



## NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Shukria with her youngest daughter Cedra

Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them and do not hide from relatives who need your help. "Then your salvation will come like the dawn. And your wounds will heal quickly. Your godliness will lead you forward and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind."  
*Isaiah 58 7-8*



Margret Meier

Dear friends, sponsors and supporters,

This invitation from God in the words of the prophet Isaiah is music to my ears! Over the last two years and ten months this is precisely what we in Himmelsperlen have been doing. This year, with the help of our friends we fed many hungry people **in Pakistan, Syria and Lebanon**. Right now, clothing freezing refugees is our priority.

What a great promise has been given to us. The light of God shines on everyone who receive help and it comes back to all who help. The righteousness of God is difficult for us. It differs from what we understand to be right or just. It came visibly into this world in Jesus, the little child. **We celebrate Christmas because God has come to us!**

### LEBANON

Yesterday, I came back from Lebanon. There, I took **three small, refugee children across the border between Lebanon and Syria and back to their mother Shukria** who is suffering from cancer. In September I had arranged for her to go to Damascus for treatment. The church we partner with there has taken loving care of her. **At the moment Shukria is undergoing Chemotherapie.** The two-and-a-half-year-old **twins, Doah and Aka and sister Cedra who is only one,** have been rejected by their father who now lives with another woman. Since then, the girls have been passed around the neighbourhood. I was shocked to see how traumatized they are. They show no emotions. Handing over of the children showed me how really grateful the mother is. Tears of joy rolled down her face. The youngest child, Cedra was one of our patients on October 2019. We will continue to help the family.



Returning the children to Shukria

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Medical Mission



Meeting of the new converts



House visit



12. birthday of the Alkalima Church



New church van



Church in Sweida

**In October a Medical team of 10 visited the True Vine Church** in the town of Zahlé. As a result of the Corona-Pandemic we were on two different sites. This year's visit began with Corona tests for our team together with the teachers and church workers, ca. 35 people in all. Until we arrived, the private school connected to the church had been closed. Immediately after the tests, which were nearly all negative, lessons could begin again. Both teachers and pupils were happy. The tests would have been too expensive for the school due to the economic crisis in the Lebanon. At the moment the situation there is terrible. Our team of doctors treated around **800 Patients**. Several of these required further treatment or **operations**. We took over all the costs the UN was unable to cover.

The Corona-Pandemic has had amazing results for the Lebanese. **A spiritual revival is underway**. Every day more and more people put their faith in Jesus. Most of them belong to traditional churches but previously their faith had little effect on their everyday lives. Now, they experience Jesus in a very real way and turn to him. I got to know several of them personally. They meet in the evenings for fellowship and worship and share with each other the experiences they have had with Jesus. The fire and love of God is burning in them.

During a visit to a school for the blind in Zahlé, the director Brother Michelle, told me that he would love to open a bakery in which German bread could be backed and sold. We plan to help by financing the project and paying for the equipment. At the moment we are looking for a backer who is prepared to go to Zahlé for four weeks to help with the start-up. If you know of anybody (male or female) please let me know.

## SYRIA

The work in the **Alkalima Centre** is making good progress. Both children and adults are showing a great interest in getting involved. At the moment, we are offering courses for women. They are learning handicrafts and practical skills.

**At the beginning of the year the Alkalima Church** began a sister-church **in the town of Sweida**. Every week a group travels there to hold services and mid-week meetings. Not many church members own a car. As a result, we have given them the money to buy a van that can seat up to 11 passengers. Almost 50 people come to the Sunday evening service in Sweida. These people are hungry and searching for purpose in life. There used to be a Baptist Church in Sweida. About 10 years ago, it was so badly in need of repair it closed down. This church and the big plot of land that belongs to it, have now got a new lease of life. The breath of God can be felt there again. Pastor Rami is doing an amazing job. He is pastor, teacher and evangelist. Many of the church workers have been personally trained by him.

