

# DIGUNA

AFRICA NEWS

## GROWING IN FAITH

*listen, learn, act*



*Redemption - a change  
of family*

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*experienced with god*

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# EDITORIAL

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## Why discipleship?

Have you ever noticed that the theme of „discipleship“ runs like a red thread through Jesus’ ministry? One of his first words handed down to us are: „Follow me“ (John 1:43). And one of his last words at the end of his ministry to his disciples is also a command that includes this theme: „Make disciples“ (Mt 28:19). Like a bracket, the idea of discipleship encompasses Jesus’ entire ministry here on earth. Apparently, discipleship was important to Jesus. But why? A disciple is first and foremost a pupil and Jesus chose his disciples with this goal in mind: they were to learn from him. But Jesus’ method of discipleship differed fundamentally from the methods of the rabbis. Jesus chose disciples and not only spent time with them „in the classroom“, but also shared everyday life with them. Jesus deliberately wanted to have people close to him because he knew that this was the way in which he could have the greatest impact on them. The disciples not only learnt in theory what love is, but they were also able to see how he lovingly met people in their need. Theory and practice were closely related for Jesus. And this shaped the disciples more than many hours „in the



Georg Jäger

classroom“. They were moulded by Jesus for three years. And so he now also commissioned his disciples to make disciples of others. Why discipleship? Shaped by Jesus, his disciples are now to teach others about Jesus through their lives.

And this mission is still valid today. Calling people to follow Jesus is also the goal of DIGUNA and runs like a thread through the various areas of ministry. The following pages will give you an insight into how Jesus’ mission „to make disciples“ is being lived out in different ways in South-East Africa today. I hope you enjoy reading them.



Study time of the students

I consider it a privilege to live in Kenya, a country where about 35% of the population describe themselves as „saved Christians“. I don’t think any other country in the world has a higher percentage of

people who profess to be „saved“. As a rule, everyone here says their name when they introduce themselves and then adds: „I am saved and I

# REDEMPTION

## *a change of family*

love Jesus“. There is no shame in confessing Jesus here, but the downside is that Kenya is one of the countries with a very high level of corruption. So my question is: where are all the „saved“ people? Unfortunately, many of them are actively involved in this corruption. Should I therefore question their salvation? In any case, one cannot speak of active disciples of Jesus here. This often happens because only the gospel is preached, but Christians are not led to discipleship. When I was still living in Switzerland, Christians were ▶

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**WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOOD WORKS DO NOT GET US TO HEAVEN, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN, WE DO GOOD WORKS!**



*Hans Seppi during his lessons.*

sometimes accused of: „You always want to be better than others!“ This gave rise to the saying: „We Christians are not better, but we are better off!“ Is that really what the Bible says? Jesus spoke about Christians being the light of the world and concluded with (Matthew 5:16): „Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. „So a Christian should be characterised by good works! We must understand that good works do not get us to heaven, but because we are going to

heaven, we do good works! In my subject „Salvation“, I explain to the participants that salvation means a change of family. Through Jesus, I am adopted out of the family of the world, which is ruled by Satan, into the family of God (Ephesians 1:5) and accepted as a full member (child). The problem I have now is that I am a child of God, but I have learned my behaviour, lifestyle and way of thinking in the other family and now I have to learn how

a child should behave in the new family! This is what the Bible calls „sanctification“ or „discipleship“! At DIGUNA Discipleship Training, (our school), we offer various courses. We want to show participants what the Bible teaches, but also how we can apply it in our lives and help others to do the same. Theology has to be practically applicable in our lives, otherwise it's no good, and of course we don't always see how people change. There was a young man and I thought: „I wonder if anything at all?“ He went home and after a while I met a leader from the church. He

**WE WANT TO SHOW THE PARTICIPANTS WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES, BUT ALSO HOW WE CAN APPLY THIS IN OUR LIVES AND HELP OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.**



*The pupils discuss what they have heard.*

asked: „What have you done with our man? He came home totally changed (positively).“ Another example: Martin was told the gospel when he was on drugs. When the pastor asked who would like to accept Jesus, Martin came forward. The pastor prayed with him and left. To make a long story short: The pastor later took Martin into his home and helped him to live with Jesus. He

was later sent to Discipleship Training and completed the entire programme. He learnt to live with Jesus and to share the good news of Jesus with others. Today he leads a ministry among Muslims and can see how his efforts are bearing fruit.



