

CexDe

Quarterly bulletin of the NGO for the development *Clam per la Dignitat*

year I - num. 1

january-march 2004

LET'S GET TO WORK!

The dignity of the human being neither is bought neither is sold, is given us; the dignity of the human being can not be negotiated, is simply sacred.

Now it does slightly more than a year that some youths (and not so young) encouraged us to legalize the one that up till it was only a project: to found a small ONGD (not governmental organization for the development), that is to say, to register in the registry office of the associations of the Generalitat of Catalonia our "Clam per la Dignitat" (CxDe).

Behind this start there is a history that happened through many persons and institutions, but we report especially of the JAS group (Joventut Alegre de Sarrià) and the parish of Sant Vicenç of Sarrià, where many of us had the luck to enjoy an adolescence and youth marked by a Christian commitment with the boys and young, mainly in the time of leisure, and with the most disadvantaged of our society. More of one will have present, among others mottoes and orders, those of "to educate educating us", "who has a friend has a treasure", "a Christian without prayer is like a car without gasoline" or "young Christian, young compromised". Anyway many of us we have done experiences of life that have marked us deeply, even when already we are "retired" of the JAS do not want to stop living his spirit and because of that some time ago we were thinking about the possibility to create another instrument to continue growing as persons and as Christians.

Why "Clam per la Dignitat"? Because we want to do an open group to all the persons with vocation of service and commitment that bet clearly on the human person in an integral way. The dignity of the human being we think is a good referring which can be our flag and because of that this claim of dig-

editorial

nity. A claim that wants to be more than a shout, that wants to be a proposal by working for a more supportive and just world and, also, by a more Christian world.

The dignity, just is reflected on the fifth article of our statutes, we understand it as is described on the first article of the Statement of the Human Rights of the United Nations: "All the human beings are born free and equal in dignity and right and, gifted as are of reason and conscience, have to be behaved fraternally each one with the other." CxDe considers explicitly the transcendent dimension of the dignity of the human being, that is to say, the human being cannot acquire dignity, therefore this is given it since the principle to the natural end of his life. CxDe is identified particularly with the Christian ideas and the principles. Therefore, the objectives of CxDe are the recognition, the protection and the promotion of the dignity of the human being. The dignity of the human being neither is bought neither is sold, is given us; the dignity of the human being can not be negotiated, is simply sacred.

From the world, but not with the spirit of the world (see Jh 17) we want to do this bet, in team, in community and with simplicity, but at the same time with the certainty that together we will grow and we will cause other will grow, with the certainty that the hundred for one (see Mc 4,13-20; Mt 13,18-23; Lk 8,11-15) already we can live in this world. The quarterly bulletin "CexDe" that now we begin wants to be one more middle to go walking together. Since right now it would please us that you take it as yours and that you participate whenever you want. Let's get to work!

The Council

CHRISTMAS TALE

thoughts

Introduction: The following day of the arrival of Makhado (old Louis Trichardt, LTT, south Africa) I attended a preparation of Christmas where was proposed us to imagine how would be a crib today. Fruit of what we lived in LTT I want to share this story with you, that is inspired in Lc 2, 1-14.

In those days, the President of the Republic started a campaign in order to get the population inscribed in a cense so that they would have the right to vote on the next elections.

Joseph, born in Madodonga, a small village near the town of Makhado, had found a job in Pietersberg, over 200Km away. There he had to live in very poor conditions in a "batustan", with some other work mates. His job produced an income for his family of about 150• per month.

Mary, his wife, couldn't stay with him in Pietersberg. She had just finished her teacher studies being just 16, but she had not been able to find a job. Her husband came to visit her whenever he could, more or less every two months because the fare was too expensive for him as he wanted to put aside some money. They both looked forward to that day's rejoining.

Mary was pregnant and the day of the birth of her child was near. She had had to stop making mixed earthen and cement bricks in order to build her new home. When her pregnancy was at an early stage she stacked them up patiently under the hot African sun to allow them to harden. Once ready, she filed them making a round plant wall. "When Joseph returns with money, we'll build up the roof" she vowed.

