

## **Report of the Executive Board for 2023**

Welcome to the general meeting of our organisation.

This year we only have to vote on the annual accounts and the budget for the new year, so we have plenty of time to talk about the projects.

As we do every year, we would like to start by thanking everyone who so generously supports us with money so that our wonderful projects in India can continue. This is admirable, especially in a year in which the need has grown in many places. Thanks also to all those who are doing their work in India.

### **Finances**

Last year, we again received fewer donations than in the previous year. In total, we received around EUR 85,500 in 2023. This is a drop of 12.5% after a drop of 25% in the previous year. This year we expect a similar amount to 2023.

At EUR 109,149.11, transfers to India in 2023 were once again at the old level. During our visit to India, however, we emphasized the need to cut budgets. But it turns out that this is not so easy.

The costs of the organisation were again very low and amounted to EUR 422.28, which corresponds to 0.49% of the donations received.

### **Report from India**

In February, I visited our projects in India together with Sonja. I published a travel report in the forum and enclosed it with the donation receipts from the last few months.

We spent a short, intensive time at PEARL in Paramakudi. Amala and her staff had prepared a great programme so that we could see as much as possible in the short time we had. Over the years, it has become a home for us and stable relationships full of respect and affection have also developed with Amala's staff. Although PEARL also receives donations from Australia, Italy, Switzerland and India, Little Flower e.V. remains the largest donor and is very important. Nevertheless, we can only pass on what we receive in donations and, in addition, we have had the principle for years that we can guarantee the budget for a year with reserves, regardless of the amount of donations we receive

We have been able to experience Little Flower's projects in Perumalmalai, especially the Montessori School, over a longer period of time due to our neighborhood to the Little Flower Zendo. The school (pre-school) is at the centre of activities here. Tuition has decreased. This is also due to a government programme that financially supports private tutoring groups.

As has been the case for many years, the Little Flower Trust supports a large number of needy and sick people, as well as students. The salaries of the teachers at the Montessori School are paid by the Indian branch of a German company.

### **Flyer**

After the assembly in 2023, we thought about a new flyer and exchanged suggestions with a graphic

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designer. Even though most information is now accessed via the internet, we hope to have printed material again by the end of the year.

### **Sponsorships (Barbara)**

Fortunately, 4 children were able to successfully complete their education this year, they are now on their own two feet and have been removed from the programme. One girl got married, so she broke off her training and was also removed from the programme. 2 children joined the Pentecostal congregation. As the Pentecostal church also supports them financially, they no longer need support from Little Flower.

One girl's father and brother have found a better job, so she no longer needs support. One girl has decided to become a nun and has been taken out of the programme.

Of the 9 sponsors whose children were taken out of the programme, 4 sponsors immediately decided to take on a new sponsorship. I was particularly pleased about this generosity in these times. In addition, new sponsors have been found for 4 children.

After successfully completing their school education this year, four girls would like to start medical training to become nurses. Two of them have opted for a two-year training programme and two for a three-year training programme, which is also the requirement for nursing management. The cost of training is high, but good employment is guaranteed. Two sponsors immediately decided to take on these higher costs for the training.

The sponsorship programme currently has 102 children.

### **Report on greeting cards (Sonja)**

The situation regarding greeting card orders has now stabilised again.

In the last financial year, a total of 1936 card orders were received in India. Although this is slightly less than in the previous year, not all cards have been delivered yet. We can therefore assume that the embroiderers are continuously busy. This time it was only European customers, namely Germany followed by Austria.

Last year we decided to raise the price of the cards to 3.50 euros. However, Little-Flower e.V. will top up this amount to 4.00 euros per card and then transfer it to India without any deductions.

Amala wrote in the annual report that the price increase for the cards has improved the monthly income of the embroiderers. It really is a blessing and Amala, together with the card embroidery staff, would like to express their thanks.

Outside, I have laid out a short report from an embroiderer, in which she reports on how the regular income has improved her economic and family situation. There is also a photo of the embroiderers in Paramakudi and Leelavatinagar.

A staff of 14 young women is currently working in this programme. 6 women come from economically very poor communities and 8 of them are from the bird-catching village of Leelavatinagar. What is new is that the women from the birdcatcher village can learn how to embroider the cards directly at the PEARL Learning Centre in the village. They can also make the cards there after the training. This

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means they do not have to travel to Paramakudi. As in previous years, some of the women embroider the cards at home so that they can supervise their children. Or they take the children to the PEARL Centre in Paramakudi or the PEARL Learning Centre in Leelevatinagar.

Amala would like to continue to ask for support for the livelihood of the young women. Then Amala asked me to send you the following:

"On behalf of our handmade embroidery cards production staff, my sincere thanks to all the people who associate to promote the handmade embroidery cards. May the divine bless and shower his blessings upon them. "

**Budget 2025 (proposal)**

Bank charges	50.00 EUR
Postage	300,00 EUR
Printing costs flyer	200,00 EUR
Office supplies	50,00 EUR
EDP	50,00 EUR
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	650,00 EUR