

DIFFICULTIES AND HAPPINESS ALONG THE WAY

“Traveler, there is no road; you make your path as you walk”

Soon it will be a century since Antonio Machado, the Spanish poet from the generation of '98, wrote in his book "Campos de Castilla" his famous "Traveler, there is no road; you make your path as you walk". Therefore, only the one who walks makes a path...and only the one making a path experiences the difficulties and happiness that the path brings with it.

We are going through a similar experience in the project "Malnutrition and Poverty vs. Education" (the word "poverty" has been added to the name of the project in order to be more realistic), currently being implemented by our Peruvian partner organization CIESCU in the school "La Mansión" (Arequipa, Perú) and supported by "Clam per la dignitat".

The difficulties stem from Germany and Peru. We had already selected 3 volunteers, through the federal international cooperation volunteer program "Weltwärts" in collaboration with the diocese of young Catholics from Rottenburg-Stuttgart (BDKJ, Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend), to support the project "La Mansión" for a period of one year. Finally only two places were granted, which unfortunately forced us to reject one of the volunteers. In the previous hours to the introductory training by BDKJ, one volunteer decided not to go to Peru because she was not sure about it; subsequently the other volunteer decided to drop the project not wanting to go on her own. That was a big disappointment and a great blow to us and to CIESCU. In spite of it, BDKJ confirmed us that they count on us for next year. Now we have to review our performance to identify the source of failure. We see that the project "La Mansión"

editorial

in Perú is undergoing difficulties due to a lack of understanding with the Director of the school "La Mansión". The situation is not better with the new Director. We are astonished and sad as a result of the situation. We are looking for a solution in a small local near of the school.

The path not only brings sadness but also happiness, stemming namely from Peru and Germany. We were informed that CIESCU is being supported by Peruvian local associations and government in the implementation of a project in two schools in Alca, the province of "La Unión", being about 300 boys and girls the ultimate beneficiaries. Unlike "La Mansión" in the city of Arequipa, these two schools are located in a rural environment, less likely to reach the international cooperation. In addition, the school Horacio Zevallos Gámez in Arequipa has shown a great interest to implement the project in their school. We are trying to maintain close cooperation links with the high school "Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium" in Langenau associated to the school "La Mansión", through "Claim for Dignity e.V." and CIESCU. On July 15th, a solidarity race was organised by students and professors and financed by small sponsors, in order to collect funds to contribute to the project "La Mansión". Two days before the event, a series of workshops were organised in the same high school, being the reality in Peru one of the main topics. In the last week of October three members of Claim for Dignity e.V." will travel to Arequipa together with two teachers from Langenauwill. Carla González Leguía and Nedda, two Peruvians friends of our association will join the group in Lima.

In this issue, the collaborating partner TheoPrax Foundation is introduced, and the students from the "Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium" in Langenau share with us their experiences during the workshops organized at their high school, in addition to their successful path of solidarity.

The Council

THEOPRAX – A METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CONTRAST TO ‘CONSUMERISM IN CLASS’

The didactical idea behind the TheoPrax method is a mix of lectures, group work and projects

‘Well, what is Mrs. Müllersohn-Gutbrecht having for us today?’ Lolo is whispering to his neighbour, yawning, as his teacher with the long name enters the classroom. The students’ desks are arranged for a teacher-centred presentation. You need to look hard for clues of the recent school reform.

But where is the connection between Claim for Dignity (CfD) and the German school system? In the summer of 2008 Michael, Stephanie, Ralf and Edi started working in co-operation with TheoPrax at the Fraunhofer ICT in Pfinztal (close to Karlsruhe) and with the ‘Melanchthon-Gymnasium’ (a German high school) in Bretten, in particular the classes of levels 8 and 9 (180 students, 8 teachers). It is about reducing teacher-centred presentations and enhancing group work, teaching by means of dialog and teamwork on projects.

The goals of TheoPrax which is one of the biggest initiatives for education in Germany are shown in the picture. The didactical idea behind the TheoPrax method is a mix of lectures, group work and projects (each taking up a bit less than a third), a more balanced mix than what is usual at high schools and universities. On the projects part CfD enters the picture. Together we want to develop the project ‘Food for the children of the La Mansion elementary



thoughts

What is TheoPrax?

