

OUTPOST 2007 BF

[AVAMPOSTO 2007 BF]

One of the poorest place in the world is Burkina Faso, where every year hunger, malaria and AIDS hit thousands of children.

We have decided to be there, concentrating our resources in a great project able to help the population but, above all, it has to be turn to give life expectancy to the most helpless part of the people: the children.

Journal

Year 2004

It is not an idea, but it is a duty: we have to intervene where the suffering shows itself in a so cruel way that it can wipe entire population out. The primary aim of the Malagutti Foundation onlus is to lend a hand to the children: they are the first to feel the inequality of life, the social contradictions and the privations of the habitat.

The Administration Council has deliberated to search a country disposable to welcome our will to aid its children.

June 2004

First contacts with the bishop of Guinea Bissau who takes our project into consideration but underlines complications with the Embassy. We carry on the dialogue but without the expected upshots.

May 2005

Meeting here, in Curtatone (Mantua), in the seat of the Foundation together with the Papal Nuncio for the country of Camerun. It shows great interest in the project and grants a delegation for a visit in our Foundation.

August 2005

In the seat of the Foundation, formal visit of the polish bishop, the delegate of the diocese of Doumé- Camerun. Thanks to the translation of a Sister, a secretary of the bishop, it can be outline the needs of the country and of the crucial crux.

Autumn 2005

After several contacts with the Papal Nuncio and after having underline the existing obstacles, we decide to not carry on with this country.

5th July 2006

I have met Mr R. Rouamba, member of the delegation of the Italian Embassy in Burkina Faso. He come here, in Curtatone; we have an important talk. He has been in Italy for years and he has the matter of his country at hearth.

We decide several meeting to study in detail the topic.

22nd July 2006

New meetings where we can check reciprocal aviabilities. Mr Rouamba shows a great interest in the aims of the Foundation; he visits the structure and asks for a new meeting in his house in Vicenza.

5th August 2006

Vicenza, meeting with Mr Rouamba and his family.

Every day the hypothesis of a visit in the Embassy of Burkina Faso in Italy is more and more concrete.

8th August 2006

New meeting to define the journey to Rome, he will speak with the Ambassador to fix a date.

13th September 2006

The Ambassador of Burkina Faso receives the president and vice-president of the Malagutti Foundation. Meeting very intense and profitable; we are greeted with great warmth.

We have proposed the aims of the foundation and the draft of the project which is referred to the creation of the **OUTPOST 2007 BF**. The aim will consist into the carrying out of an hospital and a school. We have granted the necessary steps to let our delegation to reach Burkina Faso checking the possibility of the realisation of the project.

1st -15th October 2006

Several phone calls with Mr Rouamba to make plans for the journey.

Summon the Foundation Administration Council in order to inform and explain the necessary strategies to make concrete the undertakings which we are going to take.

Outline the collaboration with the Malagutti Foundation and Alfaomega Voluntaries Association.

25th October 2006

Today is the 16th Birthday of Alfaomega Voluntaries Association. 16 years spent helping adults and children with HIV-AIDS. Between Alfaomega and the Foundation there is a deep relationship; together they will lead the project in Burkina.

During the banquet, offered by the "Locanda delle Grazie" in Curtatone, tell to every friends the last progresses of the project: **OUTPOST 2007 BF**.

Mr. Mozzanega, member of the Rotary Club Mantova Postumia Distrect 2050, throws out the idea of a partnership to increase the resources and the collaborations; the project of the hospital and the school is ambitious but not impossible. Decide to speak about the project with the both representatives.

31st October 2006

The president of Alfaomega, Anna Zacchè and the president of the Foundation, Giovanni Malagutti define and decide who are going to travel in Burkina Faso. The two choices are Anna Gorgatti for Alfaomega and Giovanni Malagutti for the Foundation.

1st November 2006

I receive the task of drawing up a journal; I'm Giovanni Malagutti and I'm a psychologist. The experience will be very demanding and exciting. The principal aim of our first mission will be focusing on the study of the territory related to the fundamental needs. We will look for a poor area where we can bring a little bit of relief to the population and above all, to the children. I've started to gather information surfing the internet.

5th November 2006

Preparations start, soon will put our ideas into effect.

Together with Anna Gorgatti we define the major strategies: we have to start relationships with the local authorities. Mr Rouamba, who will be our guide and cultural intermediary, says that the most important aspect is the acceptance of the local people. He thinks it will be better have a previous contact with the members of the tribes in order to meet them and to acquaint them with our ideas.

8th November 2006

Meeting with Anna Gorgatti; we decide to organize ourselves, during the journey, to collect a wide quantity of visual documents so that we can show materials when we are coming back.

Anna has got the task to contact a travel agency to book the flight while I'm going to working on the reportage. I don't know but, at the moment, we are not able to play the role of explorers. Even the name of the project **OUTPOST 2007 BF** has an effect on us: we play the role of directors not of actors.

16th November 2006

I've bought a camera; a Canon EOS 400 D. A professional reporter from San Benedetto Po has said it is the right choice. He's a companion of my childhood and when he has heard about this journey he has shown his support. It is my first digital experience; I'm keen on films and I was not so sure about digital camera. But Carlo has insisted for its functional capacity and its high quality definition.

19th November 2006

Universal Children's Day.

The Malagutti Foundation has organised its 5th national drawing competition. Today is Sunday and we are making a party to give the prizes to the winners of the competition. I'm going to tell the project of Burkina Faso.

I realised that people were enthusiastic! We are going on the right way.

25th November 2006

Anna brings news.

