run by the ACT Alliance for Peace and Reconci-

#### +++ COSTA RICA +++

- the grounds of the church office. The very successfully. initiative was awarded the "Seal of
- The head of the Social Welfare Department changed twice during the • The Christian Lutheran Church of the church.
- The Lutheran Church in Costa Rica A state-sponsored football and ed-(ILCO) built a hostel for refugees on ucational project for children went the coup against the left-liberal Pre-
- Integrating Lives 2019" by the United A volunteer from the South-North protesting against the planned priva-Nations High Commissioner for Refu- Programme came to Bavaria for the tisations in the health and education first time.

#### +++ HONDURAS +++

year, presenting major challenges to Honduras (ICLH) published a statement in June about the political and social crisis in the country, one week in advance of the 10th anniversary of sident Manuel Zelaya. Months previously, people had already started

"Shalom" was the thread that wove its way throughout the day – in devotionals, singing, talks, group work, discussions and worship, during the course of which I was inducted as an ecumenical staff member at Mission OneWorld. Afterwards,

world?

The service of worship was my personal highlight on Brazilian Day. Blessing hands at my induction and many warm wishes gave me power and hope for my service at Mission One-World. Our children

there was still time for a reception and the chance to meet and mingle.

The Reverend Silfredo Dalferth gave the main talk on "Peace from a the-ological perspective". Peace is a core subject in the Bible, a strategy for justice. For this very reason, the biblical concept of peace is particularly relevant to the current situation. Revd Dalferth also referred to key initiatives launched by the church, such as the World Council of Churches' International Ecumenical Peace Convocation.

I was asked to deliver a report on the current situation in Brazil, and as I had only just returned from there, I was able to provide the audience with bang-up-to-date information. The population in Brazil is divided and polarised, particularly after the election campaign, erupting in violence. The new government has reacted in the form of a new munitions law aimed at legalising the use of firearms by "good citizens" in "selfdefence". The IECLB published a different response in its own statement. The document entitled "We have a duty to the Gospel" was widely publicised.

Working groups deliberated the presentations in more detail during the afternoon, sharing examples of peace efforts, particularly projects for peace in Rio de Janeiro, the work of various churches, the CAPA's activities with families of smallholders, and COMIN's programmes with indigenous peoples. The overriding question was: How can churches and their members instil peace around the

## +++TELEGRAMM+++

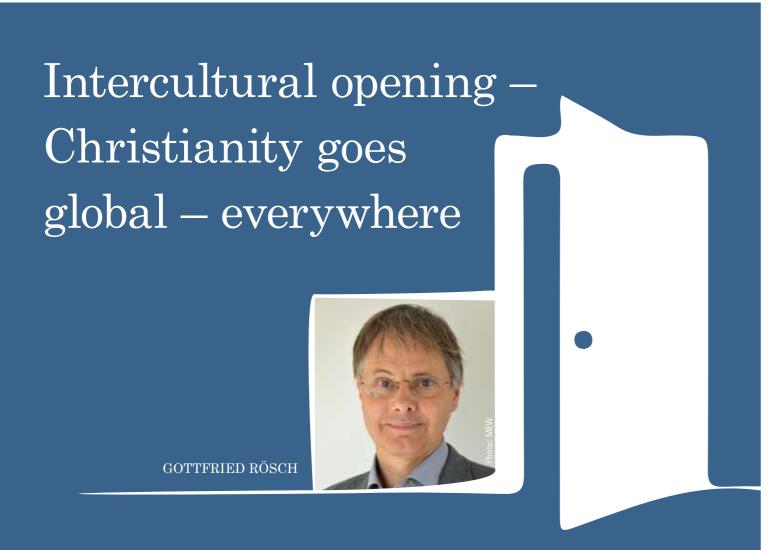
Diego and Letícia had travelled from Hamburg and Heidelberg for the occasion, while my wife Rose Mari sent us her prayers and thoughts from far away in Brazil. I got to preach the message of peace in the sermon and while celebrating the Lord's Supper. The image for the annual theme at the IECLB depicts people building bridges. This is also my task, and so I preached: "I am happy to be here. In the certain knowledge that God encircles the globe with His peace, I dream of a new world. I wish to use my service to build bridges and help create spaces of peace and justice."

Geraldo Grützmann

#### +++BRASILIEN+++

- Jair Messias Bolsonaro was inaugurated as the new President, his politics polarising people in society and the church. In March, the Church Council published a manifesto clearly signalling the desire of the IECLB (Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil) for freedom, to protect the environment and for social justice.
- The church's new Presidium strongly advocated dialogue and reconciliation, publishing a monthly pastoral letter.
- In June, Revd Hannes Kühn, his wife Andrea and their daughter, who was born in January, returned from São Luis to Speichersdorf in Germany.
- The number of volunteers in the North-South Programme increased from 2 to 4 in the 2019/20 cohort.
- The partner consultation between the ELCB and IECLB on "Poisonous agricultural chemicals and God's Creation" was held from 27 September to 1 October, attended for the first time, besides members of the church leaders and church offices, by a representative of each of the 18 synods.
- The IECLB started planning to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Lutheran Church in Brazil in 2024.





2019 was my first year as head of And then along came this intercultu- out with violence. Can religions comdepartment, requiring vision for the way forward: Mission Respect. Christian witness is called for with ecumenical scope - both in Bavaria and elsewhere. Precisely because the history of mission often went hand in hand with colonialism, nationalism and racism, that which the EKD performs nowadays stands for Christian witness in a multifaith world centred on mutual respect between all.

In 2018, I was still a parish minster, and very contentedly so - the many baptisms, the funerals, the Sunday mornings, the series of confirmation classes, the trust that complete strangers invest in you, the numerous networks of volunteers who want to get up and set the ball rolling together.

ral challenge. The parish pastor became a head of department, working in a set-up with many offices, meetings learning that religions can extricate and protocols. How nice that, in the process, Mission OneWorld always has lots to offer in terms of interesting solutions to conflicts of interest. Faith people and endless new impressions. And there are many highly motivated staff here! Worldwide Christianity in multiple forms.

cultural Studies were involved in the major project of running the International Summer School on "Peacebuilding in a multifaith world". Tensions all over the world - between poor and rich and with a bitter struggle for resources - are being enflamed ethnically and religiously and then borne

bat this? We all agreed throughout intensive exchange, discussion and themselves from the fray, and instead make a contribution towards peaceful can help, can bear fruit. We shared many examples, drew inspiration and identified concepts - also encouraged, for example, by an appointment at the Foreign Office that reinforced Many of the staff in Mission and Inter- our belief that religious communities around the world can be very much perceived, especially positively, as political protagonists.

