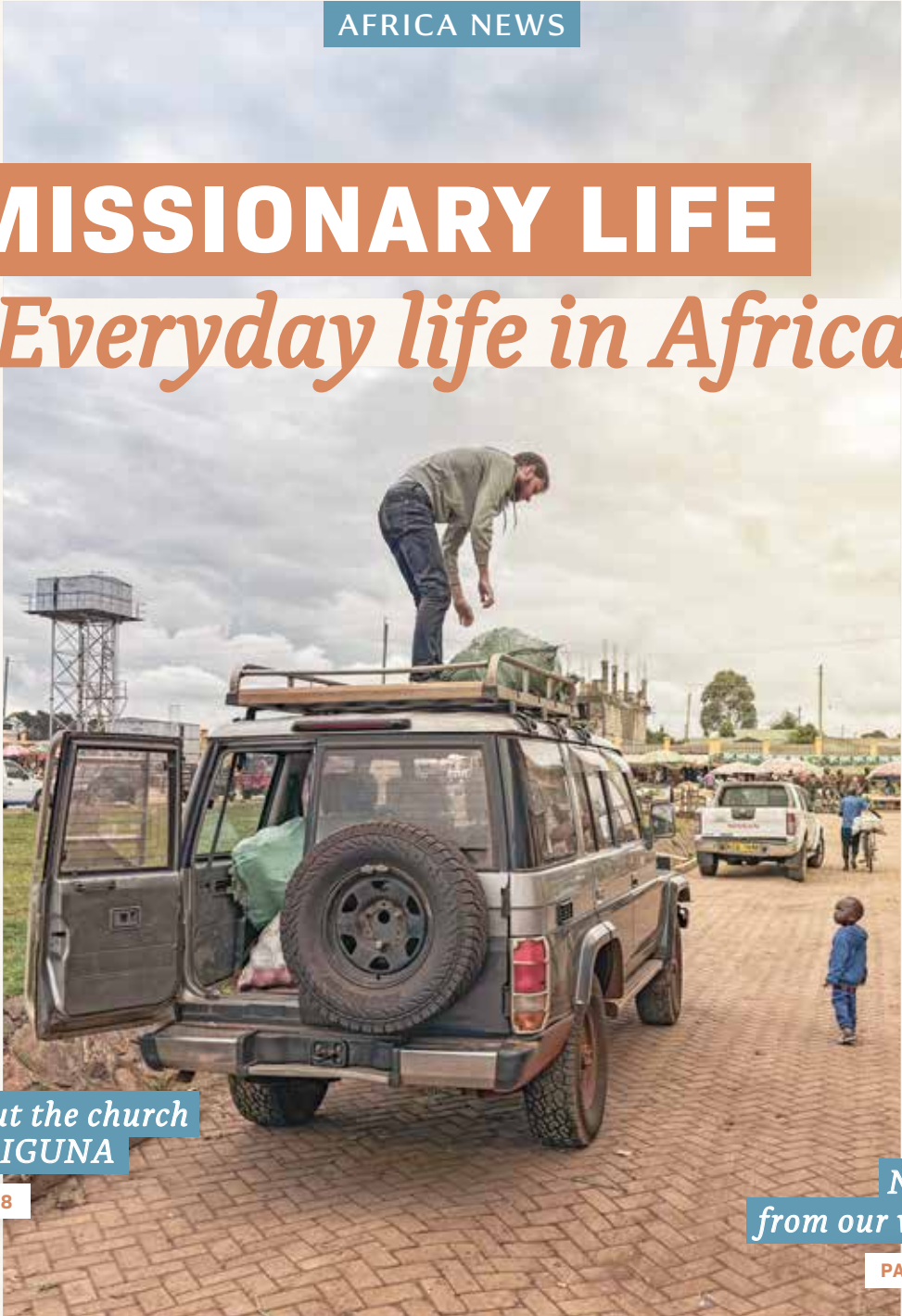


DIGUNA

AFRICA NEWS

MISSIONARY LIFE

Everyday life in Africa



*about the church
at DIGUNA*

PAGE 8

*News
from our work*

PAGE 15

EDITORIAL

Living as a missionary in Africa
In high school we learned CRE (Christian religious education). One topic that caught my attention was about the first missionaries came to Kenya and their influence: Johann Ludwig Krapf (CMS), Johann Rebmann and others. They left their comfort zones, came in a ship, encountered many barriers, namely language, culture, infrastructure challenges, and started from scratch. Yet their impact is seen both physically and eternally.