Meanwhile, she lived in an old hut made of earthen walls and straw roof. When the day fell, she could glimpse through the roof's ESQLETGES, lying on her bed, at the shining stars in the sky. Her family couldn't help her. He mother had died of high blood pressure over six years ago, and her father of cirrhosis, caused by his addiction to al-

cohol when she was 5. Her brother had developed AIDS, and the R680 (100•) he received as a governmental grant he got the living of his 3 children aged between 3 and 8.

That weekend she was very happy, Joseph was coming over. She had so many things to tell him. However, her pregnancy was so on that he couldn't get there in time. That Friday she has broken her waters and with just what she had on, she went along the dusty streets of her village towards the nearest primary health centre. That's where she used to grow vegetables, in a small garden on the backyard, so that she could either eat or sell them, in order to earn some cents.

There is where her child was born, with an harmonious smile. There is where his father found him, wrapped in an old ragged blanket. They called him Emmanuel, and soon did everyone know about the good news of his birth.

Aleix Layola i Fabra



ORIGIN OF THE "MAS" PROJECT

experiences

This seed, nevertheless, asked us a certain continuity, it could not be that all remained in a pretty experience of third world and that did not affect us directly in our daily life.

Surely many of you know the history of the "Mas" project and some, even, have participated since their origins. Even thus, does not be useless to recall how began, now that we start our bulletin.

The year 1998 some of us (Olga Plaza, Edi Fañanás, Esther Farré, Imma Huguet, Cristina apple Orchards, Juan Sols, Marc Mosque, Oriol Peguera, Pati Auset, Ester Vallès, Fernando Suarez, Pau Vidal, Mariona Garcia and Maria Hernández) wanted to live an experience of third world. The majority of us were compromised with the JAS, through which we wanted to open new fields of service and of personal growth. We were much younger and very few of us had experience in this field. Some youths of the JAS already did a similar experience in August of 1995 in Mumbai (old Bombay, India), among which already they were found Olga and Edi, and that supposed the starts of JASMÓN. We called ourselves JASMÓN to indicate our commitment with the third world, at the same time was also created in the JAS a parallel group that was called JASBCN, where was impacted in the social commitment in Barcelona, our home. That is to say, that the JAS wanted to be compromised socially in two levels, the third and the fourth world, with a Christian identity, therefore of commitment and service, fact that ours small ONGD "Clam per la Dignitat" (CxD, that in English is "Claim for Dignity") wants to continue.

Anyway in August of that same year 1998 we went to South Africa (SA) to share with the catholic parish of Our Lady of Peace of Louis Trichardt (at present Makhado) a workshop with children and youth. The parish was and is managed by the Father André Stephan, Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC), with whom we could contact thanks to Toni Plaza, brother of Olga and also a historic member of the JAS, who is religious and priest of the order of the MSC (if you don't know this order, they manage the school San Miguel of Barcelona and also the parish that is beside to the school). All we learned a great deal and we did very good friends. At the end of the stay we began to put the bases of a small church, that at present is used as a room of meetings. This experience marked us and it was the first seed.

This seed, nevertheless, asked us a certain continuity, it could not be that all remained in a pretty experience of third world and that did not affect us directly in our daily life. In July of 1999, after our doubts and reflections, five

south African friends came to Barcelona, concretely Elinah, of the town of Magau, Mashudu, of the town of Madombidzha, Alinah, of the town of Madombizha, Patricia, of the town of Rathidili and Sharon, of the town of Madodonga, that they were lodged fifteen days with families of the JAS, concretely with the family Hernández Clua, family Mezquita Mas, family Vallès Elizalde, family Casellas Rocavert and family García-Farà Coll respectively. The other fifteen days were distributed in the different groups of the JAS summer camp, that is to say, they shared with us almost all the camps. All we learned a great deal, they did a large effort to become accustomed to the a little accelerated life that we carry for these latitudes and at same time that they could demythologize the Europeans, knowing our virtues and our defects. On the other hand, we could discover and share another way to do the things and to give much more value to the small details of each day. They were unforgettable days, who has forgotten the "¡Push, Pusch, anamavidi, push, pusch is korro korro! "!