> This, as global tensions are also becoming noticeable in Europe and the global battle for resources is being harshly fought. No region remains

unscathed. The African philosopher Achilles Mbembe put it this way: "The world is turning black." What he means with this is not racial divisions, as in the times of slavery in America or colonialism, but between poor and rich - and these struggles will affect everyone. In the heart of Germany, globalisation is sitting on our nightstand, constantly, and it will keep on changing everything. We all live together on this one planet and have no alternative. Peacebuilding is what we need more than ever, together with fair and sustainable distribution of resources, including for the future.

We need the inner mission (there used to be: outward and inner mission) of opening up our congregations and church interculturally, making cultural changes in the country a positive thing. Or has the church already developed into a migration-free niche? The Holy Spirit will certainly continue to act also in Europe.

What was new to me was that when guests arrive from all over the world, they are keen to visit Wittenberg. Why, I had wondered, in the world, if I happen to be in Germany ... Wittenberg? Martin Luther and the Reformation. Fair enough. Hero worship and reassurance, or contemplating Reforma-

### +++ TELEGRAM +++

#### +++ APRIL +++

Women from Nairobi visited Wassertrüdingen and Wittenberg.

In Mödlareuth, some people at the museum explained how awful it was when the Red Army marched into the village and split it into the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. A Kenyan woman asked: "So what brought the Russians here?" It seemed she knew nothing about European history. I got the impression that she knew more than we would wish. And I also know a few bits of history from Kenya, how during the Mau-Mau war there in the 1950s many people were forced to live behind barbed wire until independence finally came and the British government at least officially handed over power.

#### +++ JUNE +++

#### Sara Neidhardt came

In-Sight into world mission - the exhibition in Neuendettelsau clearly depicted worldwide church. The whole world in one room, with many chances to delve more deeply into numerous topics that concern us. Many visitors came and got to see what present-day mission is about. In this regard, we want to remain at the cutting edge of educational practice in museums.

#### +++ JULY +++

#### Farewell to Ulrike Hansen

A Head of department with many years of experience left Mission One-World. She had been particularly actively involved and effective in issues relating to the gender debate and women's rights - worldwide, with enduring concepts and hands-on.

#### +++ JULY/AUGUST +++

International Summer School on "Peacebuilding in a multifaith world" A group of open-minded and inquisitive people, all hungry to learn, ga-



thered together from 20 countries for three weeks. The English that we spoke was a common base line, but the first language of only the Australians. Some speak Spanish or Portuguese better, and their English wasn't very fluent. Music helped. William Obaga was amazing. Wartburg and Wittenberg:

I noticed how much both were influenced by Emperor Wilhelm

II. And then there was the service of worship in Berlin Cathedral, also a venue of the Emperor's. In contrast, Wilhelm-

strasse was the venue for the Congo Conference and the launch of the German colonies, the inception of the Republic that marked the end of the war, freedom of religion and suffrage for women, and the place where Hitler became German Chancellor.

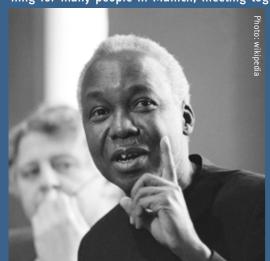
#### +++ SEPTEMBER +++

Change of guard for the Social-Year Volunteers, as Nina Mardus left and Larissa Lautscham arrived. They conduct a lot of everyday business and many things that go in the background. The SYVs assist the office, and they always hand over in summer, as another year passes.

#### +++ OCTOBER +++

Nyerere – inspiration for today and the future

African freedom-fighting, so well exemplified by Tanzania, remains inspirational to this day. This notion formed the basis for a substantial evening for many people in Munich, meeting together with missio Munich



and the German-Tanzanian Group of Friends. What I learned was that Nyerere wasn't alone. As is so often the case, the fight for freedom in Tanganyika was also waged by women – even if they are then, so frequently, happily excluded after the fact in reality and people's memories. The prime example in this case was Bibi Titi Mohammed.

#### +++ NOVEMBER +++

Farewell to Margaret Obaga

Polite and attentive, clever and humorous, skilled at teaching and supportive – after five years, her time in Neuendettelsau came to an end. Conflict transformation was one of the key skills that she practised. She was also able to incorporate the viewpoint of women – from an African perspective. After growing up in Kenya, she also lived and worked in the United States. Now, she is living and working in Kenya again, with her husband William at her side.

tion, time for change, searching for guidance for the future. If the Luther tour is a journey of Reformation, then there's quite something to be made of this!

The topics this year were renewal and God's Kingdom - what does this mean to us today? Africa & Europe - how can we listen to one another better as neighbours? Tradition and modernisation - how do people in Papua New Guinea wish to continue independently shaping their country and their churches? Partnerships and encounters - how do meet one another with respect, and in a way that achieves something? With what aim? Ecumenical learning, all over the world. Mission Respect. Where I am right now, and wherever. Intercultural opening always and everywhere - with the ELCB's concept for external relations and partnerships all over the world, and in our own country, too. Some 20 per cent of the ELCB's members have what's termed a "migration background". Lots of families speak Russian, not to mention the many other languages spoken in the Bavarian regional church. Where do they appear in our parishes, where do they offer this cultural treasure? Do we have a concept of internal relations? The globalisation of Christianity is taking place, and we are right in its midst.