A way of combining teaching and learning to make entrepreneurs



school’ further. The student groups are working on the problem of the necessary energy supply to pump water from the river into the district of La Mansion. The water shall be used to grow useful plants in small beds and on flat roofs in order to improve the habitants’ nutrition with food that is rich in minerals and vitamins.

There are 60 student groups doing research on suitable plants, the thickness of the sand layer, flat roof constructions, the output of pumps, low priced wind engines and how to maintain and repair them, weather conditions in Arequipa, water pollution, and so on. In October 2008, the beginning of the school term, Stephanie and Rolf gave lectures followed by long discussions. They also answered the questions that arose in the following months. And José from Arequipa, Peru, contributed by sending useful information.

The results of this revolution in teaching methods vary. About half of the students provided a positive feedback. They liked their newly gained freedom of action and their responsibility to show initiative. The other half of the students was critical and sometimes even frustrated badly. Looking back objectively we rushed into this project euphorically and without proper preparation. But we also opened a door for change which cannot be closed again. All the teachers involved (13 by now) are motivated and want to improve the project together with us in the 2009/2010 term. The foundation has been laid. Now it is important to obtain precise information about the local conditions in Arequipa. We need samples of water from the Rio Chily, meteorological data, realistic cost estimates and much more. For the future we decided to work on a more effective team play.

But we are very satisfied with what we have reached so far given difficult financial conditions.

Dörthe Krause and Peter Eyerer
<http://www.theo-prax.de/>

PROJECT DAYS AND CHARITY RUN AT THE ROBERT-BOSCH-GYMNASIUM LANGENAU (GERMANY)

The projects were a good beginning for our charity run with the theme "fLoH- for a life without hunger".

After we had found a partner in the association "Claim for dignity e.V." CfD, with which we could realize our idea for a school partnership, we had to think about further steps.

It was always important to us to realize two goals: One goal is the exchange of information and to get to know each other. Therefore it is important to involve the whole school into the project.

The other is the material and financial support of our partner school of which we want improve the equipment of the school, the nutrition and the circumstances of the pupils and their relatives and other inhabitants on the edge of town.

During the last term, we decided to organize two big initiatives: Project days and a run to get donations.

The visit of José (chairman of CIESCU, the Peruvian NGO with who the CfD works) at our school in November 2008, was fantastic. With his fascinating speech he piqued their interest, their curiosity, their readiness to help others and caused the joyful anticipation of the partnership in the future.

First we hang up a nice information board of Peru, lovingly designed, with that we tried to plant the partnership in the consciousness of the pupils and informed about the difficulties the people have to cope with in Peru and in an outskirt like La Mansion.

But the pupils should have a thorough understanding. So we started two project days which were entitled "Poverty and Health of Peru" on the 13th and 14th of July 2009.

All in all, we had 61 various projects. Some of them dealt with Peru as a country, others dealt with South America in general with its dances, games, sports, cuisine, street children and their way of life. A group of pupils even went hiking with lamas and spun wool in the evening.

Some projects dealt with development aid, such as "Hungerweg" or with newspapers for children, with cooking "in adverse conditions" (in simple condi-

experiences

tions), with photography "giving poverty a face" and with building a sundial or constructing easy utility items like jars. The projects were realized and conducted by motivated and active pupils, teachers and parents and were therefore a good beginning for our charity run with the theme "fLoH- for a life without hunger".

In advance, the participants had looked for sponsors which agreed to donate money for each kilometre.

The enthusiasm and the success with which the runners were looking for sponsors

multiplied our joy. And then the great day had arrived: The day of the fLoH run of the donations organised by the Robert Bosch high school.

Although it was raining heavily, the pupils of the RBG gathered together in the morning to run for their Partnerschool in Peru.

The different classes had 45mins, resp. 60mins time to run as much as possible of this 4km route. They were encouraged by their teachers and other participants. Those who couldn't run or didn't want to, were strolling around or helped with the organisation. So everybody helped to make this event successful.

