



Newsletter IDA

June 2009

Introduction

The International Development Agency (IDA) of the Brothers of Charity has a difficult time trying to find partners for financial support of the many projects in the south, which sometimes have urgent needs: water for a school community in Kabinda and a rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Yogyakarta; building a new school in Ranchi, where so many children are waiting to have a chance to learn; the renovation of the war-struck school infrastructure in Lusambo, developing training programs for caregivers in India, adapted medicines for our psychiatric centres in Africa, and so on.

The financial and economic crisis makes it difficult for our sponsors to make an evaluation in the short term. Some decisions and promises are postponed. While the poor get poorer, thriving people are hesitating more than ever to offer support. The poor will always pay the price, through good times and bad times.

The Brothers of Charity will give them an extra support with the creation and the name of their new International NGO, "Global Action against Poverty" (GAaP). This new NGO will help the Brothers to manage their social projects in the south, and will become the legal and official representing body for the Brothers of Charity.

During the meeting of the General Council with the Brothers of Charity's regional superiors, our IDA Agency presented its work and results. There was also time to reflect on the needs that we experience to further canalize the communication among projects, communities, volunteers, sponsors and sympathizers, a complex and interesting support network. It creates changes for the poorest among us for human rights and dignity by making education, healthcare, and mental healthcare also available for them.

India

Opening of "Giuseppe Moscati" project, Sivagangai, India

On December 7, 2008, Brother Dr. René Stockman (Superior General) and Mr. Prakash Goossens (IDA Director for Asia) attended the official opening of the Brothers of Charity's Sivagangai project "Giuseppe Moscati" in Tamil Nadu state, India. This project will host in its maximum capacity 30 chronic psychiatric patients. Local politicians, the bishop of Sivagangai and the Superior General inaugurated and blessed this new project. In the south of India, this project is unique and will help in the rehabilitation of chronic psychiatric patients back into society. In the future, this project will also provide help for drug addicted patients. The Brothers of Charity also have the intention to offer training in psychiatric

rehabilitation for psychiatric nurses, doctors, social workers and teachers.



Prospection in Gujarat, India

In the presence of His Majesty Albert II, King of the Belgians, and Her Majesty Queen Paola, of the Kingdom of Belgium, during their State Visit to the Republic of India and particularly to Mumbai on November 7, 2008, the Brothers of Charity, a worldwide organization engaged in humanitarian projects represented by Brother Dr. René Stockman (Superior General), and Help Handicapped International, a registered charitable trust in India, signed a Declaration of Intent to provide capacity building to teachers, paramedics and other key personnel of schools for special education in Gujarat, India (document "Declaration of Intent between the Brothers of Charity, Ghent-Belgium, and Help Handicapped International, Mumbai-India").

The program will generate a trained cadre of teachers and pa-



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remedies for effective intervention in enhancing the quality of life for mentally-challenged children in schools as well as in their families and communities, while providing professional leadership to teachers. The program will combine master training and trainee training in knowledge, skills and special techniques for which the Brothers of Charity will bring know-how and expertise from Belgium. After thorough evaluation, the program could be exported to other parts of India.

The Brothers of Charity's IDA, represented by Mr. Prakash Goossens (IDA Director for Asia), will supervise the training program in cooperation with the International Institute Canon Triest, represented by Prof. Dr. Patrick De Pooter (Director), with Help Handicapped International, represented by Mr. Mahendra G. Metha (Trustee), and with other local organizations as advised by Help Handicapped International to give an international certification for the training. The training itself will be set up and coordinated by Mr. Guido Declercq, Master Trainer in Special Education and Advisor of Special Education for the Brothers of Charity, and a team of Belgian specialists.



During his visit to India (December 9-16, 2008), Mr. Guido Declercq visited eight schools, three hostels, two families and one sheltered workshop. He also had eight meetings with different local organizations, government authorities, and other persons involved in special education in Gujarat. This allowed him to study the existing curriculum together

with the pedagogical and didactical specialists of the special-needs schools, to find out the special need to train teachers.

His findings were written down in the document "Prospection Gujarat – India December 9-16, 2008, in cooperation between Brothers of Charity and Help Handicapped International". In this report he stated that the input from the



Brothers of Charity should be focused on three domains: mental retardation, autism and speech impairment.

Visiting the Brothers of Charity in Belgium

TISS, Mumbai

In May 2009, Professor Dr. Kathy Gandevia (TISS) visited the Brothers of Charity and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. The following areas of possible cooperation were discussed:

- Strengthen existing courses offered by both universities in mental health;
- Arrange short-term training programmes for students from India and Belgium - through exchange of students in the form of a Winter or Summer Institute;
- Faculty exchange programmes;
- Dual degree programmes in: a) social work, b) public health, and c) mental health;
- Joint research projects in areas of expertise common to both universities.