Gottfried Rösch



# Preserving creation,



Get creative to preserve creation there were plenty of opportunities under this banner at the Worldwide Church Festival. Children and adults made their own soap, while others upcycled old T-shirts to make snazzy bags. These and many other creative ventures involving the almost 1,100 festival visitors acted almost like an extension of the morning service of worship, particularly the sermon by Reverend Upolu Luma Vaai, the Director of the Pacific Theological College of Fiji. His thoughts gathered under the heading "Tears of the Earth and restoration through compassion" surely left no-one untouched. He told

from his own, immediate experience how the climate-induced rising sea level and the masses of plastic from the industrialised nations piling up on the shores of the Pacific islands are threatening people's lives there. The islanders' normally innate relationship with nature that leads them to treat creation with great care is being eroded, as their basis for life, Mother Earth, is being destroyed. Philosopher David Cortez from Ecuador opened our eyes to the careful nurture that the indigenous people of the Andes have always given in and to nature. The "sumak kawsay" way of life aims at living in harmony with nature and



REINHILD SCHNEIDER



all forms of creation with an eye on new "ethics of development". A common thread ran through many points on the festival programme, inviting and encouraging us as Christians to: get involved in preserving creation; take pleasure in God's gift to us in His creation; draw the courage from this to flag up the hazards and threats and seek to combat them; harness hope and creativity to take concrete steps towards preserving creation, both in our private lives and political debate; and particularly also lend those a voice who are already suffering enormously under the consequences of our behaviour.

We followed the "Pilgrimage of Creation" visiting various places (you can order a guide to working on the topic

## +++ TELEGRAM +++

#### +++ KWENDA PAMOJA +++

Commissioners from the three Tanzanian partnerships in Munich meet in late January each year to work on a topic agreed between them, jointly celebrate worship, and simply spend some together. The topic for 2019 was "Walking side by side - kwenda pamoja". As luck would have it, six participants from East Africa were on hand to offer their own perspective. Their input to one of the exercises, seeking to find out what Germans probably think about them as Kenyans/Tanzanians, gave particular food for thought: "We are not educated enough" and "They (the Germans) don't consider us credible", they wrote. We all seem to still have quite some work in store until we reach a partnership that means "walking side by side".

#### +++ ENCOUNTER +++

Wassertrüdingen Deaconry and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya have been partners for decades. Around Easter 2019, nine ladies from Kenya visited the Deaconry to give the partnership a boost. And that's just what they achieved. This encounter made certain things possible, such as getting to know one another in all sorts of ways, delving into Franconian culture, journeying through tales of the Reformation, sharing insights into parish and everyday life, and glancing toward the future. "Now that we've got to know one another, we have developed a much deeper relationship. We can keep nurturing this even long-distance," one of the participants said.



#### +++ FAREWELL TO JULIANA KILAGWA AND WESTON MHEMA +++

Not a seat was left spare in the church in Unteraltertheim on 14 July 2019, when the time came to bid farewell to Tanzanian pastors Juliana Kilagwa and Weston Mhema after several years' service. "They won our hearts," said the congregation members. "We are going to miss you," said the nursery children. "You got me back to church," said a neighbour. And while the Tanzanian pastors bade their farewell with a sermon in German, all the choirs sang songs in Swahili. What a fruitful exchange.

#### +++ WHEN IT COMES TO MONEY - COM-PLIANCE +++

2019 was dominated by the subject of compliance. In all, our fundraiser Katrin Bauer and

I, in my role as the head of

any rubbish onto the mountain, ate meals out of reusable lunch boxes, and lit campfires the ancient way. And time and again, God's praise sounded out in all languages, forms and rhythms. It was impressive how this simple lifestyle and mindfulness forged special

The subject of "communion and communication" brought a good 50 people from all over Bavaria together with representatives of Tanzania

links between us.

and a suggested service of worship from Mission OneWorld), discovered other places on Earth that, for example, have already long since banned plastic, prayed with and for one another, and noted and took steps towards making a change.

#### Moving together in and for God's world

Our links with people in 20 partner churches - of whom 50 from 12 different countries are currently spending quite some time (1-5 years) living with and amongst us - make

essential for us to jointly consider the queregional stions of our time. And so at last year's retreat in Schwangau, we used Bible verses on the elements water, earth, wind and fire to raise our awareness of who we are and what we do. We enjoyed the view over Lake Forggen during meals, we observed the plants and animals as we ascended the Tegelberg. The children built their own rafts and explored the elements water and wind from this perspective. We lived in basic accommodation, avoided taking

offices (therefore also in charge of partnerships in southern Bavaria), conducted ten seminars to explain to the many people involved in partnerships that from now on clear and thorough discussions are not only important, but indeed essential. Before anyone starts to raise money, they must have agreed how to secure proper proof of what it gets used for in the end. "The starting point must always be evidence," Katrin repeatedly drummed out. Everything then needs to be officially recorded in a Financial Cooperation Agreement - only then can our country officers send the money overseas. After all, they are ultimately responsible for the proper use of raised funds. Was it maybe too much too to take in on the spot? You're very welcome to ask us any questions you might still have. And you'll see that things will all work out in the end.

Manfred Kurth

#### +++ WOMEN ARE CHANGING THE WORLD +++

"Yes, she can! Women are changing the world" was the banner under which 250 women gathered in Schwabach for their annual Ladies' Dinner, also attended by a mayoral candidate from Nuremberg and our volunteer Lea Kavuli. Lea, who as a kid used to live on the streets before being taken in by the Pangani Lutheran Children's Centre in Nairobi, where she completed her training, now stood in front of these women and told her story. Yes, she can! The women in Schwabach are happy to support this project in Nairobi. Group leader Ms Spörl-Springer presented 1,420 euros to the representative of Mission OneWorld.

#### +++ VOLUNTEERING IN BAVARIA +++

Fadhili (20) from Tanzania spent a year working in a kindergarten in Augsburg as a South-North volunteer on the IEF programme run by Mission OneWorld. What struck him most there was that, while he was already responsible for fetching water and wood for the household and helped his mother with the cooking as a three-year-old boy, children here in Germany get to play in a kindergarten. He feels that experiencing these major cultural differences will enrich his life going forward. In his own country, he wants to train in a technical field. Apart from that, having been given a trumpet, he wishes to cheer as many people as possible with his tunes.

