DIGUNA

AFRICA NEWS

A LIFE *in Service to Mission*

Calling before career

PAGE 8

Station in Focus

PAGE 12

EDITORIAL

Dear friends, receive warm greetings and be encouraged as you read this newsletter. I would like to reflect with you on "a life in service to mission." This requires total devotion and is the highest form of worship offered to God (Romans 12:1–2).

Regarding our family's involvement in mission work during recent years, we are guided by 2 Kings 2:9. In serving the Lord, we have learned to release personal plans, fully surrender to a divine calling, accept responsibility beyond our comfort, and remain faithful in the work to which we are called.

This missionary calling is not a casual invitation. It demands complete dedication and perseverance in daily service to God's commission. It includes challenges and personal sacrifice while remaining faithful.

When we consider Elijah and Elisha in 2 Kings, we see parallels to our own calling and mission. As a family, we daily ask God for something similar to what Elijah expressed toward Elisha: that His presence remains with us as we serve together in His vineyard, and that He strengthens us. This requires ongoing surrender and leaving all behind; our lives no longer belong to us but to God's purpose.

We are responsible to follow this calling even amid challenges and discomfort, continuing in tasks that reflect it. This calling carries greater weight than our sacrifice; we are accountable before God, not people. Like Elisha, we desire to remain faithful and follow God whatever comes, not in partial devotion but fully. Mission work also means shaping a culture beyond individual ambitions and understanding the continuity of God's work—with or without us. This encourages us even when our role feels temporary, because God is eternal.

Elisha's request secured continuity, and this is our desire as well. May the Lord bless you and give you courage as you serve His calling.

James Ouko

Head of the vocational school in Tinderet

50 YEARS IN MISSION
a reflection

On the run across Lake Albert (Kurt, Martin, ...)

Is there anything better than being able to look back after 50 years of missionary work and say, 'It was exciting, challenging and well worth it'?

As a young man, I heard about the opportunity to take part in a mission trip – I was immediately fascinated. I was involved in youth work, played the trumpet and had attended a short Bible school at the Klostermühle. In the tea room, we talked a lot with young people about Jesus and ▸

CONTENTS

50 years in Mission - a reflection	3
Calling before career	8
Co-workers Update	10
Testimonies	11
Station in Focus	12
Experciened with God	14
News from the work	15
Prayer requests	18
Team News	19

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? IT IS LIKE A VAPOUR THAT LASTS FOR A LITTLE WHILE, THEN VANISHES. AND WHOEVER KNOWS HOW TO DO GOOD AND DOES NOT DO IT, FOR THEM IT IS A SIN.

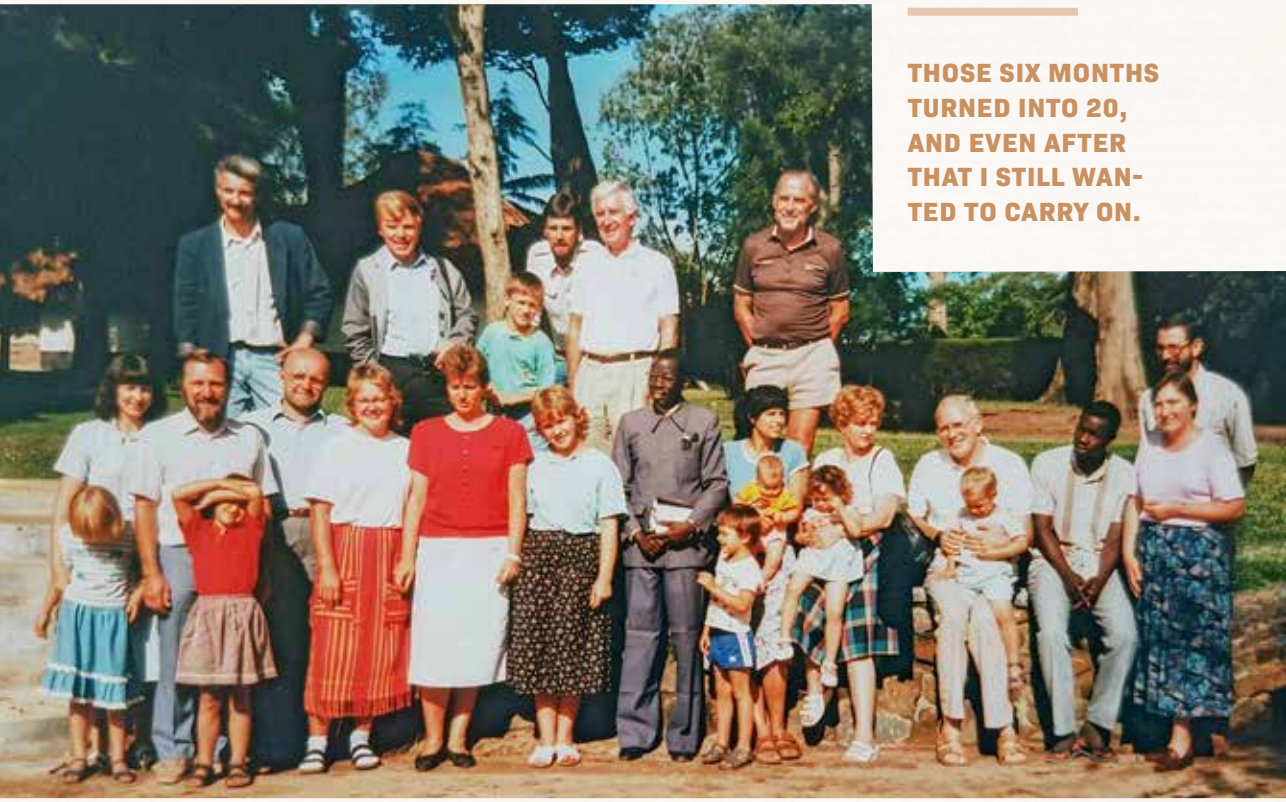
how our faith changes lives. The idea of mission was already there. Now an opportunity arose to get to know overseas mission. I was 25 years old and independent.