The summary of the first discussions: The main goal could be the set up of a specialization in Mental Health for the Masters Social Worker of TISS, with the possibility of offering this specialization at a later stage to other professionals, in the first place to nurses. The set up of this specialization would be coordinated by the Brothers of Charity, in cooperation with TISS and KUL. In this cooperation all partners would be equal and they would all contribute from their own specialisms and experiences, which will contribute to the further development of each partner. TISS already has elements of and specialists in the field of Mental Health. Together with our specialists and those of the KUL, they can draw up and implement the whole. Exchange of students and professors (faculty exchange) is for TISS a very important theme, especially concerning the specialization modules.





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KATHO and Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kerala

On February 6, 2009, students of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Kerala, India) and Mrs. Eveline Leroy of the Catholic University College West-Flanders (KATHO) came to Ghent. IDA invited them to visit some institutions of the Brothers of Charity in the context of social work. The day schedule was a rich combination of interactive presentations and informative sightseeing (presentation of Bro. Waldebert, former Superior General, visit museum Dr. Guislain, visit social workplace De Sleutel, interactive dialogue). It is hoped that this initiative will strengthen a possible cooperation between the Brothers of Charity and KATHO in India.



United States

Catholic Medical Mission Board, New York

In New York we started cooperation with the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB). Mr. Johan Maertens met in December 2008 for the first time with Mrs. Theresa Klay, Director of Government Relations, and Mrs. Kathy Tebbett, Coordinator of Pharmaceutical Unit. Their mission is to give support in medical equipment and medicines, and sending medically-specialized volunteers. Currently, CMMB is active in 40+ countries spread all over the world. In March 2009, we submitted an application for medication for our psychiatric centres in Africa. Negotiations continue at the present time.

CMMB has a broad international network also in India, where they already helped colleague Prakash Goossens to meet some of their very interesting contacts. Through this international cooperation we make our network stronger. This must help us to ensure the necessary support for the social projects of the

congregation. Furthermore, we will cooperate with CMMB concerning the topic of interreligious activities.

World Bank, Washington, D.C.

In December 2008, important contacts were made in Washington, D.C. at the World Bank by Mr. Johan Maertens. Collaboration with the team “Development and Disabilities”, with Mrs. Maria Reina (Executive Director), Mr. Marco Nicoli (Knowledge Manager), Mrs. Laura McDonald (Mental Health Advisor), and Mrs. Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo (Senior Operations Officer for East Asia and Pacific Africa), is of huge interest for the Brothers of Charity as well as for the World Bank. The team’s most crucial task is to ensure the integration of people with disabilities and/or mental problems in all national and international efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals. In their search for partners, they particularly aim for international NGOs.

Since the first contact in December 2008, the team “Development and Disabilities” has been informing and advising the Brothers of Charity about relevant calls of proposals, the changing regulations of grant-seeking, interesting conferences and suitable partners. They also referred us to the new section “Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics” (DDVE), where Mr. Quentin Wodon is Adviser and Program Manager.

The unit “Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics” works mainly with faith-based NGOs. An internal evaluation of the World Bank found out that NGOs do finish their projects, particularly faith-based NGOs. Their first conference will take place in July 2009 and Brother Dr. René Stockman (Superior General), is already invited to participate as a guest speaker. Also, the unit is preparing two publications on education in Congo and on mental health in Burundi, and would like to publish the work of the Brothers in both publications as a case study. Furthermore, this group is highly interested in our interreligious activities and follows closely the events regarding this issue.

Global Movement for Mental Health

Global Mental Health Summit 2009, Athens

On March 12, 2009, Mr. Johan Maertens met Dr. Gary Belkin of the Global Movement for Mental Health in New York. It was agreed that Brother Dr. René Stockman (Superior General), will speak at the Global Mental Health Summit in Athens during September 2-6, 2009. In his lecture, Brother Stockman will emphasize how mental health fits in the overall approach of the Millennium Development Goals and in the struggle against poverty in general. The intersectoral work of the Brothers (mental health, education and disabilities) provides exceptional examples from the field. Connected with this, Bro-



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ther General will indicate how rudimentary basic knowledge about mental health can be instructed in rural environments in order to reach effectively as many people as possible.

Millennium Villages

The Millennium Villages are designed to demonstrate how the eight Millennium Development Goals can be met in rural Africa within five years through community-led development. Dr. Gary Belkin is working to connect the Global Movement for Mental Health with this remarkable project, and to realize the integration of mental health following Dr. Jeffrey Sachs' model.

Friends Committees

We discussed the functioning of our existing Friends Committees in Belgium and Netherlands to decide how they can contribute in a better and more definite way during this difficult period. We will meet again and make further plans and actions for the second half of the year, and we will discuss how to participate in the creation of two new committees:

The International Friends Committee for Human Rights on Mental Health, Education and Care for people with disabilities. We scheduled the formal event in New York (and Washington, D.C.) for November 20-24, 2009, with the support of the Belgian Ambassador, the Belgian Consul General, and the Belgian Ambassador at the UN. An invitation from our International President and from the Superior General will follow.

By working hard in the past year in India to create the network and support needed to continue our projects and increase capacity and quality, we have found so many friends that it will shortly be possible to create an Indian Friends Committee.