The year 2001 I began to think about the topic of my final career project (fcp), obligatory for all the students of architecture, because I would have to begin it toward principles of 2002. As we could choose the topic I began to consider the possibility to do a project that interested our friends of SA and to work it as a fcp. So I went with Gjon, an architect of Stuttgart, who is friend of us and also member of Claim for Dignity – Germany, and we were there ten days collecting data and dealing with them to know what was for them more necessary. Also we profited from the stay to project the church of Rathidilli, nowadays a reality. After those days we understood that there were many projects that they interested but, perhaps, the most urgent was a school for mental handicapped children and youth in Madombizha. The school already functioned, but what they needed was a new building and, perhaps, some teachers that replace the voluntary mothers that were helping Sister Elitte and to the other nuns missionaries, Carmelites sisters. Since the month of March to the month of November of 2002 I was working to collect information and to develop the project of the school, which had been presented on November 12th 2002.

Now you know the rest of the history. During the year 2003 we have begun to work on the project, bringing to light and above all seeking financing. This December of 2003 seven members of "Clam per la Dignitat" and two members of "Claim for Dignity – Germany" have done a trip to South Africa to continue collecting data of the project and to begin with the organizing and constructive part. The workshop of the next summer waits for us!

Maria Hernández

actuality

The idea is to put here some holder of news that can be of our interest. Thank you very much for your collaboration!

communications

In this small section would please us to leave constancy of the events that we are living as group and as persons. Also here is your contribution necessary!

- Already you have on your hands the first bulletin. It would please us that you do the bulletin yours and that the bulletin would a way to grow together. Any proposal, suggestion or aid to any level will be welcome! So much the design of the CexDe as the same name admit proposals of improvement!
- Our present home page is shared with "Claim for Dignity" (CfD) - Germany. We plan to open an independent home page and up to now the domain which is free and more pleases us is www.clamdignitat.org. Other ideas?
- We are initiating an interesting project to design a data bank for the administrative management of CxD through Internet. The professor Xavi Canaleta, by the faculty of Engineering and Architecture La Salle of the *Universitat Ramon Llull*, and Aleix Layola, by our organisation, guided this project and the student Javier Julve carries it out.
- Our friend Toni López, member of the technical commission of CxD and also member of the expedition that was in December in South Africa, will be one month and a half approximately since March in Burkina Faso hired by *Architects Without Borders (ASF)*. Luck friend Toni and come back without fever!

agenda

In this last section we want to announce the next events. It's our agenda!

- The four ordinary general meetings planned for this year 2004 are: February 22nd, May 9th, August 29th and December 19th. Always on Sunday and in principle at 18:00 h in our headquarters of Sant Just Desvern.
- The Counsel of CxD meets ordinarily also four times at year and normally two weeks before the ordinary general meetings.
- Among July and August of 2004 is expected to carry out a workshop in Makhado (South Africa) because of the project MaS (Madombizha School) that we are carrying out in this area.
- Our friends Maria Angels and Cristina of the *Central Christian of University Students (CCU) of Girona* invite us the next March 2nd at 20 h to its headquarters to continue the dialogue that began the passed month of November with *Ignasi M. Anzizu* about our attitudes in the face of the immigration.

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 08960 Sant Just Desvern
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clamdignitat@clamdignitat.org
www.clamdignitat.org

Germany
 Michael Schliep
 Biesingerstr. 31, 72070 Tübingen
 Tel.: (+49)7071/942403

South Africa
 Fr. Andre Stephan MSC
 Catholic Church, P.O. BOX 127
 0920 Makhado (Limpopo)
 Tel. and fax: (+27) 0155160566