In my mind I never imagined I could be part of such a team.

Having had a chance of knowing Jesus as my savior and later realizing there are still many people who are thirsty for the word led me to want to live a life that is different than what would be normal. I studied agriculture in college after which I chose to serve in Kenya as a missionary. I decided to dedicate my life to be in ministry with a mission of letting others be aware of the existence of God. Doing so in my own country and go against the norm that missionaries cannot be home grown. The game changer was my wife Ines who also saw it as her calling too and she added value to my desire that together we could be missionaries.



It was not easy to share to my family especially my father about my intended steps, knowing it meant that instead of me supporting them I would need their support. Thankfully he never said nor was he excited but said thoughtfully, “Do what your heart is beating for and leave everything to God. If He is calling you to fish people who I’m I to say no.” His words resonate with me to this day and remind me of the calling of the first disciples. Jesus gave them the commission to become fishers of man (Luke 5, 10)

Yes, my mission as a missionary is to fish people to God’s kingdom through the various Diguna platforms and avenues available. I wish you a deeper insight as you read through the Africa News.

John Mutali

MISSIONAR

in Kenya/Ngechek



The German School in Ngechek

„Missionary“ - this word makes me think of Hudson Taylor. Or Jim Elliot and many others. These were people who left everything behind, who gave their whole lives to bring the good news to a people group. They travelled by ship to a place far away from their home and their community. No mobile phone, no dictionary. That's what I imagine „real“ missionaries to be like. Hudson Taylor was in China 150 years ago. Of course, being a missionary has changed since then. My missionary life looks different to Hudson Taylor's. And ▶

CONTENTS

Missionar in Kenya/Ngechek	3
Certificates	6
About the church at DIGUNA	8
Station in Focus	10
Prayer requests	12
Experienced with God	13
Employee Update	14
Current News	15

THE DECISION TO WORK AS MISSIONARIES WITH DIGUNA HAS CHANGED MANY THINGS FOR US AND OUR PRIORITIES HAVE SHIFTED.

yet we are not far apart. To illustrate this, I would like to take you into our everyday life as a missionary family on the DIGUNA station Ngechek in Kenya: Our children - like other children - go to school in the morning, which they sometimes want to do more and sometimes less. The „school“ is a container on our station grounds. The children of all the German missionaries are taught there by learning assistants who volunteer with us for one or two years. The lessons are based on material from the German School or the ILS (Institute for Learning

Systems). For lunch, we have relatively German food on the table. Rice, pasta, potatoes, ... you can get everything here. However, as we don't have an Aldi supermarket next door, we have to go shopping in the town of Eldoret, which is about an hour's drive from our mission station. As a family, we go on a shopping trip like this about every two to three weeks. For our children, the trip into town is a welcome change from everyday life at the station. But the shopping has to be well planned. Later you can't just quickly

buy something you've forgotten... The decision to work as missionaries at DIGUNA has changed a lot of things for us and our priorities have shifted. To be here in Ngechek, we accept that we don't see our parents, siblings, friends as often at home. We rarely get to enjoy leisure activities such as ice skating, amusement parks, church retreats, games, etc. For me as a carpenter, for example, the desire to build a beautiful wooden house for my family assumed a secondary position, but despite these „deprivations“, we experience so many good things here! God pro-



**OUR MISSION HAS NOT
CHANGED IN THE LAST 2000
YEARS.**

On a shopping spree in Eldoret

vides us with what we need: with sufficient finances or with short-term students to teach our children. Everything comes at the right time. It's a blessing to be able to experience something like this!

