

Christina Ott, September, 19th 2022

There can be relationships which add pure value to your life. That kind of value that wasn't there yet. There is one such a valuable relationship I want to tell you about. I've met him through the internet at the beginning of August: **Pastor Jean Nshimiyimana Ntibagerinda** from **Goma**, a town in the in der **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Due to Covid-19 I had more time than usually. Therefore, I had time to write with him in-depth. He told me that he had an organization which supports war-injured, emotionally damaged orphans and widows. Til this day, I'm not quite sure which convinced me more - his considerate way of writing, his strategically clever thinking or his passion for those kids in need.

Little by little I found out more details about his organization. Goma is located at the border of Ruanda at the Kivu Lake. I was immediately excited when Pastor Jean invited me. He explained that their country is a good one, however it is torn by misconduct and many conflicts. Unfortunately, more than 100 groups of gunmen, who threaten and kill innocent people, surround them. These living conditions are unbearable, especially for the children. Christian churches are poorly developed over there and are mostly a shelter for widows, orphans and poor people, who had to leave their homes because of war. When I read all that I had to fight back my tears and my wish to visit was overshadowed by horror.

In this area Pastor Jean founded the **HOPE Building Center** in 2015 for welfare for war-affected children. Can you call a house in the Congo really a Hope Building Center? Pastor Jean shows us how it is done. And those are not just empty words, I'm talking about his actions. It is through his work that children and adolescents experience what it is like to have a community, they get to know the Christian faith, they receive food, medical supplies, clothes and an education. And at the moment he even establishes an orphanage.



Pastor Jean and his wife Emma spontaneous adopt Daniel, a very young orphan boy, as of last month themselves.

With hard work and infectious faith in God he contacts people internationally to seek support for his work - without begging or moaning I might ad.

This whole story really touched my heart and moved me. When I had a presentation with the title "Being brave in uncertain times", I also mentioned Pastor Jean as a role

model. On this day we were able to receive many donations. Together with the sales from my book, which I donated, we were able to donate 200€ for **HOPE Building Center**. My husband Johannes transferred this money to Pastor Jean and the next day already we received a message with photographed receipts. With this money Pastor Jean was able to buy all the school materials he needed for 40 children. Additionally, he sent a short video of how the children received these books and papers. Again, I had to hold back by tears. What can be more moving than this?

After this experience, I was determined to support Pastor Jean further. Even a small sum of money is not wasted here, but it can be existential for the lives of people in this area. Pastor Jean told me about five adolescents, who fulfil the requirements to be sent to university. However, he is now in need to actually pay for the tuition fees and doesn't know how. The tuition is 3x200€ a year ((1\$ = 1€). The money needed for primary school (3x 40\$) or high school (3x 80\$) is a smaller amount.



Now I'm looking for people, who want to help. Maybe you want to support as well? I would gladly appreciate it. Especially in times where the inflation lets our money disappear, we can be amazed of what an impact our money can have on the children and adolescents on the other side of the world ☺



Unfortunately, **international support organizations** have disappeared from the Congo due to corruption and horrible working conditions. That is what Steve Volke, the German leader of an organization for child sponsorship called Compassion, told me. Even more urgent it is for me, to help Pastor Jean.



You can follow Pastor Jean's work through Facebook. Til this day, he wasn't able to afford a homepage. Nevertheless, maybe in the near future it is possible.

Thank you for reading this far.

Be blessed,
Christina Ott