South-North volunteer programme, Ines Ackermann and Nadine Reinert

#### +++ TRACES OF BLESSINGS +++

Margaret Obaga from our partner church in Kenya spent four years working at Mission OneWorld in Neuendettelsau. The doctor of theology organised seminars on working on conflict, partnerships and intercultural communication all over Bavaria. She also left many traces of rich blessings in our Deaconry. She spoke with many people, and with her loveable demeanour, aura and words won hearts and made friends. We can only thank our partner church for foregoing one of the most gifted pastors at the KELC for so long. The time she spent with us was a huge gift. We are also very grateful to her husband William, who lectured in church history at the



partnership services

of worship and

partnership

University of Applied Sciences in Hermannsburg and supported his wife in a great many ways. The highlight of her work was surely her success in motivating nine women from Nairobi to visit our Deaconry.

and Kenya in the working group on Tanzania. The participants in the working group on Papua New Guinea, Pacific, East Asia didn't talk Confeabout the problems in these partner countries, either, but rather listened to what they themselves had to say - in the form of information, ideas and also critical feedback on how relations could be conducted more honestly and equitably. In the working group on Congo, the participants got to hear first-hand from Eloy Kayembe how free or not the elections were in his country, about the role played by the church, and how the issue of ensuring human rights must remain in constant view. The fact that our ecumenical staff in various offices at MEW and in the ELCB live alongside us makes them competent bridge-builders between their home countries and us. At the Church

+++ HOSPITALITY HERE rence on the AND THERE +++ Hesselberg, Penhave experienced many ga Nimbo from Papua warm-hearted encounters New Guinea and Geraldo and highly interesting Grützmann from Brazil got into deep discussions with others about the different background circumstances and the related challenges caused by climate change for everyone involved. Projects addressing the field of gender equality (initiatives to eradicate female genital mutilation) and future sustainability (contextual youth work) were the focus for the special appeals laun-

ched in all Bavarian parishes to mark Epipha-

groups in various parishes, including some quite profound discussions. Amongst other things, people wanted to know how people welcome strangers in Tanzania compared to Germany and what hospitality means to me.

For me, hospitality means generously welcoming and entertaining guests or strangers. Cultural differences can produce certain discrepancies in hospitality between countries; but this doesn't mean that the others are doing something wrong. What I have experienced here in Germany is that when people know who you are, they are then helpful, friendly, supportive, and welcoming. However, it's important to make appointments and be invited.



Hospitality on Tanzanian terms means spontaneously welcoming guests or strangers, whether they're expected or not. In my country, even cars rarely have a sole occupant. In Tanzania, it's considered selfish to drive past a friend or stranger on the street if there's space in your car. You normally don't need to arrange visits to someone's home or office in advance, either. Tanzanians' doors are always open. Anyone who happens to drop by is always welcome and will certainly be offered something to eat. I feel comfortable in Germany and have also experienced plenty of hospitality, but of course differently than in Tanzania. Yusuph Mbago

+++ "WATER IS LIFE - NOT FOR SALE!" +++ Standing on the table were three containers of water. A glass with a little dirty water, a bottle of mineral water, surrounded by a wall, and a glass full of clean drinking water. This symbolism was used in the devotional to

> illustrate the topic of the PEM conference. Millions of people worldwide have no access to fresh water. Climate



ning water increasingly into a desirable trading commodity. In harmony with the annual campaign at Mission OneWorld, the message emphasised that water is life and not up for sale. The congregation used the words of Psalm 42 to express their longing for a fairer world: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God."

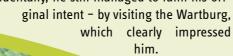
Romeu Rubens Martini had travelled from Brazil to deliver the keynote speech, presenting fundamental theological perspectives and texts from the Bible on "Preserving Creation". The doctor of theology used pictures and examples to elucidate the issues besetting water in Brazil. He related the example of water in Brazil to human rights, climate, water consumption, biodiversity, privatisation and health. Working in smaller groups, the participants then gathered all sorts of examples relating to water supplies and usage in their various partner countries. A panel discussion with international guests continued the debate. The main question was: What is the Church doing? The congregation sought answers and solutions for the future. Of one thing they were all certain: Water is life - it's not for sale!



+++ VISITORS FROM THE PHILIPPINES +++

On the subject of our campaign theme "Human beings - not for sale!", we were visited by a young pastor from the Philippines called Ariel Cerdenola. He is the pastor for two Lutheran congregations in the capital city of Manila. Funnily enough, he had misconstrued the invitation to come and visit us. He thought that the opportunity to travel to the "mother land" of Protestantism meant he would come to learn from us, whereas we wanted to learn something from him about his country and his church. Despite this misunderstanding, he accomplished the task with flying colours. Having said that,

his report also included many horrific elements, such as sex tourism, numerous natural disasters and children living on the streets. Incidentally, he still managed to fulfil his ori-





#### +++ "WALKING SIDE BY SIDE" +++

The 26 years I spent in Papua New Guinea passed by in a flash. For this I have to thank the women with whom I got to spend all those years sharing spiritual, cultural and personal experiences. Our collaboration consisted of learning together - with and from one another. Critically reflecting upon our actions at work pushed our differences into the background. The important things were common aims such as the women's self-determination, providing social services and preserving life-sustaining natural resources.

As the governmental women's commissioner in Menyamya Deaconry, I worked as part of a team with the church's women's workers to provide a range of educational opportunities, such as assisting mother-and-child clinics, training village midwives and literacy teachers, and supporting small projects in parishes and women's groups.

During one particular evaluation process, I got to know Mary-Rose, and we realised that money often destroyed the collaboration in the groups and the women's independent initiative. In response, we linked up with 'Bread for the World' and spent 20 years training a group of organisational consultants. Mary-Rose's work focused on the youth and women's department, women's training schools, the education department and the Lutheran health service in the ELC-PNG. In recent years, she turned her attention to the women in the deaconries and church groups with the aim of bolstering the departments and women in the church.

In September 2019, I assumed responsibility at Mission OneWorld for the partnerships in Papua New Guinea, the Pacific and East Asia. My 18 years' experience in the project office at the ELC-PNG mean I am very familiar with the highs and lows of partnerships. I relish the opportunity to incorporate my experiences into Mission OneWorld.

Sabine Schmidt

ny and Harvest Festival, thus also raising awareness of these issues amongst our partner churches throughout Bavaria. The deaconry missionary pastors and deaconry officers for partnership, development and mission act as magnificent multipliers in raising awareness of the main topics in our worldwide church amongst parishes and deaconries by means of illuminating examples and useful reminders. The vast majority of the 100-or-so delegates at the Mission and Partnership Conference - a good third newly instated in office - passed a resolution committing themselves to more consciously raising and driving forward the subject of creation and climate change, especially also incorporating the viewpoints and si-

churches, as part of their partnership work in the deaconries and parishes.