What we also really appreciate is that my „work“ is just around the corner. This gives us more opportunities to spend time together as a family than we had in Germany. We can eat together, meet up for a tea break - or the kids can just pop into my office from time to time it's a privilege for us to be able to work in a Christian team. It can be challenging at times, but we can still experience that God uses us as an imperfect team with all our sharp and rough edges to build his kingdom, and when you do what God has called you to do, it is a great blessing. It also makes us happy to be here! Even though shopping takes a whole day. Even though we miss the lovely people in Germany. Although it is sometimes difficult to make yourself understood because you can't talk to the other person in your own native language, our life as missionaries differs from the life of Hudson Taylor in more ways than one. Compared to him, I don't feel like a missionary at all. But even though I sit at a desk most of the time and am not an evangelist and could not tell as many amazing stories as Hudson Taylor, our mission has not changed in the last 2000 years. Hudson

Taylor's concern was that the people of China would hear and accept the Good News. In the same way, we are doing everything we can to ensure that people in Kenya come to know Jesus: the children in the Royal Totos children's home on our ward, young people in our neighbourhood, the unreached in Pokot and many more.



Rudi Harder



Our children's home children hear a lot about Jesus during their time with us

TESTIMONIES FROM DIGUNA LIFE

Serving in the children ministry in Mbagathi/ Kenya has been a journey of experiencing God's goodness by seeing little children coming to the knowledge of the truth and accepting Jesus into their lives.

Due to Covid-19, we started with a very small number of Children. We asked God to send more Children. Our prayers were answered: We have more than 150 Children that come to our station every Saturday for the bible teachings! God has been gracious to us over the years and has enabled us to expand the ministry to the schools where we attend the Pastoral Program Instruction (PPI) in various schools every week. We were also able to extend the ministry to slums and prisons, rehabilitation (for girls) and rescue centers where babies as

young as one day are rescued from danger and abandonment.

We have seen what God can do and has done through this ministry; with prayers and support we believe we can achieve more.



Joseph Memia


My greatest experience with God so far during my short assignment in Congo was in my personal relationship with Him. I was able to understand anew that grace is only possible for us because Jesus took our punishment upon himself. I had already known this before, but I found it difficult to really accept this love of Jesus. However, he did not loose, but drew me to him constantly. An important realisation for me was that Jesus has already done everything and that I am rejecting him if I don't make use of his help. Here in the Congo, we are always travelling to provide technical support to DIGUNA's partner church so that they can proclaim this gospel that I was able to understand

anew. The roads are in poor condition and put a lot of strain on our vehicles. In addition, there are many roadblocks where people simply want money from you. But despite all of this, we always arrived safely. Thank you for all this, God!



David Emanuel





GROSS UND WUNDERBAR
sind deine Werke,
HERR, ALLMÄCHTIGER GOTT!
GERECHT UND WAHRHAFTIG
sind deine Wege,
DU KÖNIG DER VÖLKER.

Offenbarung 15,3

ABOUT THE CHURCH AT DIGUNA

We know DIGUNA as an evangelistic ministry through visitation to our school many years back and later we also realized the house-to-house campaign led to the establishment of our local church (AIC DINGA). After some years, a former DIGUNA member became one of our pastors. Out of visitations to DIGUNA station we developed interest of becoming missionaries.



Tour of the turbine house

Missionary work basically for us means the conviction and acknowledgement that salvation of grace can be shared when one is called to leave home and work to have a reference in sharing their conviction and faith to others through preaching, teaching, living and working in another community with an aiming of sharing the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ. It can be specific i.e., designated for period of time for some but for others it is a whole life and a way of life. As a family we have an interest to share our testimony and abilities through witnessing the saving grace and sharing of our professions amongst young people as long as God enables us.