*Hans Seppi*

**Um unsere Arbeit weiterhin erfolgreich fortsetzen zu können, suchen wir einen Bibelschullehrer, der sich auch in der Verwaltung engagiert.**

**Dies ist eine langfristige Aufgabe. Vielleicht ist das ja etwas für Dich?**



# TESTIMONY FROM EVERYDAY MISSIONARY LIFE

## **DIGUNA IT - Buried and alive again**

A few years ago, DIGUNA's IT network was rebuilt with three servers: One in Haiger, Mbagathi and Tinderet. These three servers have always communicated with each other so that a DIGUNA employee could log to all three stations without any problems. However, if a server could not reach one of the other servers for a longer period of time and could not exchange information, it was „tombstoned“, i.e. marked as inactive or „buried“ - similar to a tombstone. This eventually led to various problems in the DIGUNA network, and in the summer of 2023, suddenly nothing worked at all - at least in Haiger. Employees could no longer log in and it was only with the help of an external company that the acute problem could be halfway resolved. As I only support IT on a voluntary basis alongside my job and am not an expert in network infrastructure, I lacked both the capacity and the expertise to thoroughly analyse and fix the problem.

But thank God, he also has an eye on IT. He appointed Stefan Damm, who started as an IT specialist at DIGUNA in January and spent days analysing the network and identifying the problems. He also managed to set up the „buried“ servers so that they can communicate with each other properly again. The

server in Tinderet, where most power outages occur, was configured in such a way that it is not immediately „buried“ again once it is unavailable. For most of you, this is certainly difficult to understand and even I just listened in amazement when Stefan told me about his work. But for me - and the DIGUNA network - it's great what Stefan, whom God has called, has been able to repair. I am grateful to God for this and am now happy to have professional support in IT.



*Manuel Sydow*



1. Petrus 5,7

**ALLE EURE  
SORGE  
WERFT  
AUF IHN;  
DENN ER  
SORGT  
FÜR EUCH.**



# CHILDREN DISCIPLESHIP

The Rainbow Children's Home in Tinderet serves with the vision to help destitute and neglected children through faith, care and education. Our mandate comes from Mark 9:37: "Whoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receives me".

Our children are allocated into eight homes named after all the colours of the rainbow. We have a common kitchen and dining hall where their food is prepared and then supplied to their homes. The

parents are responsible to ensure that each child has enough and satisfying portion.

The children are nurtured and disciplined wholly to maturity by foster parents who are their role models, as they



*At the age of 4 to 8 years children are admitted to the homes.*

*The centre in Tinderet and the children's homes are located in a beautiful landscape.*

**WE SINCERELY THANK GOD FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO REACH THESE CHILDREN.**



*During a teaching unit*

are growing and developing. They are admitted into the homes between 4yrs to 8yrs and are nurtured and disciplined through daily life upbringing to maturity until they are ready and able to depend on themselves.

We as the home parents give them love, care and all the basic needs such as clothing, food, shelter, education, spiritual affairs, social affairs and daily life skills to help them realize the need and importance of appreciating themselves and nature.

For example, my family is responsible for home Indigo, a boys' home. We ensure that the children are doing well. During school time we ensure that they are awake every morning and are ready for school at the right time. During weekends and holidays, we work with them on daily practical life activities, such as personal hygiene, washing clothes, mopping houses, airing clothes including beddings, compound hygiene, repairing broken fences, ploughing the garden,

amongst other activities. We also nurture their talents through sports, music and games. We teach them the word of God and importance of spiritual life through daily devotions, Sunday school, vocational bible study and camps to be able to acknowledge the existence of God and lead their lives to Him. It is encouraging and motivating that most of our children are doing well. Some who are mature adults having their own profession. Others are in various learning institutions.

We sincerely thank God for enabling us to reach out to these children.



