

A PROBLEM THAT IS NOT NEW

How to support certain salaries for some time if there is not an own source of income nor state support?

A civilized society has mechanisms to be able to cover social expenses that for nature always are deficit at an economic level. Citizens' taxes are the main economic source to allow that „not productive“ but necessary professions (for example, let's mention professionals from the sanitary, education, research and social work area) have their place and their dignity in the society. These professions gather in the tertiary sector of the economy or also called the sector services.

At the level of international cooperation (and also local) we often find that the lack of money is an obstacle. This first obstacle is partially overcome thanks to personal donations or help from the state or private entities which give money to support some concrete project. The challenge of any project is that it ends up by being self-sufficient also at an economic level and this is difficult if the project does not have internal financing or if due to its own nature, cannot end up by having its own sufficient income because its work is not productive (for example teachers from a school in a marginal neighbourhood, where parents cannot give any money). Donors, in general, want visible results: to build something, for example. The problem arises when a significant part of the

editorial

budget goes for the wages of the local personnel in order that they give life to the project. The objection has its *raison d'être*: what will these workers live from when the subsidy or the help is ended? From this objection, nevertheless, arises another difficulty that is also legitimate: in order that a project has life, volunteers' work is necessary but thinking that only with volunteers a project can have a long life is ingenuous. Where does a voluntary work end? Where does a remunerated work begin? How to support certain salaries for some time if there is not an own source of income nor state support? The problem is not new and the solution is not simple as there are many factors at stake. Our experiences lived in South Africa and the current ones with the project that we are supporting in Peru show us the strong reality of this problem. Any idea or suggestion to this respect (as well as any economic support) is welcome.

In this number we include an article about the experience and the truth of our German friend Michael Schliep who is also a member of the Managerial Council of „Claim for Dignity e.V.“. We also have the testimony of our deaf friend Carla Leguía, who lives in Lima, and although she does not have anything to do with the project of „La Mansión „, it helps us to have a first contact with Peru. In the next number we will talk deeply about the project of „La Mansión“.

The Council

THE PATH TO TRUTH IS AN EXPERIENCE

Each person is called to accept and to exercise the truth, to do good from his/her freedom

A person can choose to do right or wrong because human will is free, but free will is also fallible, that is, it can make mistakes. What is therefore this human free will? According to Aristotle free will is a quality of will which is exercised through truth. Freedom is given to each person as a task to perform. Therefore there cannot be freedom without truth. The goodness offered to human freedom is that goodness of virtues: intelligence as a control function, justice for the control of social order. This system of which depends self-achievement of human freedom within truth is wide and complex. Nevertheless it is not an abstract system. For Aristotle as well as for Francis of Assisi human experience is the starting point to freely execute a true human freedom. Francis of Assisi tries to base this experience in the Bible. The Bible teaches that the two most important commandments are to love God and love toward your fellowman. A person finds in these two commandments the basis for the most complete achievement: freedom exists for love. In this sense freedom is given to each person by the Creator as a gift and at the same time as a task. Each person is called to accept and to exercise the truth, to do good from his/her freedom.

What does this mean to each concrete person? How does each person recognize this path as the true one? Whilst an individual person chooses a true value in personal life and in the family, in professional life, in political life, and turns it into action, this person carries out his/her own freedom in truth.

thoughts

I felt this experience myself about 13 years ago, when the nine-month year old daughter of one of our friends became seriously ill due to a brain tumour. One morning I was invited together with twenty friends from the South of Germany to do an itinerant prayer with different stations – similar to the Way of the Cross – followed by an Extreme Unction for Monica, the ill baby, with her parents. Through common prayer we all felt how we shared out the burden of the parents on our shoulders and we could all share the same feeling of concern but also of union. This was the first time in my life I experienced the Holy Spirit. At the later Extreme Unction I understood our being, in that moment I understood the sacrament, I understood Jesus. That moment, that event has left an indelible memory in me and in the others who were present in these encounter with Jesus Christ. Shortly afterwards Monica died. It is from this moving experience that I search the truth and my true calling.

Also the beginning of our association "Claim for Dignity e.V." about seven years ago has turned into a special event in my life. On one side we then wanted to help in a specific way to some friends of a parish in Makhado (SouthAfrica) in the building of a school for psychic handicapped. This needed a non-profit association. On the other side some of us wanted to have a deepest friendship, give it a value and a more profound sense. We also want to share this experience with others, either from our family or from our closest environment, co-workers or other volunteers who become involved in our international cooperation work. Because we all are searching the path to truth and we can only find it through life experience, an experience which is not only individual but also communal. Living a human experience like this makes us truly free.

Michael Schliep

TO BE DEAF IN PERÚ

there's a feeling that a deaf person cannot work because he or she does not listen, which is not true

Hello, my name is Carla González Leguía, I am 33 years old and I have a son called Joaquín. I am a native of Lima (Peru), where I live. Through my friendship with some of you I have contact with your ONG, from which I always receive your bulletin, thank you very much!

You're inviting me to relay a little bit of my experience and it pleases me to do so. Being deaf is not easy anywhere and in Peru much less, since the government does not pay much attention to the disabled. The lack of good disability laws for the hearing impaired makes difficult to find a decent job, which allows neither to develop to us like people nor to demonstrate that we can evolve equal or better than the normal people.

Here in Peru there are many deaf people who do not have work because there's a feeling that a deaf person cannot work because he or she does not listen, which is not true. The few deaf people who work got their job through friends or relatives.