Having left home, we had a lot of challenges but we have accepted that. This enabled us to live a humble and simple lifestyle. This decision to be missionaries developed in us a view of living one day at a time because of the change from the working world to a faith-based way of living.. It took us a lot of time to build new relationships in the mission field because of the different backgrounds we are coming from and it calls for being tolerant. Out of our calling, the love for this ministry and the role we play encourages us to



James at work

keep going.

Our church still recognizes us and would still schedule us in some responsibilities but out of the proximity and financial situation we are limited in participation as per their expectation. From our different work stations we were given a period to go back and still we are called if we can go back after many years out of work engagement. This makes it clear that our families and our local churches are expecting a lot from us currently. Slowly we are realizing that

our children are becoming teens and we have to accept that some of their needs will never be met because of the economic situation. Out of our conviction, leaving means depending purely on what is available or what God provides

AS MISSIONARIES, WE ARE DRIVEN BY THE CONVICTION THAT WE ARE CALLED NOT ONLY TO CLAIM THE GIFT OF SALVATION BY GRACE FOR OURSELVES, BUT ALSO TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT AND TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH.

at that time and this is our strength in continuing in the ministry. A question that we might struggle with is, if the needs for our children can limit the direction our ministry will take in the near future. We are living with extended family members, relatives and even friends within the mission station; our house is often full that our children experience a typical African family life but we intend to have them be convicted to being missionary children by modelling them to the knowledge of God.



James und Sara Ouko



Visiting home

ARU/KONGO

We are delighted that our small team is currently being supported by four young short-term workers and a young couple from Paraguay who are staying until March. They all live out their missionary concerns mainly here in Aru: in devotions for children and young people after doing sport on our grounds, or in the brass band work. David, who has only been with us for six months, was recently able to use his musical skills to help a group of young wind players from Aru practise for a large youth conference that is due to take place at Easter. What our team lacks are Congolese mechanics and drivers. This means that we can do fewer evangelisation trips than before. However, we are grateful to be able to keep our vehicles in working order even with a small force. We use our vehicles to transport the evangelists from our partner church to their places of work or to visit radio stations and keep the technology in working order. The children's radio team, which produces weekly programmes for Aru at our station, has been working tirelessly for almost five years. We reach many children and families via the radio, as our recordings are also broadcast on eight other church radio

stations. In this way, we hope to draw the attention of children to Jesus who do not yet know him personally.

We are also concerned with the question of how we can support the church so that people permanently commit their lives to Jesus and this has an impact on their everyday lives. A Congolese visitor summarised the dilemma we face: „How is it that the Congo has so many Christians and yet so many bloody battles are not prevented, but are eagerly fought out?“ We hope that people's lives will change if they regularly engage with God's Word and grow in their trust in Jesus. Accompanying such a development in indivi-

duals currently seems to be the direction in which God is leading us. Salome, who has been with us since September, reports:

„Ben - another short-termer - and I prayed a lot about how we could use the year here in Congo for God. And God answered! We started groups focussing on discipleship, which now take place weekly: Ben leads two groups with boys and I lead two with girls. The concept of discipleship is not so well known here. We don't see much personal Bible study.

Right: David practises with the young wind players for the youth conference

Left: On the way to an evangelistic outreach



We sometimes wonder whether the many people who go to church have even accepted faith in Jesus for themselves

WE HAVE THE HOPE THAT PEOPLE'S LIVES WILL CHANGE IF THEY REGULARLY OCCUPY THEMSELVES WITH GOD'S WORD AND GROW IN THEIR TRUST IN JESUS.

personally... The aim of our groups is to guide and motivate young people in their faith, to research the Bible themselves, to grow in it and to pass it on to others. To this end, we read the Bible together and exchange ideas. I am grateful that our Lord has given me the opportunity for this new ministry and I am happy when I see how individual girls discover the joy of reading the Bible! Please pray for the lives of these young people!"



