

Adjouffou, October 2016

Dear Sponsors

I am aware that you had a late hot autumn compared with that of us in Adjouou and I hope that you survived the heat wave. With us it was rainy and cold – African winter. Aziz and myself were in the Ivory Coast continuously for three months – he on the construction site at Bassam and I with my patients, kids and personal at Adjouffou. Due to Aziz's total dedication the construction work is progressing well. Now I firmly believe that we will be able to move in December.



Soon this will be our dwelling

## ADJOUFFOU

Today my thoughts turn to what we created here so long ago from scratch, which soon has to be left behind us. I like to look back, look back at the build-up in Adjouffou during the last 18 years – they are full of painful, angry and strong memories - how we fought against the unfairness; how we tried for 18 years to make the best out all the problems we faced, to provide the most humane conditions for everyone, who live in the slums and must survive here; the people, who had no other choices, no future, no hope, but only poverty, sufferings, hunger and death. We were allowed to help hundred thousands, saved countless lives, to show hundred thousands that they are as important as the others. We could be there for them and tell them:

„Thanks, for allowing us to help you, thanks you for accepting our help. YOU didn't ask us for help, we came and offered you help and said to you – You can live gracefully, your children can go to school, and also you can be healed when you are ill. And you accepted our help und trusted us. It is fatalistic to think that you have not deserved it and your lives are only based on poverty and cannot be changed though it is true that there are rich and poor and you were born as poor. An injustice that can neither be denied nor at all justified”.

I said to you:

„ It is important that you know that there is something, which every human being, either born in poverty or with privileges posses and that is: love, the love for your kids and the human rights, the right to go to school, the right for medical treatment, the RIGHT to lead a respectful life, the right to become someone in your own country and not always to dream that it is better and nicer only in other countries, but you also have a future in Africa; a future for your children”.

And I stressed:

„ YOU accepted us, allowed us to be part of your traditions and culture; you believed that we wanted to help you without any hidden intention, without missioning, without dictating, without any political ambition – as you have the right to live exactly as others. You understood that we had only one aim and hat was only to make you understand that you are as valuable as the others in the world. You have exactly the same rights, although you are extremely poor, can neither read nor write, don't even know in which year you were born and thousands of you are without any identity cards as though you don't exist”.

These were my thoughts and then soon came a great feeling of gratitude, endless gratitude, that I was able to live and work in Adjouffou and I together with my husband and energetic and generous help from the Swiss people could build up something, which helped the inhabitants of the slum to live a better life. During this time I asked myself endlessly “why was I born in such a beautiful country as Switzerland without making any effort for that?” In all these years I didn't find any answer. Now I strongly believe and am hundred percent sure that I, no not me alone but we all have the responsibility to make the world a bit happier and worth living for and we all have the possibility to do so.

Let us return to the present. I like to tell you about SYLVIE. She is tetraplegics and has been in our care for the last 7 years. She is capable to indicate yes or no only through her eyes. In spite of that she always has a smile in her face and never had shown any sign of anger in the last seven years; no only a smile to express her thankfulness. From Sylvie I got the most important lesson of my life.

I like to tell you about EMMANUEL. When he came to us from the prison with his dying mother, he was eighteen months old and HIV positive. He lost his smile in the prison, but found it back here when one day we made soap-bubbles. Now he is 15 and he is feeling better now.



There are many more happy stories from thousands of people, who in spite of Aids and cancer survived or from many others, who didn't survive their illness. But – we were allowed to serve ALL of them with love and hope, we were allowed to show them that life can be worth living and it is worth to fight for it. We showed them that they are loved by us and we all can trust and depend on each another.

Time has come for us to say goodbye to Adjouffou, although it hurts to leave it after 18 years, which were full of emotions. In Bassam we will start anew. There we also have poor and sick people waiting for us. WE are most welcomed there. We have enough energy and love and respect for people to start once again. Our 5000 Aid-Patients, our mothers and children will be further treated at our centre; some of them have already looked for a new dwelling so that they can be near us. There will be a small migration. It has to work; it MUST as we have a lot to do.

Dear Sponsors, what you are reading is not a report from Adjouffou, but more like an entry from my daily diary. I am greatly thankful to you that you continue to trust us after all these years. I am extremely happy that you help us to help others and not just sit there and say: that is not my concern.

I also thank my husband Aziz, who always supports me to do what we are doing. Naturally also my personals and my friend Marie Odile, who helped me at Adjoffou and will continue to support me at Bassam, without her I couldn't carry on all these work.

Now about my children: Our youngest daughter Sarah would like to leave her present domicile of London to support us here in Africa; both of our older children, who themselves have become

parents and have experienced themselves the pain of sufferings kids, told me recently that in the mean time they understand and above all they accept that 18 years ago I couldn't have taken any other decision than to stay here.



Few enjoyable holidays with grandchild Lea

Heartfelt thanks to the members of Lotti Latrous Foundation, to all the volunteers, who help us without any remuneration and to all our friends.

Dear sponsors, may your lives be happy, healthy and full of sunshine. I thank you for everything. May God guide you.

Yours sincerely

Lotti Latrous.