Indonesia

Visit to Indonesian Region of Caraes Nederland and IDA

Mr. Prakash Goossens together with Brother Aimé (General Council Secretary of the Brothers of Charity) and Brother Louis visited the Indonesian Region of the Brothers of Charity on March 16-28, 2009. Unfortunately Brother Ton, Regional Director for Netherlands, could not join the group in this work visit due to health issues.

The overall purpose of the visit was a follow-up of the last visit to Indonesia together with Superior General (June 2008) on behalf of Caraes Netherlands.



It was a first visit for Brother Aimé to Asia. His advice and vision on education by the Brothers of Charity was more than valuable for Caraes Nederland and for the Indonesian Brothers. Brother Louis was a great adviser for the buildings that have to be renewed or renovated in the next few years.

This time, appointments have been made in Jakarta for IDA with the Ambassadors of Belgium and the Netherlands. They are keen to come to the 80th jubilee celebration in October 2009 in Purworejo (Central Java, Indonesia). This celebration will be combined with the opening of the new Sahabat Kita facilities. IDA made also contact with Flanders Investment and Trade. In October 2009, together with the Belgian and Dutch Embassy and Captains of Industry for the Brothers of Charity, IDA will organize a Seminar called "80 years of existence of the Brothers of Charity in Indonesia: reflection and future." This can help the Indonesian Region together with Caraes Nederland and IDA in search for funding of projects in the long term.

A great "Terimah Kasih" (thank you) to the Regional Brother, Brother Lukas, and to all Indonesian brothers and co-workers, Brother Aimé and Brother Louis for their kind assistance during the visit of Caraes Nederland and IDA to the Indonesian Region (Yogyakarta-Purworejo-Boro-Purwokerto-Wonosobo).





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Rome

Interreligious Dialogue

A remarkable highlight was the Interreligious Dialogue held in Rome on the 6th of February 2009, an Initiative of the Brothers of Charity.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, Secretary of the Council and the General Superior of the Brothers of Charity, Prof. Dr. René Stockman met at the Vatican on February 6 with Imam Umair Ahmed Ilyasi, Secretary General of the Indian Organization of Imams of Mosques. This meeting was initiated by Mr. Ankit Srivastava of the International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies.

The theme of the meeting was identifying ways of interreligious cooperation between Muslims and Christians in India and all over the world to prevent and/or intervene in the growing tension and possible aggression between religious groups.

The Brothers of Charity, present in India and active with several social projects in the North, South and Centre of the country, led the initiative for cooperation after several meetings with the Imam who is responsible for half million Imams in India.

During the conversation the Imam proposed to establish formal cooperation between the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Indian Organization of Imams of Mosques to collaborate in common actions for peace by fortifying each other's international networks to influence and calm tension between religious groups where needed. The Imam also expressed his hope for a visit of his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to India on the occasion of a national conference for interreligious cooperation.

Both parties agreed that interreligious cooperation is an indispensable instrument for peace that urgently needs to be developed to prevent tension and to preach and teach peace among the religious communities all over the world. The Council and the Organization of Imams of Mosques will study the discussed propositions and agreed to meet again. The Cardinal plans a visit to India in the month of June 2009. There was an agreement to meet formally during that period to formalize this message of hope and peace.

The Brothers of Charity give their support to the creation of a new organization called the International Council for Interreligious Cooperation.



Agenda

May 16-June 1, 2009 - Mr. Goossens, Mr. Maertens and Bro. dr. R. Stockman leave for India, where they will ensure the follow-up of the contacts of the partners and projects of the Brothers of Charity.

May 30-June 5, 2009 - Mr. Maertens travels to New York and Washington to start the preparations for the official opening of the International Friends Committee in New York and Washington in November.

June 30-July 5, 2009 - Mr. Maertens is presenting Bro. dr. R. Stockman at the Faith and Development Leaders Meeting on July 1-2 2009 in Accra, Ghana.

September 2-6, 2009 – Bro. dr. R. Stockman and Mr. Goossens travel to Athens since General Superior is invited to speak on behalf of the Brothers of Charity at the Global Mental Health Summit.

September 30-October 16, 2009 - Bro. dr. R. Stockman and Mr. Goossens go to Indonesia to attend the celebration of 80 years Brothers of Charity in Indonesia.

November 18-November 24, 2009 - Bro. dr. R. Stockman, Mr. Johan Maertens and Mr. Prakash Goossens travel to New York and Washington for the official launch of the International Friends Committee. An academic seminar, reception and gala dinner will be organized in New York (19-20/11/2009) and in Washington (22-23/11/2009) to celebrate this event. Could you please note these dates in your agenda. An official invitation will follow at the beginning of September.



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Ways to Support and to Contact

A Small Gesture, Great Help...

Health care, education, a roof over our heads, equal rights: we would not want to miss them for the world. The Brothers of Charity set out to places where such values are threatened. Defending such causes and offering help to people cost a lot of money. Your contribution can make a difference!

If you wish to stand up for the rights of those who have been abandoned by the rest of the world, please visit our website at www.ifc-ida.org and follow the instructions under 'Ways to Give'.

If you are interested to join the International Friends Committee (IFC), or for any other questions about our organization, please contact us:

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