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How a life can change in the blink of an eye ...

2 years ago I had no idea about Nigeria and the misery there.

But when I came in contact with friends of the Nigerian population a year and a half ago, September 2018, I got the strong feeling that I had to do more than just watch and show my sympathy for the misery the people there have to undergo.

A strong urge to do something for them and the "just-knowing-feeling" that I was doing by establishing a non-profit association for especially the children who are the innocent victims there, pushed me to the African continent, more specifically Lagos , Nigeria.

This trip was the 2nd trip I made to Lagos, but that does not mean that I have been sitting still in the meantime. About a year ago I was able to celebrate the birth of the VZW Sunchild and from then on it all went really fast.

The organization of all possible promotions and benefits have filled my days very well and with results; Meanwhile, I can already say that 8 children go to school and can use their books and school materials, including uniform, thanks to Sunchild.

It is not easy to set up a non-profit organization from scratch, but I am lucky enough to be able to collaborate with a church community that I can trust very well, and that is really what you need in that country, people you can trust 100% .

Time and time again it is a big adjustment when I get off the plane there, there is not much to compare with our Belgium country, how good we are in Belgium!

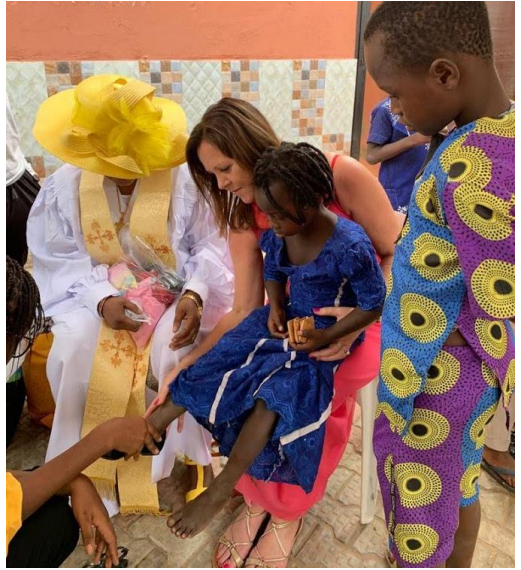


The first week my husband and I visited some homes with Prophetess Calista; The house of disabled children, where we have given a large bag of rice and Yam as a gift and an orphanage where we have given the same gifts. The people there do not like us to take pictures, which is understandable, hence the few pictures of these homes. But I can tell you that they were very grateful for our visit and the food that we had with us.

An additional goal is therefore to financially support the orphanage in the future.

The roads are so bad there that you really can only organize one thing per day, because for a mere 30 km you are a good 2 hours on the road. Walibi amusement park is nothing compared to the bumpy roads over there.

A warm welcome @ Lagos Nigeria





Because of the + parents who sponsor our children to go to school, I also had some items of clothing and shoes for "their" children. As you can see in the photos, it was a big party when I gave them their presents, they even showed me their school results. But it was not only for these children that the party was, I had taken as many "received" clothing as possible to provide for the other children, thank you to all the sweet mums who think of Sunchild when the clothing of their sprouts becomes too small!

Because I am busy setting up an NGO SUNCHILD HOPE & LIFE in Lagos, a lot of documents had to be arranged. I set up this NGO there because I can enjoy some protection from the government, and I am told that the customs costs, which are immeasurably high when you send some packages there, would be reduced by 75% as soon as I have the proof that I have a charity organization there.

But that means that there have been many days filled with driving to justice, meeting with the lawyer and ALSO with the architect because our biggest dream is to build a help center, THE HOUSE OF HOPE, where we have a giveaway , a doctor's office, a chapel, a large kitchen with a dining room, several showers and washing machines, a classroom, an office, and studios for the homeless.

Big plans for Sunchild but a new future for so many people!



To reduce hotel costs, which I paid out of private pocket, I rented a house in Lagos. This of course also had to be arranged a bit basic, including from private money. And for all this you have to get on the road, we have been in the car for hours and hours. There is no better training on patience, believe me.

This past period we have had a car on loan, for which thanks to the prophetess of LGGPM and I have paid a driver (the amount also paid out of private pocket).



But the next goal must be a decent car so that I can continue to work efficiently in Lagos. If someone could give me advice and / or deed, it would help us enormously. It is impossible to do everything on foot, by the way my house is in a better and safer neighborhood than where people need me in the slums and it is therefore a few hours of driving again to get there. It is also impossible to do something with public transport, because it is not there. Some private private vans that want to make some extra money will take you to your destination like a sardine crammed in their vehicle. But to sit in such a van in a heat of 36 degrees with a humidity of 75%, that is asking for health problems. It is therefore certainly not a superfluous luxury to have a car available.



The small house that I rent is not so far away from the beach and we have recharged our batteries a few times by the sea. But even there children are begging, they come to ask if they can rip a song and then hope for a small fee.



Along the way I have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of children begging in traffic among the cars. Little girls, maybe 3 or 4 years old, on their bare feet with just a few torn pieces of fabric around their skinny body. These children are usually forced to beg by their parents. The parents do not want their children to go to school, they have to beg, this is a much deeper form of poverty and I am currently powerless against it, especially since I have to take my safety into account. One time I lowered the window of the car to give a little girl 200 naira (1 € = 400 naira) in a time span of 1 second there were dozens of children knocking on the car door, but so aggressive, just terrifying. My friends explained to me what the situation of these children is and asked to give nothing anymore. How hard should a person be ...

The 3 weeks that I stayed in Lagos have left a very heavy stamp on me and after a tough return trip I still needed a big week to get back to my fold.

But that doesn't stop me, on the contrary.

In May they can expect me back there, at the end of May it is childrensday and I certainly don't want to miss that, again I will try to bring as much clothing and shoes as possible and I hope that by then I will have the NGO registration completed so that a piece of container can also be filled with the boxes from Sunchild.

I'll keep you informed.

Dear greetings,

Nadia