The volunteers also came out together in force, from the global south and the north, to raise their voices together at Fridays for Future. Our teachingand-preaching guests got the chance to forge links with the issues and people in our partner churches while attending school classes, confirmation classes and parish events (Romeu Martini alone reached more than 600 people on all his visits). Mutual understanding and global perspectives were honed in the numerous partnership meetings. The partnership officers from all over Germany gave thought to how the global perspective can be maintained in the regional church's appeals and be saved from cuts in favour of an exclusively local focus. Church is only church when tuations of our partner countries and it perceives itself as part of God's

Church in the World. We remain obliged to make people aware of this and to practise what we pre-

Reinhild Schneider

Nutty triangles and politics

Interview with Kai Küfner



JÜRGEN BERGMANN

- ? Eight years ago, you were preparing yourself for your year abroad. What has changed for you since then?
- I question things much more and see many things differently. Sustainability has become extremely important to me, in my life and in society. I also appreciate everyday things much more. We live in such a fabulous city, in such a fabulous country. For example, I like the fact that we have properly constructed pavements. It's these kinds of "trivialities" that I notice and enjoy. To sum up, I can say that I have experienced a lot more than I anticipated.
- So, how did you hit upon the idea of spending a year abroad?
- After training as a baker, the question obviously arose: "Where do I go

from here?" - and I decided to go back to completing my high school education. And at some point, my religious studies teacher told me about the volunteer programme at Mission OneWorld. I then also looked for openings at other secondment organisations who might be in need of skills in my field. But there wasn't anything for bakers. I would have done anything, really, such as social work

But that it would end up taking with children.

- ? But then something did come
- Yes, when the Officer for Tanzania told me during my interview that they were building a bakery in Usa River, I knew for sure that I was being called from up high!
- ? What astonished you when you arrived in Tanzania? Which clichés did you have to rethink?
- For one thing, I had imagined a landscape of steppe, dust and solitude. In reality, Usa River is a real hotspot, pulsating with life! I was also impressed by the rapid growth in the region. In the space of four years, one ATM turned into five, streets were topped with tarmac, and shopping centres opened up.
- ? The state of play at your workplace was also a surprise?
- Yes, it was no more than the framework for a building. The machinery took six months to arrive, and one of the intended staff members was still being trained at the hospitality col-

lege. I quickly realised that a year wouldn't be enough.

But I made use of my time and experimented in the existing kitchen at the café in the centre of town. I learned which materials were available and what people liked to buy, I didn't have any experience myself yet, and had a lot to learn.

- four years...?
- ...l couldn't pre-empt that it just turned out that way, step by step. Three years on, the bakery was basically finished, the team was up and running, and the first apprentices had arrived. A regular customer base



was also established. I was grateful for the fourth year, as I was able to gradually let go, take a step back, and simply advise from the sidelines. I got to complete my master baker exam, which I had been training for alongside my work during those years.

- ? How is the bakery doing
- I hear only praise from the customers. I have visited in person again twice since then and am impressed with the high quality of the produce. They outdo some of the baking in Bavaria!
- ? Your continuing affinity with Tanzania also has to do with your wife Grace, isn't that right?
- Yes, we met during my first vear in Usa River. I can only say that you never know where cupid will strike! During the induction phase at Mission One-World, we were told that these kinds of relationships aren't really condoned. But God works in mysterious ways ...
- ... Today, I can certainly say that Grace is the best thing that could ever have happened to me. And besides, our world needs people who think beyond borders. This fosters diversity, creates international solidarity and aids intercultural understanding.
- ? And then things weren't exactly easy when you returned to Germany?
- I no longer fitted into the system. And I didn't understand the people anymore. Arranging an appointment to meet over a coffee in a fortnight or so? Absurd! And then how selfish

## +++ TELEGRAM +++

#### +++ STUBE BAYERN +++

During 2019, the Development Politics Information and Education Programme for students from southern and eastern continents ran a total of 16 study days, weekend seminars and other collaborations involving 248 participants in all. The main focus of Weltuni in 2019 was on "Digitalisation", with a further four events examining "Democracy and Democratisation". Other development-related topics included project, waste and resource management, aspects of climate change, and participating in the pan-German STUBE campaign days in Berlin in spring 2019.



#### +++ SUPPLY CHAIN LAW INITIATIVE +++

In September 2019, Mission OneWorld joined forces with more than 80 other civil society organisations in the initiative "Lieferkettengesetz. de" to campaign for a legal obligation for German companies to uphold human rights and environmental standards throughout their global supply chains. The initiative is also pushing for companies to be held accountable for any damages attributable to failure to exercise due care. The group has launched a petition to urge the federal government into action (www.lieferkettengesetz.de).

#### +++ IEF +++

Every year, Mission OneWorld sends a number of young people for one year's voluntary service in social projects run by our partners in the south of the world with the International Protestant Volunteers' Service (IEF). The aim is to offer participants the opportunity to grasp the inter-related issues inherent in development peopolitics and identify potential means of action can be for achieving more so unwilequitable co-exiling to accept stence in our any limitation One World. to their own little In 2019, 26 freedoms. The isyoung sue of the 130 speed people limit is just one example.

I sometimes want to shout: You have no idea how privileged you are here! We would resolve 90 per cent of our problems if we stopped being so selfish and greedy. I am convinced of this! It took two years for Grace and me to establish our everyday life here.

**?** By you've struck out on your own and set up a business...

lust imagine, working for 12 to 13 hours as baker. And when you clock off, it's already dark again. That was my way of life in November 2016, and it's makes you depressed. Grace wasn't yet able to work, and I actually wanted to study, as well. So I decided to become my own boss and focus on what I do best - nutty triangles. They already went down well in Tanzania. This enabled me to finally start studying food technology - by that point, I had secured a bursary for special talent - and I was more flexible and able to spend more time with my wife.

The "nutty triangles" project transformed into a business with its own bakery and widespread recognition. By now, we supply "packaging-free shops" all over Germany and many sales points around Nuremberg. Of course, our produce is fair, organic, palm-oil-free, vegan, and baked using green energy. Last week, we were awarded "Zero Waste Superhero" status by Bluepingu.

### Department for Development and Politics

? Does all this success leave any It's not enough to complain if the you see; never judge. Every culture space for new ventures?

Yes, I have to go into politics. I want to advocate my values - not moan and groan, but try to improve things. My year abroad enabled me to expand my horizons. Climate our readers if they ever visit Tanzachange and the swing to the right nia? present us with challenges.

total took part in this programme, with 17 going to Latin America and 9 to China, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. The IEF Comeback section ran four seminars for 77 participants in total.

about it. So I'm standing for election rent cultures. to Nuremberg City Council.