The departure is expected on the 18th January 2007 from Milan Malpensa, at 1 p.m.

First stop in Casablanca at 3.05 p.m.

New departure from Ouagadougou at 11 pm.

We should arrive in Burkina on the 19th January 2007 at 2.35 a.m.

Coming back on 29th January 2007.

Leaving from Ouagadougou at 3.20 a.m.

Stop in Casablanca at 6.50 a.m.

Leaving from there at 8.10 a.m. and arrival in Milan at 12.10.

Estimated expenditure 565 € each.

Every day we can add new information and we are emotionally involved.

28th November 2006

It is a great moment: we are going to buy our flight tickets.

At 3 p.m., in San Benedetto met Rouamba to speak about the letter to send to the Ambassador of Burkina Faso. My sister Francesca translates into French.

1st December 2006

World AIDS Day.

The first thought is for all the children and people died for AIDS. During this day we have reflected on our health promotion in Burkina Faso where, every years, 20.000 children pass away for malaria, Aids and hunger.

We must do something! Our principles are becoming reality thanks to the **OUTPOST 2007 BF** project.

5th December 2006

Boards of Directors Alfaomega.

The association reconfirms the project of Burkina.

All the counsellors approve the developments that Anna Gorgatti and I have exposed.

6th December 2006

Health Aspects.

Anna and I went to ASL (Local Health Authority) in the international journey department

- Phone 0039-0376.334924/25 Fax 0039-0376.334928-, to receive information about the medical aspects of our journey in Burkina.

They tell us the compulsory immunizations: yellow fever and malaria. We have done blood exams.

The appointment is Monday, 11th December 2006.

11th December 2006

Medical examination at ASL –medical prevention office –international journey department. Doctor Susanna Lombardi decides to go deeper and deeper with our medical past, gets together our case histories and postpones the vaccinations in date 15th December. We are a little bit disappointed because the time goes by and because these obstacles. But they give the impression to be necessary for travelling in safety.

A hint is to declare every little sanitary problems, old and new; not telling something could prevent the right evaluation of the health status, promoting the risks of contraindications.

Meet Rouamba, reach an agreement for the departure in Burkina Faso, give the flight ticket to him.

13th December 2006

It has been necessary buying a map of the state of Burkina Faso.

After some researches in Mantua, I've heard that there is a very good bookstore in Verona.

"Gulliver – Libri per viaggiare" in via Stella, 16/b, 37121 Verona Italia

tel. 045/8007234 - fax 045/8038441

web: www.gullivertravelbooks.it e-mail: info@gullivertravelbooks.it

I've found the best map: Carte Turistique 1:1.000.000, published by ING (Istitut Geographique National) last edition 1994. The price is 9,30€.

15th December 2006

ASL- medical prevention office- international journey department- Vaccinations for yellow fever and malaria; postpones again, blood exam are not ready yet. Next appointment 20th December.

20th December 2006

ASL- Medical prevention office- international journey department. Finally vaccinations done! I add the A hepatitis vaccine.

24th December 2006

Anna Zacchè, president of Alfaomega , and I participate to the Christmas Eve dinner with all the guests of the Foundation and of the Alfaomega Association. It's in this particular event we communicate our project: **OUTPOST 2007 BF**.

They are really interested and, showing their curiosity, agree with our ideas.

4th January 2007

Christmas has not stopped our interest in collecting information and data for the journey.

I've found several projects of others NGO (Non Governmental Organization), while Anna has spent her time searching details for the journey.

Other meeting in Vicenza with Rouamba to define:

Economic aspects and money spending (Euros are better than Dollars in Burkina),

letters to send to the Health and Education Ministers and to the hospitals' directors.

But where is Burkina Faso?

6th January 2007

First satellite pictures of Ougadougou.

8th January 2007

Start vaccination for malaria (1st tablet); have organize the consumptions of tablets so that we can only take one tablet when we reach Burkina. (8 tablets: 2 before leaving, 1 in Burkina, 5 when we are back)

9th January 2007

Have sent letters into Italian and French to the authorities of Burkina. Inside there are requests of a meeting and illustration of the project: **OUTPOST 2007 BF**.

30th January 2007

Rotary: official task.

In these weeks developments of relationship with members of Rotary Club Mantua Postumia District 2050. Have spoken with Mr. *Mozzanega* and Mr. *Adami* that today have officially said that I will a delegate of Rotary in Burkina.

Rotarians are inspired by their founder's worth and they believe that tolerance is the guide of their life. They confer an honour called *Paul Harris Fellow* o PHF, to people who follow this value, in memory of their founder.

In 2004 I had the honour to receive this important symbol and for this reason the Rotary Postumia asks me to be the delegate and to meet the members of Rotary Club in Burkina. They give me some pennants and some hints for my task there.

15th January 2007

Malaria: 2nd tablet

17th January 2007

At 12.45, after some mishaps, we can have our passports. Mail Box service has done its best but (and it can happen) there were some hindrances for our visa and the delivery of our documents was delayed.

18th January 2007

As usual I'm late with the preparation.

I'm redraft these notes during this sleepless night.

I'm checking my camera and making my luggage.

I haven't made a luggage since ages!

Today I spoke with Anna about the documents and money to take with us together with the credit card. We are leaving in a couple of hours time, at 7.00 a.m. The appointment is in front of the building of the Association and of the Foundation and Mr *Romeo*, our valid counsellor, will drive us at the Malpensa Airport.

Everything seems all right!

It's 4.30 a.m., a shower and then....***let's go!***