Klemens und Bärbel Blaschke





PRAYERS

DAILY CONCERNS CAN BE REQUESTED AT GEBET@DIGUNA.DE
OR AT [PRAYNOW4.ORG/DIGUNAEV](https://praynow4.org/digunaev).

Current concern:

„Please pray for Philemon Talam and his family! They run our Royal Totos children's home at our mission station in Ngechek (Kenya). Philemon is seriously ill with pancreatic cancer. He is undergoing medical treatment and is very weak. Pray for him, that he will be sustained by God and experience healing. Pray also

for his family for comfort and strength to get through this difficult time with him and pray for the team in Ngechek. The memory of the recent death of Philister Mayo, another Ngechek staff member, from cancer is still fresh and a replacement for Philemon needs to be found while he is absent, which is not easy with such a responsible and multi-faceted task. There is

a general lack of staff in the administration of the Royal Toto Children's Home after two employees left last year. Pray that God will provide a remedy here too.“

Thank you for praying with us!

DIGUNA
DIE ERSTE NACHHILFE DER ARBEIT

FÜR KENIA

**WIR BRAUCHEN
LERNHELPER**

Mit Leidenschaft für Mission

Mehr unter: diguna.de/und-du/offene-stellen

OUR GOD IS GREAT AND GOOD

On a trip from our mission station to the town of Moundou (Chad), we suddenly heard a very strange noise and then our left rear tyre overtook us... We quickly came to a halt, as we couldn't drive fast in



the city, and then almost right next to a garage. Immediately after the puncture, God provided us with many helping hands so that our car could be repaired straight away and made ready to drive again. All of



the traffic in the town anyway. Somewhat shocked, we got out of the car, collected our tyre and laughed our heads off at our misery, but our laughter quickly faded when we realised that we had been driving at 80 km/h on the tarred road ten minutes earlier. We could just as easily have lost our tyre at that speed! In that case, it certainly wouldn't have ended so lightly.

You can definitely rely on the helpfulness of the Chadians. Someone quickly offered to fix the spare wheel for us three white missionaries so that we could drive to the nearest garage. It looked more like a car graveyard, but it only took two hours before the right bolts were found on the market and we were able to make our way home in one piece. It was only in the days that followed that we really realised how much God had saved us. Nothing happened to us or anyone else on the road. The tyre came off when we were driving very slowly in

this testifies to a great and good God who is with us, who shows us again and again how little control we have ourselves, but that we can trust him because he holds everything in his hands.



Christine Lehmann

EMPLOYEES UPDATE

Hello, we are Rahel and Dominik Neuffer from Deckenpfronn and have been preparing for a long-term assignment with DIGUNA in South Sudan since October 2023. Dominik is an industrial mechatronics technician and mechanical engineer by profession; he grew up on a farm and enjoys practical tasks. Rahel studied healthcare and nursing, grew up as a missionary child in Brazil and loves both her job and working with children and young people. Two years ago, we were able to go on a three-month short-term assignment with DIGUNA in Ngechek (Kenya). We really enjoyed the combination of practical help and preaching the gospel at DIGUNA. In South Sudan, we will be working with the Zobel family on the Lopit project. We want to share and live our faith with people through our professions and gifts.

We are convinced that Jesus can touch and change hearts so that people receive new hope, new perspectives and new life through faith in him, and we are deeply grateful for any form of support - especially in prayer!



Rahel und Dominik Neuffer

In the current prayer booklet we have unfortunately forgotten a family. We apologise for this.



Kasereka und Ombeni mit Gradi, Glodi und Steve
Mbagathi/Kenya

We are very grateful that more employees have been called to the Africa mission for a short-term assignment.