? What would you recommend to

Look around you a lot and think about what

world out there is falling apart. That's shock teaches us something - and not for me - I want to do something you never finish learning about diffe-

Interviewer: Jürgen Bergmann

\*In the meantime, Kai Küfner has been elected to Nuremberg City Council. (Editor's note)

#### +++ NUREMBERG FAIR TOYS ALLIANCE +++

Breaches of employment law are still commonplace in the supply chain for toys. Wherever they are located, companies also face numerous ecological challenges. In 2018, concerned toy companies started working together with the German Toy Industry Association (DVSI) and civil society organisations such as Mission One-World towards creating a credible supervisory body for the sector - the Fair Toys Organisation (www.fair-toys.org). In future, consumers should be able to identify toys that have been manufactured under decent conditions with the aid of a special label.



#### +++ BAVARIAN MOBILE PHONE CAMPAIGN +++

In 2019, we succeeded in collecting around 14,500 old devices for recycling, raising some 12,000 euros for the three projects we are funding in Liberia, El Salvador and Bavaria. In addition, we conducted numerous workshops on mobile phones for school pupils, church congregations and interested members of the public. Besides the "mobile phone kit", our "consumption thriller" has become a popular training tool that we have already had the chance to present in our two "training trainers" sessions in Landsberg and Nuremberg.

#### +++ EXHIBITIONS +++

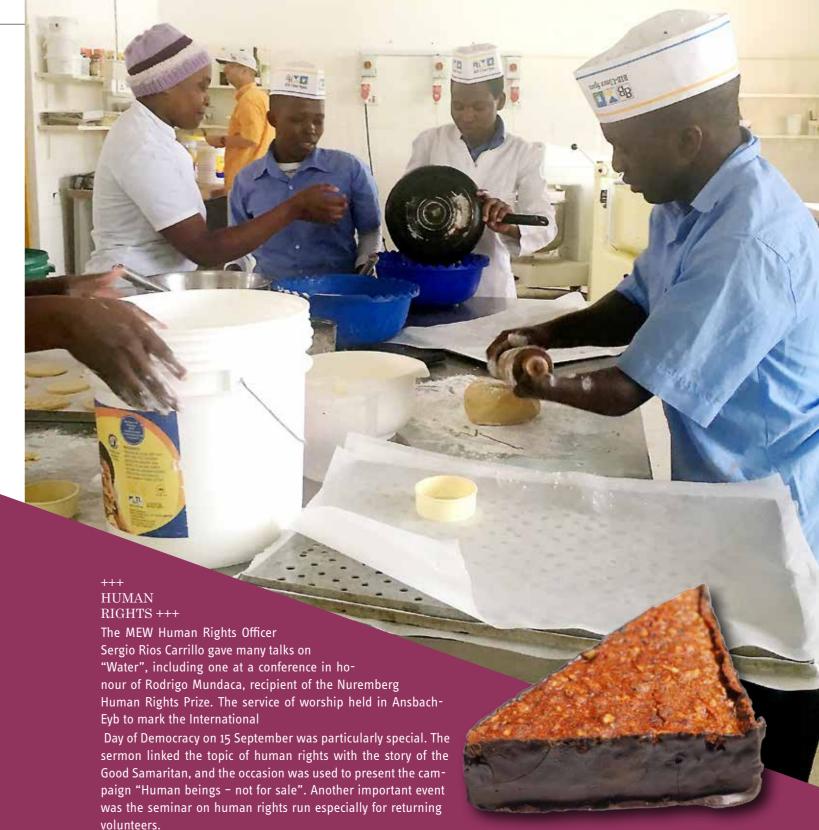
We have a wide range of exhibitions - some interactive - for loan, including a new one on the supply chain law comprising six stands. Further topics to choose from include: "Harvested - who feeds the world?"; "Up and away - exhibition on flight and migration"; "Land is life"; "Mobile phones - treasure chest of raw materials" (poster series), and "What has soya to do with hunger?" (poster series). Our poster series each contain six A2 posters for you to keep.

#### +++ ONEWORLD IN A BOX +++

Altogether, our educational boxes were loaned by schools and congregations some 180 times for around two to three weeks, of which more than 100 were sent by post. The most popular were the ones on mobile phones, cocoa and chocolate, and the revamped toy box. Our "OneWorld in a box" kits can also be loaned from 33 World Shops, in total around 90 boxes. The kits are modular and designed for immediate use, each examining a specific topic and using game formats to highlight global interdependencies and problems, then encouraging participants to work on developing solutions.

#### +++ GLOBAL LEARNING +++

The new "KonfiDank" box is specially designed for confirmation candidates, illuminating Christian responsibility for the world based on the example of the social and ecological impacts of mobile phone manufacturing. It forms part of the "KonfiDank" campaign run by Mission OneWorld, Bread for the World, the Gustav Adolf Agency in Bavaria, and the Wings of Hope foundation. Two other new kits are called "NoPlastic!" and "Water for all".



#### +++ PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS +++

In 2019, 160 events were held on topics related to development politics, reaching almost 6,800 people in different target groups. On average, these training sessions lasted almost four hours, ranging from half-hour brief presentations through to several days spent preparing volunteers for their stint abroad.

#### +++ FUNDING +++

The Department for Development and Politics offers advice on applications for development policy measures. In this way, we helped raise a total of 214,749.60 euros during 2019 in funding from the Church Development Service Bavaria for 40 education projects based in Bavaria. Such applications were made by World Shops, for example. Recurrent annual projects include the Latin American Week in Nuremberg or the African Days in Augsburg. Worthy of very special mention are the many people who organise the workshops conducted in schools and congregations on Global Learning.



