

Rundbrief

Berichte und Austausch über Missionsarbeit (Apg. 14,27 / 2. Thess. 3,1)

Trier, May 2024,

*But Jesus said to them, "They have no need to go away; you give them something to eat."
(Matthew 14:16)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Two weeks ago we came home from Egypt, that is, Eduard Sudermann and I. As always, we had an eventful time. Michael Krampulz was also there for a few days to meet Pastor Ayman.

I actually like being in Egypt and get along well there. And it's so nice to travel as a couple. That helps a lot. But this time I didn't feel quite as good. That's why I sometimes found it very exhausting: The traffic in the streets is so chaotic that my head didn't take it so well. Always only the one traffic rule: "I". You just drive the way you want. Five lanes next to each other, left and right overtaking. You drive against traffic, preferably without lights. Everyone is on the phone in the car. Motorcycles drive at top speed in between, if possible also on the phone. And pedestrians walk across the street in between, preferably also on the phone. It's really incredible that we only saw one accident – unfortunately with one dead – a motorcyclist lying on the road.

And then in the churches or communities: the music is always so loud that you want to run away. But dear brothers and sisters, it's all so cheerful and well-intentioned. That's why you want to endure all this and I always like to go there.

To our Bible verse at the top of the page: We received pictures and information about the Emmaus work in South and North Sudan. When we arrived, Pastor Ayman and Isaaq had just returned from South Sudan, full of stirring stories and testimonies about the work there. Enthusiastically, they told us about large open doors. The Bishop of South Sudan, who is responsible for all Pentecostal churches in this country, was present at a diploma ceremony. He wished for all his churches in South Sudan that the Emmaus courses would be held there. He spoke of 500 churches that are there, but where there is actually no biblical basis for (congregational) life.



What I find so funny is that many testimonies say that they find the booklet on the subject of "The Holy Spirit" so good ...

When I heard all this, the stories about Sudan, I thought of the above-mentioned verse: *Andrew said, "We have 5 loaves and 2 fishes, what are they?" Nevertheless, the Lord Jesus said, "Give them something to eat."*

We stand there and say, "Lord, we want to help, but where are we going to get all this?" I don't know. So let's just pass on the question.

Egypt

In addition to our conference, we had 6 diploma awards on this trip with a total of about 120 awards in different levels.

The content of these diploma awards is actually always the same:

1. Singing and worship
2. The Emmaus work is presented.
3. There are student testimonials.
4. There is a sermon.
5. Students take vows.
6. Prayers are prayed for the students and their ministry.
7. Students receive their diploma.



Especially the third point three is always encouraging. Sometimes it's not much special, but often it's also very appealing. Like in Minya: There we had a large congregation full of young people. Two young women came forward and said: "We would like to sing a song as a testimony". And then they sang a song with the content: *"I want to hand everything over to Jesus ..."*

Emmaus App

When we were in Minya and the diploma ceremony was over, there was another eternal photo shoot. That's always nice. Hundreds of pictures were taken with the latest mobile phones. Then it became clear to me again that no one can say anymore: *"Here in Egypt you can't work with the Emmaus app, here you just don't have cell phones!"* On the occasion of our conference, Eduard also provided detailed information about the Emmaus app. And it looks like one or the other was really interested in it.

Well, a warm greeting and thank you for your interest!

Wim and Anita Hoddenbagh