Laura Zilke
Tinderet/Kenya



Aaron van der Berg
Tinderet/Kenya

NEWS FROM THE WORK



ARU/CONGO

We are grateful for the peaceful conduct of the presidential elections at the end of December. Now that the roads are dry, we were able to start a trip with the technical team to the Banda, Dungu and Isiro radio stations in the remote Zande region. We are grateful for the good encounters with the teams at the stations and hope that the technology will work well again for a few years and that the radio stations will be a blessing to many listeners. In addition to radio technology, we also distributed Bibles, cement and other important materials on this trip, and thanks to the skills of our short-term worker Tobias, some vehicles have been repaired again, e.g. the car of the evangelist Simamoke from Isiro, who systematically travels to a certain area in Congo where he shows the Jesus film and evangelises. Our women's Bible group has also grown and new French Bibles have been delivered, which are selling quickly due to their handy format and will hopefully be read in a spiritually profitable way.



ARUA/UGANDA

We are grateful for the strength God has given us to do some work in the past months. In the month of December, we received Wiche family (Martin and Bettina, former station leader) who helped us in fixing two Mercedes Benz, that really needed repair. Now they are better for us to run the station and even do ministry. God brought Martin at the right time. In the last months we received a lot of rain, this caused some damages on our compound since we are on the hill, we thank God that we were able to fix it, we re-constructed and cleaned some rain tunnel to allow easy flow of water. We installed a new inverter and new solar batteries in our car workshop to boost the power (electricity). The old batteries power supply level had reduced, as of now we have enough power to operate some machines without town power.



HAIGER/ GERMANY

We started the new year with the sensational Youth Mission Conference in Stuttgart. Many interested people and alumni came by our stand again, which made us very happy! Shortly afterwards, we had an encouraging review of the year together as a team and discussed our goals for 2024. We are already very excited about God's work this year, and we welcomed 20 interested people to our information seminar in January and had some great conversations. Some church services and events, such as a visit to the Klostermühle (a short-term Bible School) have already been organised and we are thankful that God has given us Stefan Damm, a new employee for IT in Mbagathi. Stefan is currently in Haiger for preparation. In February, Malindi and John Njung'e, who had previously worked in Ngechek, took on their new assignment in to Arua, Uganda. And we are continuing to pray for new staff in the Haiger team, as Mr and Mrs Jung will also be moving to the station in Uganda at the end of this year, and we have sent a container on its



FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

**WIR SUCHEN
EINE ASSISTENZ
DER MISSIONSLEITUNG**

*Mit Leidenschaft
für Mission*

Mehr unter: diguna.de/und-du/offene-stellen

way to Chad. Three Tanzania containers are currently being packed and then it will be the turn of the Kenya container.



LODWAR/KENYA

Before Christmas, hard-working helpers prepared 400 food parcels, which were then distributed to widows and elderly people with no income. The joy of the recipients was overwhelming! On Christmas Day, a big party for street children was organised in Lodwar for the fourth time. Three communities and one of our partner organisations helped to organise the whole thing. Large pots were used to cook for the 400 children and young people. The programme included a prayer service, singing together and a packed lunch to take home. High-ranking people from the city council and the police were full of praise for the event and the smooth organisation. In January, Dinah from our TCCP orphan project died of a serious illness. She was due to start her vocational training this year. We miss her dearly. Magdalen and Apem, two other TCCP girls, are volunteering at the small „bush school“ in Nachuro from January to March before they start their studies or vocational training.



MBAGATHI/KENYA

We are grateful for the final weeks of 2023, during which we organized and participated in four camps, ranging from kids' camps to young adults. We had the opportunity to interact with many youths from various communities, including those from our neighboring area and beyond. During the Christmas break, our Kenyan team members could spend time with their families and churches, enjoying fellowship and relaxation. The year 2024 began on a positive note, with our kick-off seminar offering good teachings and general ministry preparation. Spending time together after the Christmas break was a blessing, and we also organized a camp for school leavers at the end of January. This camp was significant since we discussed the topic of crossroads, where school leavers often find themselves after graduation. We are also thankful for the chance to participate in the joined campaign in Pokot, where we worked hand in hand with our colleagues from Ngechek and Tinderet to reach the community.



