



Annual Report 2020

The Corona virus shook up our annual planning and prevented the projects and activities in Zimbabwe from being carried out as planned.

We had originally planned to hold our general meeting on 14th March in Bern, followed by an information event for all interested members and patrons. The team in Zimbabwe filmed two short videos about the situation in the project area. Thabbeth and Michael Cotton would have reported first-hand about Sethule Orphans' Trust but things turned out differently. At very short notice we had to cancel everything and then conducted an electronic vote on the most necessary association business by email. We sincerely hope that direct meetings will again be possible in 2021.

Compared to the situation in Switzerland, the situation in Zimbabwe was and still is infinitely more difficult. Many people lost their modest incomes due to the lockdown. Public schools were closed from 24th March until the beginning of November 2020. A very long time for the children and young people, especially since home-schooling did not work in the countryside. The local team of Sethule Orphans' Trust was initially not allowed to visit the local orphans and the local rural communities. However, with the permission of the authorities, the team then began to distribute food parcels to over 100 seriously affected families in rural areas and started information and prevention work on Covid-19. All other projects and activities were placed on hold. The team tried to use their time for administrative tasks and the triennial evaluation. Because of the precarious office situation, it was not so easy either. In January 2021, the Zimbabwean government implemented a further lockdown.

Our association distributed three newsletters: June (Corona food parcels) and September and December (Christmas letter including several ideas for gifts). In 2020, total donations of 71,000 Swiss francs were received from members and donors. I would like to thank everyone very, very sincerely for your great support!

Many orphans do not have a birth certificate, which means that they do not formally exist, and have no access to many important areas of life. Obtaining such a document is extremely complicated but Sethule Orphans' Trust has been trying hard with some success. For the birth certificate project, we received a total of 60'000 Swiss francs from several Swiss foundations. Various applications for funds have also been submitted for the Scholarship Programme - Sethule currently supports the education of 40 children and young people from primary school to university level. The new platform "StiftungSchweiz.ch" is very useful, and our association is currently represented there with two projects.

We would like to thank the following foundations for their trust:

- Däster-Schild Foundation
- Eugen & Elisabeth Schellenberg Foundation
- Salientes Foundation
- Ueli Schlageter Foundation
- Christa Foundation

And we also thank the following parishes and parishioners for their contributions:

- All Saints Church, Vevey
- Parish of Muri-Gümligen
- Parish of Dreikönigen Zurich
- Westlake Church, St Sulpice

Towards the end of the year, it became apparent that the Swiss account of Sethule Orphans' Trust would have to be closed because of new compliance regulations and no bank was willing to open a new account. The remaining amount of about 95'000 Swiss francs was transferred to the account of our association.

In total, we received 2020 donations and contributions of 154'311 Swiss francs. The expenses amounted to only 1'104 Swiss Francs. The board works on a voluntary basis. We were able to transfer 77'767 Swiss francs plus 23'576 Swiss francs from the funds - total 101'343 Swiss francs - to Zimbabwe. Larger amounts are waiting in our bank account until the respective projects can be carried out.

The committee met at the beginning of the year and then held two Zoom meetings. Rosmarie Kunz has resigned, but Manuela Schläfli is interested in joining the board, and is already actively helping. Our new treasurer, Christopher Blake, has introduced proper book-keeping which now shows all income and expenditure clearly. I would like to thank all my colleagues for their commitment.



Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, Präsidentin

Preschool





Committee (as of end 2020)

Madeleine Bichsel, 3113 Rubigen

Esther Blake-Gerber, 1854 Leysin

Christopher Blake, 1854 Leysin

Treasurer, address list

Michael Cotton, 1854 Leysin

Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, 3073 Gümligen

President

Lis Seeley, 1814 La Tour de Peilz

Secretary, Fundraising

Carol Seymour, 1854 Leysin

Manuela Schläfli, 3006 Bern (co-opted)

Melanie Whitlow, 1072 Forel

Director of Sethule Orphans' Trust

Thabbeth Cotton, Great Britain

Auditor

Bernhard Kobel, Bolligen (election by General Assembly pending)

Information

www.sethuletrust.org

Contacts (E/F)

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Bank account information

CH19 8080 8006 4294 9373 3

Banque Raiffeisen, 1860 Aigle,

Account: Les Amis Suisses de Sethule Orphans Trust,

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