# Partnerships in times of increasing challenges all over the world

# In total, Mission OneWorld received the following donations and gifts over the year:

Total denations and gifts	1 /E7 602 f
Evang. Luth. Church in Tanzania	729.042 €
Evang. Luth. Church of Papua New Guinea/East Asia	113.710 €
Lutheran Church in Liberia	16.949 €
Evang. Luth. Church in Congo	62.451 €
Kenyan Evang. Luth. Church	59.369 €
Evang. Luth. churches in Latin America	84.942 €
Evang. Church Luth. Confession in Brazil	34.380 €
General World Mission tasks	356.760 €
Breakdown of donations and gifts	Result 2019

Total donations and gifts	1.457.602 €

	1,5,
Income	Result 2019
Third-party subsidies (e.g. Federation)	0 €
Interest	0 €
Collections	192.843 €
Donations and gifts	1.457.602 €
Bequests	21.632 €
Other income	0 €
Special funds from previous years	-181.931 €
Subsidy from the regional church	12.251.102 €
Total income	13.741.248 €

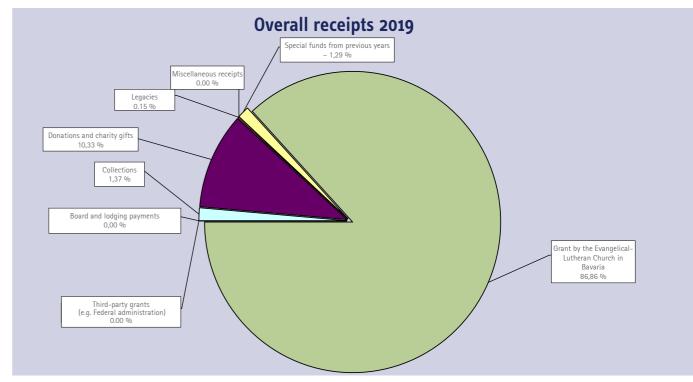
As in the previous year, the budget year 2019 was subject to an advance tax provision stipulated by the regional synod, signalling a continued reduction of the subsidy provided by the regional church. Although this subsidy was nominally almost 30,000 euros higher than the year before, once the wage agreement increase for 2019 of approx. 2.3 per cent, the additional effect of considering amortisations of prior decisions (i.e. write-offs of investment goods procured from dedicated project funds during the financial year 2016) and the advance tax provision for 2019 were taken into account, this once again equated to a reduction of around 2 per cent.

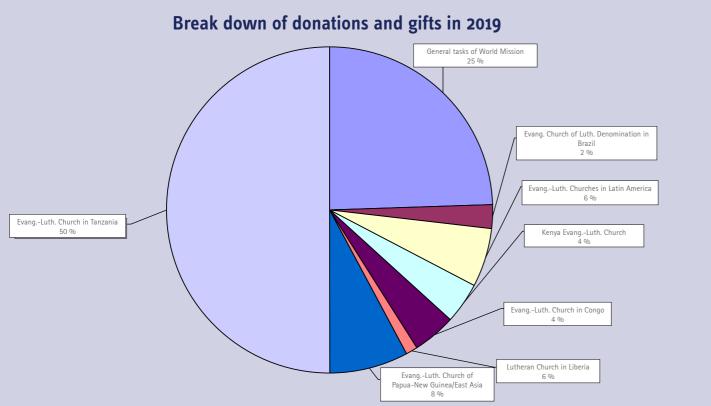
At the same time, the previous year's trend towards lower income from donations and gifts persisted. During the budget year 2019, we also received a proportion of the gain from the financial year 2017, booked as "special funds from previous years", in addition to the budget allocated for 2019.

#### Details of income 2019

As outlined above, the subsidy from the regional church increased nominally by around 30,000 euros, although the subsidy budget from the regional church was simultaneously cut by around 2 per cent based on advance tax. With regard to income, unfortunately donations and gifts fell by 128,000 euros. One possible reason for this reduction could lie in the strict obligation for any transferrals of dedicated funds from parishes, deaconries, initiative groups and individual benefactors to comply with regulations that came into force from 2018. This means that dedicated donations can only be transferred following the presentation of written agreements (Financial Cooperation Agreement -FCA, and in the case of projects also a Project Agreement - PA), financial reports with receipts, or accounting chits certifying the dedicated use in question from the previous year. By the closure of accounts, in comparison to the previous year, around 135,000 euros more collections had been received, of which 35,000 euros dated from 2018. Mission OneWorld was bequeathed a sum of 21,632 euros during this financial year. The annual financial statement for 2019 con-

Expenditure:		
Area of work	Area of expenditure	Result 2019
Germany	Staffing costs	4.116.282 €
Germany	Material costs	648.854 €
Germany	-432	.297 €
Germany in total		4.332.839 €
Papua New Guinea, Pa	cific, East Asia	
PPO	Staffing costs	2.145.877 €
PPO	Budget subsidies	411.400 €
PPO	Projects, individual measures	508.015 €
PPO in total		3.065.292 €
Africa		
Africa	Staffing costs	2.068.542 €
Africa	Budget subsidies	573.138 €
Africa	Projects, individual measures	524.142 €
Africa in total		3.165.822 €
Latin America		
Latin America	Staffing costs	697.833 €
Latin America	Budget subsidies	240.934 €
Latin America	Projects, individual measures	273.299 €
Latin America in total		1.212.066 €
World Mission		
World Mission	General tasks via EMW	350.144 €
World Mission	Special tasks	0€
World Mission	Exchange pastors from overseas	438.679 €
World Mission	Earmarked special budget	1.055.773 €
World Mission in total		1.844.596 €
Total expenditure		13.620.615 €
Total income		13.741.247 €
Unspent		-120.632 €





tained a proportion of gains of 181,931 euros, thus providing an additional planning sum derived from unspent funds in 2017. Specifications require the separately scheduled expenditure for this to be posted as income, so they are therefore indicated as negative income.

### Details of expenditure 2018

The total expenditure was 25,018 euros less than in the previous year. The expenditure for work in the areas Germany, Papua New Guinea/Pacific/ East Asia, Africa, Latin America and World Mission ended up in proportion to that for the budget year 2018. The total balance between all income and expenditure amounted to 120,632 euros unspent.