*Family Stephen and Susan Sabul*



# MOUNDOU/CHAD

For more than 10 years, DIGUNA has been helping Christians in Chad to make God's word known to the people around them. It all began with the establishment of radio stations, which was initiated by various Chadian churches. Up to now, we have helped ten radio stations to go on air. Each of these stations broadcasts 6-8 hours a day to make Jesus known and to strengthen Christians. Several radio projects are still being planned in different regions of the country. This will enable us to reach un-

reached people groups. Radio is the No. 1 medium, as only about 23% of the population can read! It is exciting to see how the work is developing. The trumpet work has disappointed us somewhat in recent years, but this year it is again. Four brothers have taken over the work in Bere, where it started back in 2014. However, they are not only training wind instrument players there, but also in other regions, where mainly scouts from the communities are now being trained. We were even able to send Asael, the main leader, to Kenya. There he was able to learn more about playing the instruments and leading the work from the DIGUNA Ke-

nya trumpet ministry. God's word comes to the people through the instruments and we are very happy about this positive initiative. In recent years, we have been less involved in evangelism due to a lack of staff and capacity. We are delighted to see that all the churches in the country are very motivated to organise crusades themselves without our help. The churches can still get tracts or Bibles from us for their events, but they do the rest all by themselves. To strengthen the churches, we started the so-called „Mobile Bible School“ in 2017. This short-term Bible school programme is a great help for the church members. It enables them to learn much more about God, his nature and his actions. We have already run this training programme in six different

regions of the country. Some have been so enthusiastic about studying God's Word that they have gone on to complete a full Bible school training programme to become a pastor of a church. The guiding verse of the Mobile Bible School is:

*„And what you have heard from me through many witnesses, command faithful men who are able to teach others also.“*  
2.Timothy 2,2

Even the church leadership has noticed the change in the communities as a result of the training and is very grateful that we started this programme. The latest project in Chad is optics. Christine started this work to give the people in Chad better eyesight. This work is very well established in Chad and she has already trained three Chadian employees who will soon take over this work completely. Overall, we are very grateful

for the last few years in Chad and are excited to see what God has in store for us in the coming years. Because 80 out of 141 peoples in Chad are still unreached.

**Left:** Setting up a radio station  
**Down:** Our trumpet section



Our „Mobile Bible School“



Christine working on her optics



Simon and Deborah Hocker



# PRAYER REQUESTS

DAILY CONCERNS CAN BE REQUESTED AT [GEBET@DIGUNA.DE](mailto:GEBET@DIGUNA.DE)  
OR AT [PRAYNOW4.ORG/DIGUNAEV](http://PRAYNOW4.ORG/DIGUNAEV).

### What prayer has achieved:

In issue 4/2023, we reported on the problem of transportation our trucks. There is still no definitive solution, but we were able to get an appointment

with the Minister of Transport and raise our concerns. The Kenyan President has also said that he needs missionaries to go to certain difficult and dangerous areas where we are also traveling. As there is a

battle going on there that cannot be settled by the military because it is spiritual. Please keep praying that we can get this permission.

### ARU (CONGO)

The population in the south of Ituri province (DR Congo) is suffering greatly under rebels. Many are fleeing to the cities. There is a lot of hardship and food shortages. This is because the inhabitants can no longer cultivate their fields. On the way there, they are either murdered by rebels or robbed of their crops. Pray with us for the suffering population and that the gospel will change hearts.

### NGECHEK (KENYA)

In issue 1/2024, we asked for prayers for Philemon Talam, who is seriously ill with pancreatic cancer. Unfortunately, his health has deteriorated. He and his family continue to need our prayers. Please pray with us.