Through the Public Law Decree number 27050 published on the 6 of January of 1999, the General Law for the disabled person was promulgated in Peru, which is a legal instrument that recognizes, modernizes, integrates and gives coherence to all the previous regulations on the subject. In order to assure the greater effectiveness and fulfilment of this law, together with it an autonomous agency is created for the planning and executing of the actions from government addressed to promote the improvement of the quality of life of this group of people. This organization, that directs the policies of the ruling government is called CONADIS (national advisory board for the assimilation of the person with a disability, www.conadisperu.gob.pe). Until now, this organization gives financial aid as: discounts from the hearing impaired's school to families with hearing children, for air travel

experiences

tickets (non-international travel only), for leisurely activities and pastime activities of the group of the disabled.

Although the presence of this law and of CONADIS supposes an advance, still there's much to do in my country. Among other things, it is necessary to assure a minimum pension for the people with a hearing disability, the law of retirement for deaf people. It seems this law will soon come into effect. Let's see if it materializes.

In my particular case, just tell you that I worked during almost two years as a bagging assistant thanks to the management of my school CPAL (Peruvian Center of Hearing, Language and Learning, www.cpal.edu.pe/CPAL.html) where I was studying. They treated me very well and they got the most out of me; it was a very pleasant stage in my life. I could not continue working because I got pregnant of my son Joaquín who is now almost 4 years old. I would really like to work now but it is not possible; when Joaquín is older, I will return to working, if God gives me another opportunity.

My wish is for the deaf people who put their mind into it, may live in a world of hearing. My desire is also that all hearing people become more sensitive to the hearing impaired. Thank you very much for your attention.

Carla González Leguía
Lima (Perú)



news

- Project "La Mansión" in Arequipa (Peru).
 -- Two bank transfers have already been done, (14/01/08 y 29/02/08) each one amounting 4.500 Euros. The money was granted to "Claim for Dignity e.V." by the German organisation "Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg"
 -- The new project will be presented to the regional government and to the municipality of Socabaya in March. It is also envisaged that the school's canteen starts running in March.
 -- We keep fluent communications with our German cooperator Stephanie Wildenberg, and the president of the local NGO "CIESCU", José Álvaro. In spite of the inherent project difficulties, both of them are happy with the project development.
 -- Stephanie Wildenberg comes back home to Germany on 31st March 2008. We would like to organise an awareness act to collect funds.
 -- If you are interested in spending from six to twelve months in Arequina (Peru) supporting the project "La Mansión", please, contact us.

- The annual assembly of "Claim for Dignity e.V." took place in Aich/Aichtal on 15th December 2007. Our friends and members of "Claim for Dignity e.V.", Annette and Andreas Simon, took the opportunity to present their one-year experiences in Kyrgyzstan. At the end, we all shared the traditional Christmas dinner at Sabine Molling's place. Next meeting is scheduled for May.

- The annual assembly of "Clam per la Dignitat" took place in Barcelona on 28th December 2007. The annual report was approved and the most significant decisions taken are as follows:
 -- Next April (exact date still to be confirmed), the traditional "Hunger's Dinner" will be organised in San Felip Neri's chapel in the neighbourhood Gracia. This year, the collected money will be donated to the project "HIV/AIDS response program" in South Africa, which until recently it was coordinated by our friend Thandi Hadbe. The new project manager and contact person from now on is Father Herman Van Dijk (herman.vandijk@vodamail.co.za)
 -- The schedule for the general meetings for the year 2008 will be fixed on Monday 18/08 and 29/12, respectively. The latter will also be the date for the annual assembly.
 -- It was decided to increase the yearly membership fee to 50 Euros by unanimity. Please, let us know if you are not able to pay this amount.
 -- It was decided to manage internally the delivery of the bulletin and other correspondence in order to reduce expenses. We would like to thank the company "Full", who was performing this job up to now, and we would like to let them know that we are open to work together again in the future.

-- Mariano Hernández, Ceci Benet and Irma Fañanás resigned from the board. We thank them for their dedication and collaboration, and we hope to continue having them as members of the entity. Miriam Fernández is the new board member of "Clam per la Dignitat": Welcome!

- Our friend and member of "Clam per la Dignitat", Bea Valer, took part in the IV conference of Physiotherapy of Central Catalunya - International Physiotherapy and International Cooperation - presenting our experiences in the project "MaS" in South Africa. The University organisation of Bages de Manresa has sent a 150 Euro cheque for the project "MaS". We thank Bea for her work and the organisation for the nice gesture.

- "Clam per la Dignitat" has transferred the final 1400 Euros to the nuns responsible for the school of disabled children in Madombidzha (South Africa, project "MaS"). Our official collaboration ends with this donation. Nevertheless, we are open to future collaborations and we keep in touch with our South African friends.

-- Regarding South Africa, we have been informed that Sister Elite is spending a year in India, her country of origin, at the request of the Bishop. We send her many kind greetings from here.

-- Father André Stephan is again in South Africa, but this time in another parish. We send many kind greetings from Europe!

- Laura García-Faria, member of the board of "Clam per la Dignitat" and nurse of profession, has decided to work a year as a volunteer in Egypt and Sudan with the Missionaries of Charity. She has a blog in Internet: <http://lauragf.blogspot.com/> Many greetings from Europe! We wish you the best!

- The NGO "Solidaridad" (www.solidaridad.org.uy/) from Uruguay has contacted us. We are studying the possibility of performing a collaborative action with them.

- If you are interested in volunteering for "Sostre" in Barcelona, please, contact Javi Laguno (xavierlaguno@gmail.com) or the secretary's office.

- We would like to congratulate Juan and Ester for the birth of their third child, Miquel; to Xavi and Pilar for the birth of their second child, Josep; and to Oriol and Pati for the birth of their third daughter, Mariona. We also have a special memory and prayer for Maria Alba (Mireia and Xavier Lorenzo's Mother) and Pilar (Xavi Pla's Mother), recently deceased. We wish them to enjoy life in fullness.

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