This autumn I was not able to obtain a **Visum for Syria**, I could, however, meet Pastor Rami on the Lebanese border. Where there's a will there's a way!

## PAKISTAN

**The School of Grace in Lahore** has been back to normal since mid-September. Thanks to a sponsor, all students have received **new school uniforms**. Uniforms are part of the school culture in Pakistan but these parents could never have raised the money for it themselves. The children are happy and proud to belong to the School of Grace.

**Sarah, the daughter of Mustafa and Azra Ghulam**, is now one of the students. It wasn't easy for her to be a first-year starter at age 12. Her three-year-old sister Noor visits our kindergarten. Her brother Ali has been coming to school from the very beginning. Mustafa works with his transporter taxi and earns enough to take care of his family. We hired a housekeeper who cooks, cleans and takes care of Azra his wife. She is paralyzed and unable to get up. She and her three children can now lead a normal life.

Over Christmas, **the teachers are holding a big Christmas party for the pupils**, it will take place in the auditorium of the Catholic renewal Centre. There is room for several hundred people there. This is the highlight of the year for the school.

**The Emmanuel Church had two services almost every Sunday** unfortunately, they have to be cancelled when it rains. The number of visitors increased considerably in the autumn. The slave laborers seek fellowship and want to hear God's Word. We hope and pray that **next year we can buy land and build a brick church** with enough rooms to start a Sunday School for the children. I have several more dreams and as soon as the Corona crisis allows, we want to go to Pakistan and together with our partners there, put some concrete plans in place.

## HIMMELSPERLEN INTERNATIONAL

At the beginning of October, we held our **"Friends' Day."** It had been cancelled in March. **60 people attended** this important day of encounter and information. We are planning a larger event for 2021 **with one of our foreign partners as a speaker.**

For organizational reasons, we had to change our plans and send the **first food container** to Syria rather than Lebanon. It arrived there at exactly the right time and helped many people in need. We have now shipped **three large containers with 2,500 boxes full of clothes to Lebanon.** It's getting cold there and supplies were running out. The employees of the true Vine Church will make a lot of Syrian Refugees very happy with their warm winter clothes.

**The planned operation in Pakistan** with the children's camp this autumn had to be cancelled, as well as the planned visit by Aurangzaib and Kiran Ghauri from Pakistan.



Christmas Celebrations in The School of Grace



Sarah Ghulam, Pakistan



Service in Emmanuel Church



Orphanage, Pakistan



Boxes of warm clothes For Refugees



Relief Supplies

I am thankful for all the church services and lecture evenings that were made possible for me and that the corona pandemic could not hinder them.

**Our permanent volunteer team is growing.** In **Werner Bartnick** we have found a very capable project manager for the delivery of relief supplies. **Elaine Parnham** has been working as a translator for Himmelsperlen for some time and **Marga Ziegenhardt** as a German Ambassador.

**I am urgently looking for a secretary.** The work that is growing so quickly, I need help and am able to pay someone to share the load.

**Our next Friends´ Day will be announced** as soon as the acute corona crisis is over.

**Missions 2021 (for more information see our Homepage; under Missions)**

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pakistan: with focus on Women´s Work: | 13.–20 . February 2021       |
| Lebanon: Medical Mission              | 19.–27. March 2021           |
| Pakistan : Children´s Camp            | 18.–26. September 2021       |
| Lebanon: Medical Mission              | 08.–16. / – 23. October 2021 |

**More information is available on**

**Facebook:** @HimmelsperlenKinderHilfswerkInternational

**Youtube Kanal:** Himmelsperlen International

**Webseite:** Himmelsperlen International

**When transferring donations** please make sure you give your full address. This ensures that you will receive a donation receipt at the beginning of the year.

**I wish you all a very happy Christmas  
and may God Bless you all in 2021!**

Yours sincerely



Alkalima Center, Syrien



Container with clothes destined for Libanon



New School Uniforms, Pakistan



Camp in Lebanon

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Margret Meier



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