**Thank you for praying with us**

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# COMMUNITY VISIT

From March 21 - 25, 2024, we traveled as married women from Tinderet to the church in Lapoyin/Pokot, which we support. I had the privilege of being part of this visit and the aim of the trip was that the women and children in Lapoyin should taste something of God's love (see Psalm 34:9). Despite the difficult situation in which the women there live, they welcomed us with singing and dancing and we were delighted to see their smiling faces. On Friday, we went from house to house

EXPERIENCE WITH GOD



and showed them how to use them, and the highlight of our visit was a night at the home of a Pokot family. We stayed there in pairs and got an impression of their lifestyle. It was amazing to see the changes that have already taken place through God's Word. I am glad because we reached the unreached (Matthew 28:19-20) and cared for each other through the little we could do.

to visit the women, encourage them and bring them hope through Jesus. We were also encouraged ourselves and were often able to pray together. In the afternoon, we brought drinking water to a remote area and told the people about the "water of life" that Jesus gives us. Women do many things for their families here, but they are not recognized and their opinions are not sought. Some husbands forbid their wives to go to church, so they have to lie in order to attend services. Traditions such as forced marriage for girls are still widespread and there is little appreciation and education for them. The poor infrastructure - schools, roads, healthcare, water - is also a major challenge. On Saturday we had a seminar with the women on external and internal purity. We brought them sanitary pads



Sara Ouko

# EMPLOYEE UPDATE

Hello, I am Stefan Damm and I am about to leave for Mbagathi/Kenya as a new long-term employee to support the IT there. Before I came to DIGUNA, I worked in software development and IT. Through JUMIKO Stuttgart, I became aware of an open IT position at DIGUNA, took part in the information seminar and then started at DIGUNA this January. Since then I have been taking care of IT both in Haiger and via the Internet in Mbagathi and Tinderet. My aim is to ensure that IT supports the missionary work and doesn't get in the way.



Stefan Damm  
Mbagathi/Kenya

We are very grateful that another employee has been called to the ministry in Kenya for a short-term assignment.



Tobias Tisch  
Ngechek/Kenya

# NEWS FROM THE WORK

## ARU/CONGO

More than 20 young wind instrument players played for the Easter conference. We are very grateful for David's short assignment with his musical gift.

He quickly taught the students a good wind technique. The distribution of the instruments to the churches is still pending. The demand is often greater than the instruments available. Salome and Ben have willing participants in disci-

pleship groups, in which they faithfully invest their time. The soccer kids are enthusiastic about the weekly devotions, where they teach them about the Bible and their love for Jesus. Many young, single, abandoned and divorced mothers

are often excluded from the local churches because they are considered sinful. Together with church leaders, we want to invite them to follow Jesus so that their lives can change and families can be healed. Cecile and Bärbel are preparing seminar units for meetings to be held for them in the villages. Cecile has a strong testimony of how Jesus healed her as a single mother and called her into His discipleship and ministry.

## ARUA/UGANDA

Over the last few months, we have been working on a ramp next to the stairs to the radio studio. We renovated the septic tank, replaced some drainage pipes and were able to re-tile a bathroom. We are thankful for the good results and for keeping us safe at work. In April, we said goodbye to our partner organization "Off Tu Mission" from our station after they had been renting from us for 1.5 years. In addition, John & Malindi Njung'e came to strengthen our team. Since May Dickson is taking a one year break from DIGUNA. John is taking over his management duties for the time being. We are planning to buy a new car, which will be especially useful for longer distances to ministries and for official trips to Kampala. Every month, a team travels with our partners to make Jesus known at home visits and

open-air events. After being unable to go to the prison for a few weeks due to a wave of eye infections, we are grateful to be able to continue this weekly ministry.

## HAIGER/GERMANY

The past few months have been filled with various events such as the Youth Mission Conference in Lippe, the Mission Children's Day in Freudenberg and the Steps Conference in Dillenburg. We are delighted that the Kraus and N'getich families have joined us for the Mbagathi station in Kenya. Stephen Kilel and David Nakain arrived safely in Haiger at the end of April. They come from Turkana in Kenya and report on their work in Lodwar-Turkana in various churches. A highlight was our mission day on May 5 in the EFG Haiger. With valuable impulses from Markus Wäsch and current insights into the DIGUNA work, it was a blessed day. At the last DIGUNA general meeting, we were able to welcome a new member. We are grateful for this. The three containers for Tanzania are packed, so that the Kenya container can arrive soon. A surprising construction challenge was the renovation of the retaining wall on the ramp to our large hall, but this was successfully completed thanks to many hard-working helpers. We continue

to pray for new employees in administration and public relations here in Haiger.

