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! NEUE E-MAIL-ADRESSE FÜR SÜDAFRIKA !
support@hopeandlight.org.za

Message to Our Dear Members, Friends and Supporters:

Here in Germany, as well as the rest of the world, we are experiencing serious disruptions and a forced mandate to adjust and change both our personal and work lives due to the global COVID-19 Pandemic. We are faced with closed day-care centres and schools, the health and safety of our family and friends (especially older family members and friends), uncertainty about the overall economic impact of the pandemic that affects not only our livelihoods but also the sustainment of our communities, and the lack of important social contacts which are vital for a functioning harmonious society.

You will surely ask yourself how the situation in South Africa is and in particular with our charity Hope and Light?

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had an impact on our organisation in Germany, Switzerland, the UK and South Africa. Although, at this moment some locations have higher infection/death rates than others, according to experts this could be deceptive because due to the local conditions in a particular area an extensive spread of the virus cannot be ruled out. Imagine the dire situation if an outbreak happened in the densely populated townships where there is a total of only 900 intensive care beds. Hope and Light is very fortunate to not have had any cases of infections, up until this point, in reference to its staff and the children that it supports. A suspected case of a teacher who had a fever and was in quarantine, was confirmed not to be COVID-19.

Due to its dense population, public life in South Africa is currently in a "shutdown mode" with its citizens facing harder restrictions when compared to Germany. The airports are closed and there are around 7,000 Germans, including friends and sponsors of Hope and Light, who are currently waiting to leave on specially chartered flights arranged by the German Foreign Office.

The Hope and Light school and kindergarten were closed, March 17, at the same time as schools in Germany were ordered closed by the authorities. Although, the school and kindergarten are closed our orphanage is still up and running. The aspect of "home office" for our employees has been a challenge due to the technical limitations of the available infrastructure (internet) and a limited amount of laptops. Frequent power outages also makes working from home even more difficult. The only reliable medium of communication is the cell phone. Teaching materials are provided and sent via WhatsApp which has been well received by the students and their parents. Ensuring the financial stability of Hope and Light has become a Herculean task because we also rely on the Western Cape Department of Education for aid assistance. We remain optimistic that the support will continue but as of now we have not been given any guarantees. It remains to be seen whether or not parents can continue to pay school fees in this difficult economic situation.

Unlike in Germany where the state offers support through short-term working benefits, in South Africa there is no such support. We are in the process of clarifying whether or not we will receive 3,500 rand per employee, which the South African state provides for food etc. regardless of income, so we as a donation-led organisation will be able to pay approximately 40% of the income. We have already implemented cost saving measures in order to save costs. Overall, the financial situation is very delicate.

Therefore, Hope and Light is even more dependent your continued sponsorship and donations to maintain operations. We also hope that our 3rd Golf Charity Tournaments will be able to take place in St. Leon-Rot and Bruchsal on July 12th and 19th and in Neustadt on August 22nd. These events are fundamental pillars of our financial support.

We are more grateful than ever for your continued support especially given these challenging times.

Our general meeting will not take place in May 2020, but we will be notified when a new date has been set. If you have any questions about sponsorship, please contact us via email:

kontakt@hopeandlight.org.za

We wish you all and your families Happy Easter and above all Good Health. We want to particularly include Barbara Tofaute in this wish.

Kind regards,


Board of Hope and Light



Rainer Winge



Kurt Häußermann



Gabriela Leingang



Dr. Christian Kugelmeier

For more information about our association and our projects please
go to: www.hopeandlight.de

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