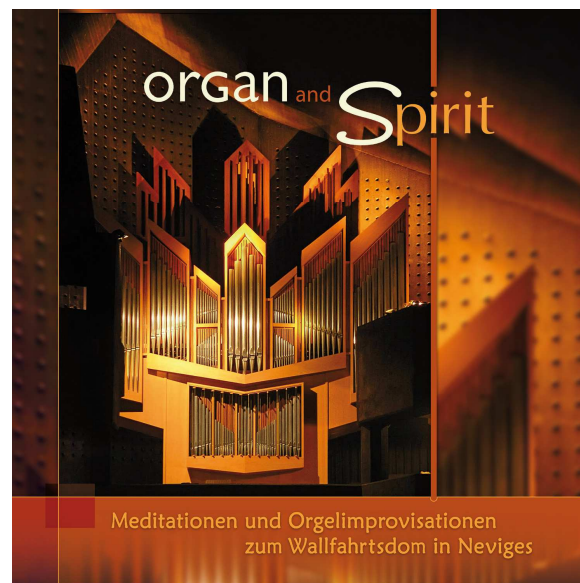


Dear friends of MEDEA,

Our first CD of the two fundraising concerts for MEDEA e.V. in the Nevigeser Dom, where Prof. Wolfgang Seifen did organ performance and improvisation and Pastor Daniel Schelling did meditation, have been finished before Christmas. This was a lot of work and we want to say thank you to all the voluntary workers, who helped to make this success.



Also our work in Swaziland is progressing a lot. After the completion of construction of the teacher house at the Nyonyane primary school we had a great time with a visit of a German volunteer. By now he already arrived back in Germany with a lot of very different and touching impressions. It's hard to believe, when you see these poor people and miserable conditions they live in.

Mbongesini Shabangu is part of our MEDEA network in Swaziland and he pointed out three very poor families that live in the outlands of Manzini. Our drive to visit the families did first pass the primary school and then we went on to the families. The way to go there was adventurous and difficult to drive. The last of the three families was the poorest of all. They lived in a vegetative state when we first saw them.



Grandmother and her 5 grandchildren, which are all orphans.



Outside the kitchen



Inside the kitchen

The family consists of five orphan children and the grandmother (2 girls – 12 and 2 years old, 3 boys – 17, 15 and 10 years old). The grandmother is only 57 years old but has the appearance of an 80 year old woman. The children have to work fully for the household and need to find food every day. The way to school is approximately 12,5km and mostly the children have to walk this way with a hungry belly. When it is going well the children can get a warm lunch in school, but if the school has no food as well, then they often have nothing to eat all day. The older girl also has to take care of the 2-year old sister three days a week, when the grandmother goes to the market in Manzini and tries to sell her handmade grass mats.

Thanks to the support of a German volunteer the works in the Nyonyane primary school have a great development.

The ceilings of the class rooms looked in the beginning like this:



Dampness and mould



Filth of bats

Now the classrooms with their new ceilings look like this:





The black board got painted in a new green color,



... and now even the sun shines inside the class rooms!

In December 2013

Gisela Romhányi