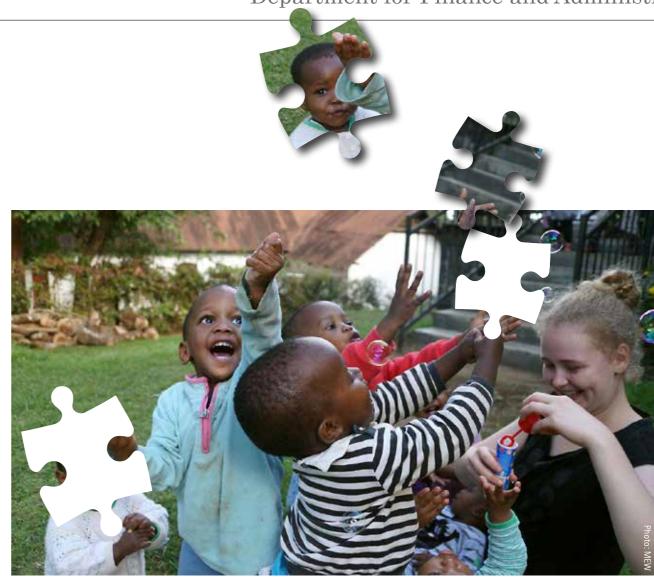
Change processes were initiated throughout the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (ELCB). Various processes were also prompted and launched in Mission OneWorld. On the one hand, the advance tax with its prescribed annual reduction has influenced our subsidy budget continuously, enduringly and long-

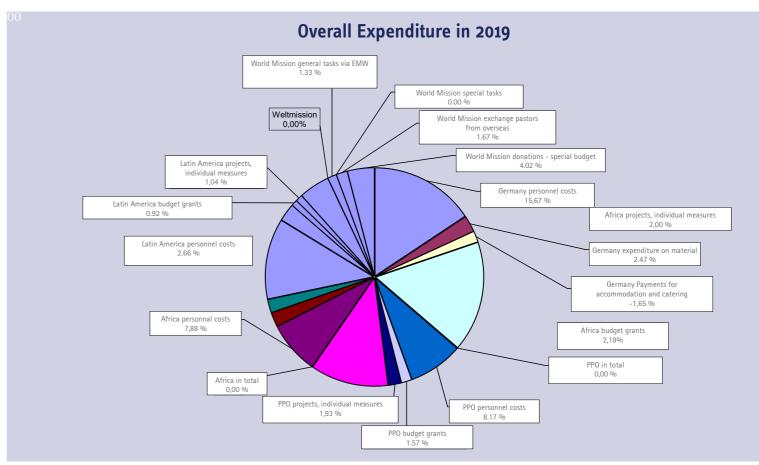
term since 2016. On the other, the ELCB's PaC process (PaC = Profile and Concentration) is a necessary means of addressing the content and future at the Regional Church Office worked direction of church work. This change process instigated by the ELCB makes it a day-to-day task for us to keep on highlighting the importance of external relations for the entire church. In the face of major challenges for the ELCB as a whole, sight of the worldwide church is too quickly lost and deprioritised. Mission OneWorld has also been undergoing a process of structural change for several years, aimed at balancing the dwindling budgetary funds with its future medium-term viability. At the same time, it is becoming increasingly necessary to attract third-party funding if we are to continue to act as partners for staffing and funding overseas churches, who in some cases are beleaguered by very difficult circumstances. Furthermore, the demands placed upon our partner churches' administrative bodies are increasing with regard to applications for projects and compliance-assured invoicing.

Thus 2019 was also marked by the establishment of various structural

measures and the introduction of compliance. As part of this, Department C - Ecumenism and Church Life together with Mission OneWorld on drafting guidelines for "dedicated donations", rulebooks for promoting transparency and avoiding corruption, and a Code of Conduct. A project office for all African partner churches was set up in Tanzania in liaison with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). In the same vein, we set up a central Compliance Office in Germany and appointed a compliance manager to commence work at the start of 2020. Above and beyond this, training commenced in 2019 for Bavarian partnership groups in church congregations and deaconries on key aspects of donations for partnership work and introducing written agreements (Financial Cooperation Agreements - FCAs, and in some cases also Project Agreements - PAs) as a precondition for transferring dedicated donations. The subject of compliance will undoubtedly remain a persistent key issue with regard to relations with our partners in the years ahead.

Jochen Kronester





# "Simply friends": The great fortune of getting support



In autumn 2017, I was sitting in a classroom in Karansi, Tanzania, on a visit. It was a small, bright room with several rows of benches. Thirteen children of all ages were looking at me and my companion. They found these people from Europe both interesting and strange.

The rear section of the room was separated from the rest by a shelf unit. On the floor there, three children aged between nine and twelve were sleeping on mattresses. A young woman was stretching and massaging them in turn. The teacher explained that we were in the classroom for the Tumaini children. The front part of the room was a kind of Montessori class for children with special educational needs in the parish, aimed at making the most of their abilities – learning how to read and write their names, basic counting and, if possible, even some arithmetic, and how to perform domestic chores so as to make themselves useful in their families and increase their self-confidence.



KATRIN BAUER





The back, where the mattresses were, housed the nursery for severely disabled children, where a remedial nurse performed special exercises and developmental education.

The teacher also explained: "Our children enjoy coming here, they feel at ease and are grateful for any kind of stimulation. Some of the progress they make I wouldn't ever have expected, or not as quickly. This is all only possible with loving care. The families, especially their mothers, feel respected and that their concerns are taken seriously. After all, as for parents all over the world, good care and nurture is important. They and their children are also a respected part of the parish, which does what it can to provide school meals for the Tumaini children."

The classroom was part of the village primary school in Karansi. It was a major aim of the parish to set up a Tumaini daycare facility, as already existed elsewhere, in which social workers care for children and young people aged between 6 and 15 years old with special educational needs. The kids are looked after and nurtured there from 8 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon. They are also given two meals each day.

However, despite the acute need in Karansi, at that point unfortunately everything was still limited to that small classroom in the school, lacking the construction funds for the desired Tumaini Building.

The plan was to build a sanitary block, with boys' and girls' toilets and two disabled-access large showers, one each for the boys and the girls (as required by the Tanzanian state), and a cleaning closet. They needed mattresses, blankets, bed sheets and towels as soft furnishings, and several foam wedges (various sizes and angles) and mats for physiotherapy. A covered walkway to the canteen was required to ensure all the schoolchildren could gather together for lunch.

When I got back to Germany, I told people what I had witnessed, and I was lucky enough to succeed in raising the desperately needed funding. After all the formalities had been seen to, the construction work could commence.

As the months passed by, the children in Karansi remained in my thoughts at work. In summer 2019, Deacon Gabriele Raunigk informed me that the daycare facility was now ready.

She sent me pictures of the finished building and the proudly smiling children in the rooms equipped specially for them and their needs. Important work was performed here – helping children, families and an entire parish. This and much more is made possible by the donors who support the work of Mission OneWorld. We have loyal benefactors and supporters – kind people who are there for others in need. Simply friends.





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