

Report of the Little Flower e.V. Directors' Board

August 31, 2019 in St. Ottilien

Dear members,

As every year, we meet for the general meeting of our association. All Sangha members who do not belong to the association are also invited. These meetings are about formalities such as elections, the annual accounts and the budget for the new year, but it is also an opportunity for us to report on our work and you have the opportunity for questions and suggestions.

First of all I would like to thank everyone who supports us so generously with money, everyone who puts their imagination and energy into projects that benefit us, a special thank you to everyone who supports the projects in India, especially Chitra and Amala. And of course, we know that Ms. Ama is still Little Flower's biggest supporter. At this point I would like to share with you some thoughts that have been going through my head for the past few weeks.

It started with the "Book of Joy" that arose from a conversation between the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu. Both emphasize compassion again and again and act for others as the basis of a joyful, fulfilling life. Desmond Tutu also refers to a principle called Ubuntu from his native South Africa. It says: "A person only becomes a person through other people." We can be thankful for the many opportunities that Ms. Ama has given us with Little Flower.

Shortly thereafter, a friend gave me a very old thangka that she brought back from Nepal many years ago. The picture shows Avalokiteshvara with 11 heads and 1000 arms. My interest was piqued, and I read about Avalokiteshvara. According to legend, the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, as a prince, intended to help all beings to free them. And he had taken an oath never to let up in it, otherwise he would shatter into a thousand pieces. According to legend, he roamed all areas of living being. Whether gods, people, animals or demons, he lingered everywhere and supported the beings to free themselves from suffering. When he looked around and looked at his work, he saw that a myriad of suffering beings had streamed in. For a moment he doubted the fulfillment of his vow and broke into a thousand pieces. Buddhas are said to have shot in from all directions in order to collect the pieces. Thanks to his supernatural abilities, Buddha Amitabha, the Buddha of Distinctive Wisdom, put Avalokiteshvara back together. This time, however, he gave him a thousand arms, each with one eye in the palm, and eleven heads. In doing so, he wanted to ensure that Avalokiteshvara could serve the beings even more effectively. (Wikipedia)

We can transfer that to our club. Together with the Sangha and the donors outside of the Sangha we can achieve so much more as with a thousand arms and many eyes and come closer to fulfilling the vow to save all living beings.

Finances

We received slightly more donations last year than in previous years. In total, it was approximately EUR 93,000 in 2018, plus the 15% share of the children's missionary "Die

Sternsinger". So far this year it looks good again, which is mainly due to a very generous donation in January.

This way we can support the projects to the usual extent this year and also next year. The transfers to India and to the children's missionary organization in 2018 were EUR 83,000 above the average of recent years. The cost of the association was EUR 564.40, which corresponds to 0.6%.

Report from India

In February I was back in India and visited the projects together with Sonja. You can read my travel report in the forum, I also brought a few copies with me.

In the meantime, the school building for the bird catchers in Paramakudi is taking shape and Amala is considering setting up a kindergarten there next to the Tuition so that the children do not have to make the dangerous journey into town every day. Little Flower is the focus of work with the children both there and in Perumalmalai, and the successes are great, as we could see again.

This experience also coincides with the assessments of the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu in their book of joy. He sees the only possible way to save humanity in the upbringing of children. He said: "We have to show people and especially young people the source of happiness and contentment. We have to teach them that the source of happiness is ultimately in themselves. Not in any machine. Not in technology. Not in the money. Not in power."

I am looking forward to my next visit to the children and hope to be able to accompany them for a while.

Public Relations

There is now a card set with colored drawings of the children from Perumalmalei. I brought a few and you can buy them for a donation of EUR 5.00

Sponsorships (Barbara)

This year 12 children were taken out of the sponsorship program, 7 children had successfully completed their training or studies, all have very good job prospects and can stand on their own two feet. A girl fell in love and married, a boy decided to become a priest, a girl died and 2 children lost interest in school.

Fortunately, 10 new sponsors for children were found on our waiting list, so there are currently 101 children in our program.

Amala has another boy on the waiting list, his family is very, very poor, the mother has cancer and is likely to die from it because the family does not afford chemotherapy Little Flower e.V. - Association for the Promotion of Women and Children in India can. The sister Chinna Delphina has recently been added to our program. (Helga Humer) Maybe there is someone who wants to support the boy? Amala asked me to ask.

Greeting cards (Sonja)

A total of 2486 tickets were sold in the last financial year; 400 cards more than last year. 8 women are currently working on the greeting card project. It is remarkable that 5 of the women come from the bird catcher village of Leelavathinagar. In addition, 3 young women are currently being trained.

Amala would like to thank all cardholders very warmly. She wrote to me that this was a wonderful program for the dropouts, women who were abandoned and widows. Women perceive their job as a safe place and family members also have great trust. When women work together they share their joys and worries. They also learn a lot about their personal health and hygiene. They also contribute their time and energy to cleaning the Playschool rooms after the children's lunch.

This year there are new Christmas motifs: Christmas trees in different designs. At the suggestion of a card purchaser, our card embroiderers have wonderfully converted motifs of black and white drawings into color. I brought some new motifs with me. You can also find them on our homepage.

Budget 2020 (proposed and accepted)

Bank charges	50,00 EUR
Postage	300,00 EUR
Office supplies	50,00 EUR
EDP	50,00 EUR

	450.00 EUR

Reported by Christian Herde