## LODWAR/KENYA

After years of severe drought, the long-awaited rain brings not only fertility, but also destruction. Rivers burst their banks and sweep away houses. Many toilet blocks also sink into the sandy soil. The need is great and once again the poorest are the hardest hit. David Nakain, the Bishop of Turkana, and Stephen Kilel, our DIGUNA Lodwar project manager, are traveling in Germany for 6 weeks. The trip is broadening their horizons and encouraging for the communities. We are grateful that it is possible, and Fritz and Elisabeth Bode have also been in Europe for 4 months since mid-May. Fritz, whose is not great, was able to make the flight. Magdalen and Apem from our TCCP orphans project have completed the Young Leaders Training Course at the DIGUNA Discipleship Training School in Mbagathi with great success. It is a good preparation for college life, which will be their next step.

## MBAGATHI/KENYA

In April we had an intense program that started with an external Vocational Bible School for kids at Voi, about

300 Km from Nairobi. We had 430 children for one week, and 30 youths for two days who came in the evening hours for different activities, sharing the good news and meals together. Our theme was "The important things in life" from the Life of Joseph. At the station we had 2 camps back to back, with the 1st one gathering 86 pre-teen and the 2nd one 84 young adults. In both camps we had the theme "Born Identity" drawn from Romans 12:2. We also worked together with the Kirchberg Bible school team from Germany during the 1st camp. We have had a lot of rains but God enabled us to serve, and we experienced growth for ourselves and also those we interacted with. We had a great time with all. We thank God for His help.

 **MOUNDOU/  
CHAD**

Our team will return to Chad at the beginning of June. Strengthened, we will resume our work together. The Hocker family spent another two months brushing up on their French in France. In March and April, the Chadian teachers independently ran two Mobile Bible Schools in the capital. There were almost 50 motivated participants each time, who were able to learn more about God's Word. We are grateful for our Chadian employees and their commit-

ment. On May 6, a presidential election was held in Chad after three years of transitional military rule. We are excited to see what God has planned for the country.

 **NGECHEK/KENYA**

After the two converted containers were set up in Marigat, we were able to hold a camp for teens there at the beginning of April. A camp like this requires a lot of preparation, finances and prayer. However, we can say that the effort is worth it and we know that it is not in vain. Our annual children's birthday party was coming up at the end of April. The first kids were admitted 19 years ago. Despite challenges and setbacks, we testify that our God is a faithful God and carries us day by day. On the first of May, part of our team went to a sports tournament in Tinderet. On the first of June, the athletes from Tinderet (and other teams) were invited to a sports day with us. We are happy and grateful for the good cooperation with our neighboring station Tinderet and the construction of the school building is progressing. The roof is on and the interior work is now underway. The school is looking forward to using the building soon.

 **TINDERET/KENYA**

Thank goodness we have been spared from the floods and it is raining so well that our fields are thriving. Now that some short-term workers have left us again, we are feeling the gaps they leave behind. But things are continuing apace: over the past few weeks, we've been working in more than 50 schools for several weeks, reaching over 18.000 students with the Gospel. We have encouraged almost 100 households in our immediate neighborhood with God's Word. The annual DIGUNA sports tournament with Ngechek, Mbagathi and around 15 other teams took place over four days at our home. Our married women visited our focus village Lapoin for the first time to encourage the Pokot women and in April our youth camp at the vocational school ran again for the first time since Corona. In between, we also had support from a group from the Kirchberg Bible School and a "Mission Active" outreach group, whole weekend summer party in the children's home with lots of activities and the big graduation ceremony for the vocational school graduates. Thank you for your prayers!



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*Durch die monatliche Unterstützung können wir die Kinder mit Lebensmitteln und Kleidern versorgen. Darüber hinaus werden von dem Geld Gehälter für unsere afrikanischen Mitarbeiter und Schulgebühren bezahlt.*



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## IMPRESSUM

Die Afrika News werden herausgegeben für die Freunde unseres Missionswerkes.

