Water for Everyone in Tanzania -
Something else than news about Corona

I am glad to tell something about the Water for Everyone foundation from The Netherlands who is a partner of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe, Germany, and ZZG, Netherlands. We focus on clean water for everyone in the world, mainly in developing countries. There is worldwide a high need for clean and safe drinking water, also in Tanzania. Time for me to introduce myself. My name is Leo Groendijk and I am the initiator and chairman of the Water for Everyone foundation. The foundation is very small in man power: me, my friend Peter Rus and Jan Postma, all voluntary workers. I work daily as a teacher of Water Technology at Van Hall Larenstein, University of applied sciences in Leeuwarden in the Environmental Science and both Chemical Technology department. My passion is to work on water in developing countries. In 2008 I developed a Mobile WaterPurifier, made for a Dutch NGO who was working abroad with groups of teenagers, building schools, hospitals, churches and houses. The participants needed clean water on the job and the Mobile WaterPurifier can treat unsafe surface water to drinking water. At my duty for VHL I also have done a number of “teach the teacher” projects in developing countries. Set up laboratories and provided training in Azerbaijan, China, Benin, Kenya, Mozambique, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Brasil. Some projects have failed completely, but some are still running very well. Traveling here and there I started a foundation named Water for Everyone. The foundation started in 2010 after the tremendous earthquake at Haiti. I first went there with 28 WaterPurifiers and installed around five of them. I trained a person how to install the rest. From this we planned to build a Waterschool, Ecole de l’eau, in Port au Prince. There young people are trained now in performing water analyses, water treatment and how to start a new business in selling drinking water. A good example of development. The motto of Water for Everyone is: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for one day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”.

With Water for Everyone we are now still active on Haiti (building latrines for small villages and improving water distribution systems) and in Tanzania.

Tanzania is a poor but fortunately now also a safe country. Trijntje Beimers set up a mission post in Kilangala in 1960. Unfortunately, she has already passed away there. Water for Everyone took the intention in 2012 to do something about the water situation in the small village. When the jubilee of the mission was celebrated a WaterPurifier filter has been donated to the local hospital and we have initiated that some water pipes and taps in the village would be better maintained. The water network has also been mapped. It appeared that some things had already been done about water, but there was an urgent need for more water for the village. Sometime in 2012, a shell tank was shipped with a container with relief goods. In 2015 our three of our volunteers built the tank on a brand new foundation uphill. An excellent collaboration with the local men there. The drinking water provision for Kilangala is improved by a large water tank of 60 m³ build for the locals. This has ensured that all water from the source can be collected day and night and used during the day. Previously, half of the out coming water from the spring ran away at night because the too small tank overflowed.
A second tank is currently in the works and will be planned to be delivered in July 2020. Last summer I visited the mission in Kilangala together with Jan Postma and Jan Dros on behalf of Water for Everyone. In addition to my visit to the Kilangala Mission last summer, I visited the African Rainbow School in Sumbawanga, an hour’s drive from Kilangala. The school deserves help with education. The school is already receiving help for many years from Herrnuter Missionshilfe, Germany. We came in contact with the school via the website of ZZG, a partner of Herrnuter Missionshilfe, Germany. I discovered a call from the school for practical equipment for the biology, chemistry and physics classes in the school.

Our first sign of aid was provided to this school last year with a new microscope for the biology classroom. The teachers were very happy with the instrument. I talked with the staff and teachers of the school, was informed about the learning program and saw the infrastructure on the location in Sumbawanga. We made a plan together to improve the facilities for education and water on the school yard. In the coming year, the school will be provided with a series of new teaching materials for chemistry, physics and biology classes. In this way we can improve the quality of the school together, which is a welcome addition for everyone in the area. The school can now prepare young people for the labor market. Otherwise they will move to the big city. Focus is placed on developing entrepreneurship. In the field of water, sanitation and hygiene we try to adapt the current teaching program in a positive way. Sustainability is still a strange word, but it is a major challenge. Together with the enthusiastic young teachers of the school, we will try to prepare the young people for the big world. Problem-based education with a lot of attention for own entrepreneurship, the environment and the necessary technology. Three classrooms have now been converted by the school to give practical lessons in the fields of chemistry, biology and physics. The furniture is made by a technical school nearby. At the moment the new school supplies are shipped in a container together with wood processing equipment for a VTC in Kilangala. This summer we were planning to go with my wife to Sumbawanga to teach the teachers and training them in the use of the new equipment. The container contains glassware, equipment for practical education such as a series of simple microscopes, burners, voltage meters and 12 Volt transformers. Polluting batteries are now used for electricity lectures. Expensive and always empty ...

Now the school has only a small drinking water tank in the schoolyard, but it is much too small and the water cannot flow towards all the classrooms and office buildings. At this moment, under direction by Aron Siame of the Vocational Training Centre in Kilangala, a bigger water tank has already been built and new pipelines dug to provide all classrooms with water (see picture). In this way water will be available at all the classrooms and the restrooms. We are also going to try to place tippy tap hand wash tanks at the toilets with the teachers. A proven concept against diarrhea. All in all we have planned some action in the area. We also were planning to work in Kilangala at the mission. If we will be able to perform our visit this summer is far from sure. Corona must be gone first before we can travel safe. We all pray and hope that all of us will stay healthy.

Kind regards,

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