

ASANTE

Newsletter

Vol. 2



Our Message



On the 1st of December, we had a mass in Talitha Kum to celebrate the life of our beloved mother Ans who passed on, after a long sickness, on the 25th of November. Ans was one of the founders of St. Martin but more than that, she was our mother. She left Kenya in 1996 to go back to her native home in the Netherlands but even after her departure, her place in St. Martin and in our hearts remained.

We remember her as a mother, a friend, a sister and as a colleague, and now she will also be our angel taking care of us from heaven.

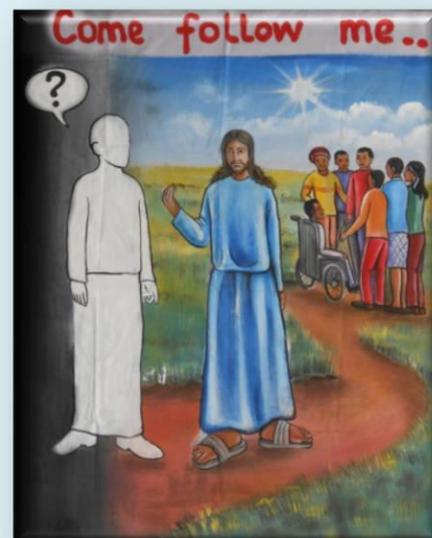
She left us a beautiful message in a book she wrote in the last few months of her life: when we are discouraged, when we think that we haven't done enough in our life, we should remember that Someone is telling us:- "You've done well", these are words of love, "LOVE in capital letters"- (from Ans's book The Inner Well).

Our Activities

VOLUNTEERS' DAYS CELEBRATIONS

This year's theme, Come Follow Me, is drawn from the gospel of Mark 10 where Jesus encounters the rich young man who has a great desire to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Jesus looks at him and loves him. He invites him to go sell everything and then come and follow him.

This gospel provided us with the opportunity to reflect on various things that hold us back from answering the invitation of Jesus to follow Him. The staff, community members and volunteers were invited to recognize the voice of Jesus calling them to serve him in the needy brothers and sisters in the community. It is our prayer that in the cry of the poor, we may all hear the invitation of Jesus, Come Follow Me.



ST.MARTIN'S DAY



On the 7th of November we celebrated our annual St. Martin's Day celebration. It was a day of thanks giving for the beautiful and also difficult experiences we have lived through the year. The day was especially special because we had a group of women from the Nyahururu Prison who not only joined in the celebration but also shared a message of hope and gratitude. The ecumenical service which was presided over by religious leaders from different churches was also a special moment for us to remind ourselves that what brings us together is so much more than what divides us.

THE SPECIAL CHAIR

In 2009, the community programme for people with disabilities got into contact with Cerebral Palsy Africa(CPA) based in the UK .The organization was interested in spreading a technology (Appropriate Paper technology) to different organizations that are working on issues of disabilities. The technology uses recycled cartons to create aids and appliances that can be used by people with disabilities.

Given the approach of St. Martin, this sustainable approach to support the vulnerable people with disabilities was embraced and since then the programme has been providing the same to its beneficiaries.As a way of garnering support for the project, a clip – [‘the special chair’](#) was produced by St. Martin and Fondazione Fontana



Our Partners and Friends



St. Jude Children's Home

In the month of October, we received two friends from a partner organization in Gulu, Uganda. St. Jude children's home is an organization that works with and for children with disabilities. The dream of involving the community in the support of the vulnerable is a shared dream between the two organizations as is the fact that we draw motivation from the Gospel of Service. We therefore believe that we have a lot to learn from each other. It is for this reason that Samuel and Brenda came to spend some time with us in

St. Martin and it is also for the same reason that a group of 12 people from St. Martin CSA, L'Arche Kenya and Talitha Kum

have been invited to Uganda from 30th November to 4th of December - to continue sharing life and experiences to help each other grow in motivation and in service.

Upcoming Events

- Christmas season events
 - Mass in the prison
 - Christmas Eve Mass with Street Children
- St. Martin closing day
- New year events
 - New year's Mass with the children in the St. Martin centres

ASANTE