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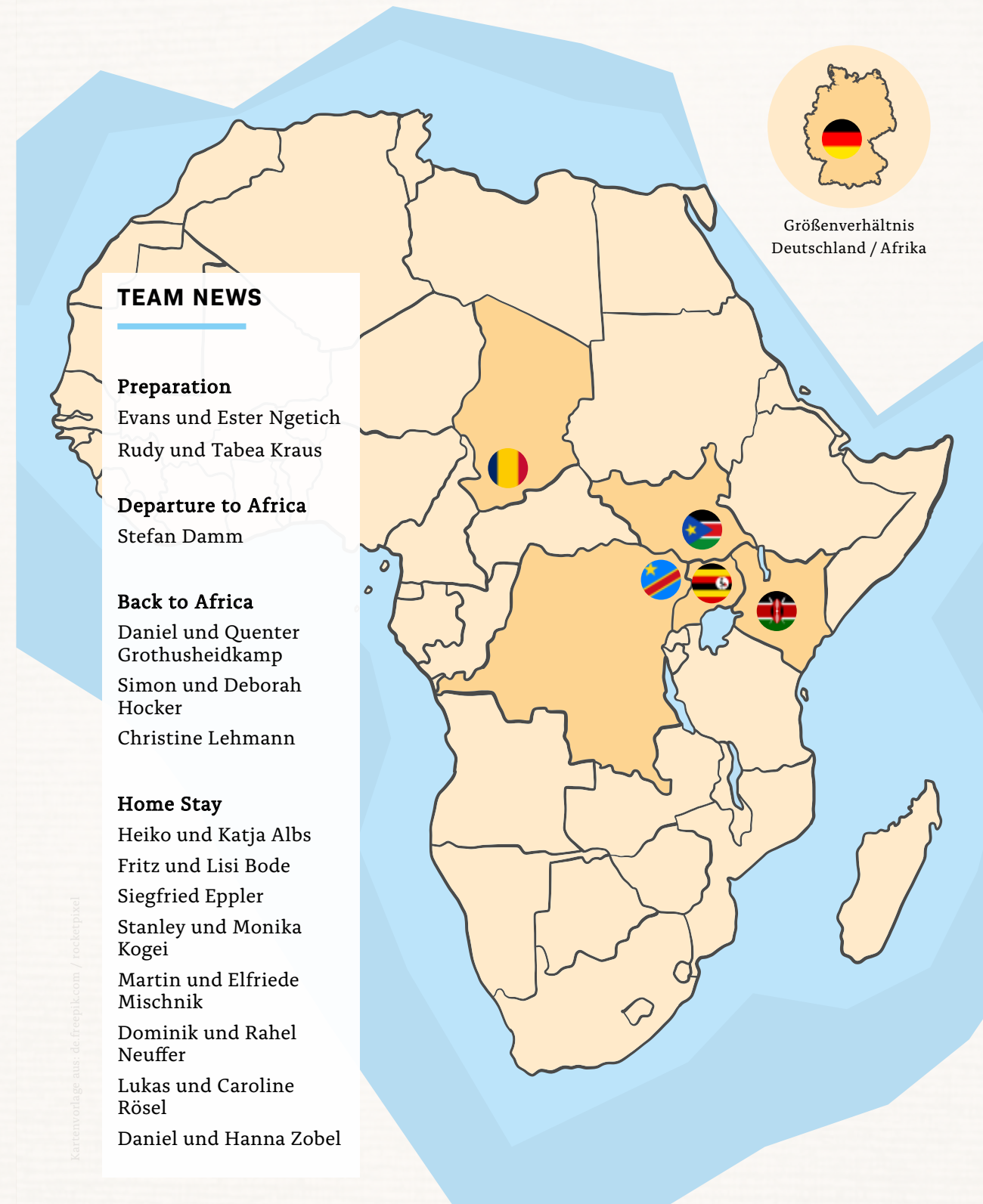
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**TEAM NEWS**

**Preparation**  
Evans und Ester Ngetich  
Rudy und Tabea Kraus

**Departure to Africa**  
Stefan Damm

**Back to Africa**  
Daniel und Quenter Grothusheidkamp  
Simon und Deborah Hocker  
Christine Lehmann

**Home Stay**  
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