Altogether 1000 pupils, parents, teachers and followers run about 5000km. 75% of the donations will go to our project in Arequipa. The rest will go to the social project "Initiative you and I" in Langenau.

Of course our work won't be finished with this successful week. We will go on and do more steps towards working with CfD to make a better life possible for the pupils of Arequipa and in doing so we will strengthen our relationship.

André Seemaier
student in class 13

<http://www.rbg.ul.schule-bw.de/proj-tage09.html>
www.smv-rbg.de



news

NEWS OF "CLAM PER LA DIGNITAT" – SPAIN

- Last Friday 21st August members and friends of "Clam per la Dignitat" (Clam for Dignity) finally celebrated the meeting at Sant Just and also the traditional summer dinner.

- Next Sunday 8th November at 5 p.m. at Centro Parroquial de Sarrià (Parish Center of Sarrià), address: CPS, C/ Pare Miquel de Sarrià, 8; 08034 Barcelona, we will celebrate a meeting of training and sensibilization with a German guest: The student of Theology Katharina Römel. She will talk about her experience of volunteer in Bolivia and the German culture and tradition related with cooperation, especially the habit of a year volunteer abroad after the secondary school. In this context, she will present us the program "Weltwärts" that Germany has to support this voluntary work of cooperation. Edi will also talk about his recent trip to Peru and the state of the project.

- The 6th General Assembly is planned for Sunday 27th December at 6 p.m. at Centro Parroquial de Sarrià (Parish Centre of Sarrià).

- For logistic reasons, the Dinner for Hunger for 2009 has been cancelled and we are starting preparing the Dinner for Hunger for 2010. We will have as a guest Stephanie Wildenberg. It will be celebrate in Barcelona during Eastern.

- Since 23rd September our friend and member of "Clam per la Dignitat" (Clam for Dignity) Irma Fañanás Lanau is working as nurse in the hospital "San Ricardo Pampuri" in Asunción (Paraguay). This hospital is dedicated basically to young terminal ills without economical sources. Her stay will last one year. Last July she was already in the hospital together with the Catalonian doctor and almost oncologist José Mazarico. Good luck Irma! We reserve a little part of the bulletin to explain your experiences.

- Next 7th November Carles Hernández Clua, member of the Council of "Clam per la Dignitat" (Clam for Dignity) and Natalia Mas, also friend of our organization, will marry in Barcelona. Our best wishes for this new life you are starting. Congratulations!

- We continue working with the possibility that "Clam per la Dignitat" (Clam for Dignity) becomes a organization that reduces taxes when one gives us a donation. We will inform as soon as we have any information.

- We need volunteer translators (Catalan/Spanish, Catalan or Spanish/English).

- Anyone interested on volunteering for Sostre in Barcelona, please contact Javi Laguno (xavierlaguno@gmail.com) or the Secretary's Office.

NEWS OF "CLAIM FOR DIGNITY e.V." - GERMANY

-July 13th till 15th, the Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium, a high school in Langenau, arranged a project about Peru-Poverty-Health and a charity run for their partner school in La Mansion. We would like to thank all the students and teachers and especially the students' council members for their great commitment.

-By the end of August 3950,00 Euro from the CfD charity run were send to Peru to be used for the school canteen.

-The school in La Mansion was assigned a new director for the upcoming term.

-September 9th, Stephanie, Edi, Michael, Sabine and Maria will meet to decide on further steps and future development of CfD.

-October 14th, the next supporter meeting of the BDKJ about the "Weltwärts Programm" will take place. Stephanie and Michael will take part.

-From October 21st till 30th, Edi, Stephanie, Michael and two teachers of the Robert-Bosch-Gymnasium, Silke Kamradt and Markus Braunmiller will be in Arequipa, Peru. In Lima they will be joined by Carla González and Nedda, two of our friends. The goal of this trip is to get a general idea about the situation in La Mansion and to strengthen the co-operation with CIESCU and to further work on our project "Undernourishment and Poverty versus Education". On September 24th, the German travelers will meet to plan and prepare the trip to Peru.

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