

Interview von Hand in Hand für Uganda e. V. (Nord) mit den Vereinsvorsitzenden Hand in Hand for Uganda Ltd. (Süd) im April 2024

Teilnehmer: Betty Nakajigo, Paul Kimbugwe, Benedikt Ovidi

Zur Verbesserung der Kommunikation zwischen dem Nordverein und dem Südverein finden mindestens einmal im Jahr gegenseitige Besuche statt. Nachdem die Vorsitzenden des Nordvereins im November 2023 in Uganda waren, kamen Anfang April 2024 die Managerin des Südvereins, Frau Betty Nakajigo, zusammen mit ihrem jüngsten Bruder, Paul Kimbugwe, zu Besuch nach München. Neben interessanten Veranstaltungen und Besuchen wurde mit beiden von Benedikt Ovidi, zuständig für die Öffentlichkeitsarbeit des Vereins, ein Interview geführt, das hier im Folgenden wiedergegeben wird.

Dear Miss Betty, would you be so kind to introduce you shortly?

Yes, my name is Nakajigo Betty, 39 years old, I come from Uganda. I have two beautiful sons, 13 years and 7 years. The first boy is Kasumba Jimmy, the second is Ssensayi Allen Jordan.

What is your main job?

(laughing) My main job? I am the mother of 100 kids!

Would you be so kind to describe the beauty of Uganda in three short sentences?

Uganda is beautiful, because we have a very good nature, we have very good weather - we have minerals and beautiful things which can bring us a lot of tourists in our country.

Could you briefly describe the three biggest challenges in Uganda?

The biggest challenges to face to all the Ugandans is corruption. That is a big, big problem to our country. Another problem is political leaders. They don't want to leave from their job. (she groans) They don't want to stop, because right now we have a president who stands more than 40 years as a president. Other problems we have with roads, schools and more.

When did you meet the Hand in Hand members Renate and Thomas the first time?

First time that was 2006 in Uganda with Emmanuel. I was working at "Afrika point" at that time in the project for Emmanuel and Goretti. (Anm. d. R.: „Africa Point“ ist ein Internetcafe in der Nähe von Masaka. Emmanuel war ein Schüler von Thomas Langsch in der BS für Drucker von 1993 – 1995. Goretti ist seine Ehefrau). Then they leave that project of Emmanuel and we started become friends in a short time. Yes, that is how I met them.

And when did you start to work together?

It was 2012.

Please describe your day to day working routine.

Ooohh – in Uganda? Oh, it is hard. It is a long day. Because first of all, if it is a time for study, for school, I stand up at 5:30 a.m. every day, so that I can wake up the kids to be prepared for the school. Then I start my work at 7:30 a.m. sometimes in the garden. (Anm. d. R.: Gemeint ist die Landwirtschaft rund um das Haus.) If I don't visit the garden then I have some appointments in the town. It depends of the time for that appointment. But some days, when I visit the garden, I spend six hours in the garden. Then I come back home for breakfast, sleep a little bit, then I wake up around like three o'clock p.m. If there is something in the office, I can sit in the office to make some work there. Then, when the kids are back from the school, they need some guides to do homework, to do other things until the time to

sleep. Then at 7:30 p.m. every day at home we have all together prayers. After that the kids get supper, me too, and then we go to bed.

In which projects the “Hand in Hand association” is involved?

Hand in Hand is involved preparing some schools, giving the villagers helping programs for example treatment, paying school fees for the orphans’ children and also building boreholes for the community. (Anm. d. R.: Mangels Zeit ist vieles nicht gesagt worden.)

How many children get support through the organization?

All of them? Also, those are finished?

Yes!

All together at the moment we have 88 children.

What do you love most about your job?

To take care of the kids.

What strains you the most about your work?

That we have a lot of kids in the project, which don’t get money from the project. So, I find that is a big challenge to me to take care of them or to send them away.

What are you particularly proud of?

I am proud of that we have started that project and that we help innocent children.

Which project or part of project is your most passionate this year?

To help the children.

What is your dream for your country?

To see this project when it can stand by itself. For the whole country it is not possible to have a dream because of the problems which I have told about. It will be a long way.

Miss Nakajigo, would you like to tell us something else?

Yes, if God wishes and if it is possible to bring us new partners to Hand in Hand project which are able to help us mostly at finances. Because in our project I said that I prefer to help children but also the treatment to other people is very very important.

Thank you very much Miss Nakajigo for your time. We wish you that all your wishes come true.

Dear Paul, nice to meet you! Would you be so kind to introduce yourself shortly?

Ja, my name is Kimbugwe Paul, I am the last boy of my family, I am 21 years old. I am a certificated graduate in medical aid laboratory.

What are you doing for Hand in Hand in Uganda?

I can say that I am new in the management since this year. I cannot do a lot. My main work is to assist the top manager of the south project, some of the managing like the medical aid project and collecting reports from schools and giving some information to the persons in Germany.

Have you ever been in Germany?

No, this is my first time. And I can say that I really enjoy it. I have had a lot of new adventures. And its all thanks to my dear Renate and Thomas

What are the things, the moments you get here to bring home, is there anything special that you learned during your trip that will help you in Uganda?

Yes, I learned a lot! I saw a lot new things, like the recycling process here in Germany. It’s very interesting and I would like to take the same idea to our country. I like the way of living

of the people in this country, how they consult their environment how they keep their nature, how they keep the city clean. And I think I have taken these ideas back with me to Uganda.

As I asked before, was the trip to Germany as you expected or was it completely different and surreal? Tell us something to your feelings you had when you arrived here.

Ja, my expectations, I can say they are, may be, 150 percent cause what I found surpassed what I expected. I found a lot of good people. At first, I feared the language and ja, I can say I found it has been fine that I can communicate with the people in English and they understand me. And I have learned some little words in German and I think I will improve my German when I am back, perhaps I'll take a course for German. And may be my other wishes available and getting communicating the local language.

Thank you very much for that interview, for helping us out and we wish you all the best for the future and that you can make your plans into real actions. And perhaps you come back!