MOUNDOU/ CHAD

The Hocker family is currently on a assignment in Germany. Christine and our short-term missionary Naemi are now the only DIGUNA missionaries in Chad and have taken on additional tasks. In the meantime, the two of them have been on trips optical missions outside of Moundou, which went well and where they were able to help many people. We are grateful for God's provision and protection which they were able to experience on the trips and during the missions, and the training of the two Chadian employees optician for the optics work is also progressing well. Christine will soon be training a third person in this area and Naemi is still involved in the hygiene project at the Bible school, which is aimed at Chadian women. It has been well received, but is still challenging in places as most of the women taking part speak little or no French and are therefore always dependent on a translator.



NGECHEK/KENYA

At the beginning of the year, we had a seminar as a whole team on the topic of „Moving forward on the right path“. The seminar was very good and challenged and encouraged us in many areas, and at ►

the end of last year we received authorisation to extend the primary school on our station by a few grades from the high school. We are grateful to God that we can now offer the Kenyan children on our station the opportunity to go to school with us for a few years beyond primary school. This year we were able to introduce the seventh grade. With these changes comes the need for more classrooms. At the end of January, we were able to transport the two containers that we remodelled last year to Marigat and set them up there. They will serve as a small base for various activities. In April, for example, we are planning to organise a children's camp there. We hope to have completed all the necessary work (mainly the roof construction) by then.



TINDERET/KENYA

We are very grateful for the Thore and Lena Brakel family, who have joined us as long-term employees in December and are responsible for the caretaking in the children's home as well as for the administrative matters of the short-termers. The 8th grade of our primary school passed their final exams in December - and with the best average since our primary school was founded! At the beginning of January, we got the year off

to a motivated start as Team Tinderet with our annual „kick-off“ seminar, and after several days of evangelisation in six villages around our station, we have now sent eight of our employees to Pokot/Lapoin for three weeks to work with other DIGUNA stations. A new year has started again at our vocational school. However, the current graduating class will not take their exams until May. Ross Miller, the Recher family, Carlo Bühner and Thomas Weuste are staying with us on the station for a few weeks and are helping us enormously.

IMPRESSUM

Die Afrika News
werden herausgegeben
für die Freunde unseres
Missionswerkes.

Verantwortlich für den Inhalt:
Ingo Bittenbinder

Grafische Gestaltung:
Benjamin Meyer

Druck:
w3 print + medien, Wetzlar

Haiger / Deutschland
Am Lohgraben 5 / 35708 Haiger
Tel: 0049-(0)2773-8102-0
Fax: 0049-(0)2773-8102-49
E-Mail: info@diguna.de

Mbagathi / Kenia
P.O.Box 15566
00503 Mbagathi / Nairobi - Kenia
E-Mail: mbagathi@diguna.de

VR Bank Lahn-Dill
IBAN: DE31517624340019045102
BIC: GENODE51BIK

Sparkasse Dillenburg
IBAN: DE53 5165 0045 0000 0886 58
BIC: HELADEF1DIL

Swiss Post (Kontoinhaber: SMG)
IBAN: CH92 0900 0000 8004 2881 3
BIC: POFICHBEXXX
Verwendungszweck:
Mitarbeiter + DIGUNA !



Size ratio
Germany / Africa



TEAM NEWS

Preparation

Stefan Damm

Departure to Africa

Rahel und Dominik
Neuffer

Back in Africa

John und Malindi
Njung'e

Home Assignment

Daniel und Quenter
Grothusheidkamp

Simon und Deborah
Hocker

Eva Ziegler

51995



Herzliche Einladung zum **DIGUNA MISSIONSTAG**

05. Mai 2024

EFG Haiger • Schillerstraße 23 • 35708 Haiger



10:30 UHR Missionsgottesdienst

Gemeinsames Mittagessen

14:00 UHR Missionsfest

Hauptredner: **Markus Wäsch**