Then, during my quiet time, I read James 4:14–17: "*What is your life? It is like a vapour that appears for a little while and then vanishes. And whoever knows how to do good and does not do it, for them it is a sin.*"
These verses gave me pause for thought and motivated me to quit my job as a toolmaker and join the mission for an initial period of six months.

Setting off into the unknown

So, in 1976, together with four other young men, I set off in three trucks on a 66-day journey across the Mediterranean and through the Sahara to Kenya. There, the vehicles were refurbished, refuelled, and then we headed off to Congo/Zaire for the next few months to take part in evangelistic campaigns with the local church. The weeks and months flew by. Then the question arose: what next? As I had resigned from my job, I was able to stay on, and my thought was: '… it won't be me!' So the six months turned into 20, and even after that I still wanted to carry on. Back in Germany, I then got my truck driving licence and visited churches. After six months, I went back to Africa to travel around in the trucks and spread the good news. I was thrilled by how open people were to the Gospel. Everywhere we went, people decided to follow Jesus or to get their lives back on track. We were invited by the churches. We felt at home in God's big family, even though we spoke different languages. We were united in the desire to win people for Jesus.

THOSE SIX MONTHS TURNED INTO 20, AND EVEN AFTER THAT I STILL WANTED TO CARRY ON.



Visit to the Congo (Bogoro): Members of the Board with their families and the team

Learning to trust

I met Martha in a language course; she later became my wife. After our wedding in Germany, we were sent to Congo. As we were about to set off from Mbagathi with two trucks and two young men, the conversation turned to the money we were supposed to have for the journey. Our leader, Vic Paul, asked me: "Would you like me to pray that you receive the money for this – or would you like to pray for it yourself?" That shocked me at first, but then I said: "I can pray myself for the money that is needed." After that, Vic prayed: "Lord, bless the team and provide them with the necessary funds." So we set off, wondering how far we would get.

Transport to the site in Lokichokio (Martin, Martha, Ross Alloway, Kurt)

Fruitful years of service

We stayed in Bogoro, Congo, for 17 years. The Lord always provided us with staff and funds. We were able to build up the mission station and travel around with evangelists. By the end of that time, we were able to hold 250 evangelistic weeks a year. We had 75–80 staff members working with us. During that time, we were also able to start a radio ministry, even though we had no idea how such a thing would work. But the Lord sent the right people for the job at just the right time. By then, we had two children, and the question of schooling arose. There was no German school in Congo, nor was there any option to home-school the children. So we sent the children to an American missionary school. Looking back, we can only marvel: Rebekka became a doctor and Samuel an engineer.

God gives – and takes away

Then I had to learn what it means: 'The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' – Okay, when the Lord gives, life is easy for us. But when he takes away, can we still praise him for it? I met my wife on the mission field, but I also buried her there. He gives – and He takes away. We were given our mission station with all its houses and vehicles. However, everything was looted by rebels in 1996, and we lost it all again. He gives – and He takes!

New paths and enduring hope

Today I have a new wife, Elfriede, and I am grateful. For 25 years I was able to live in a new house in Nairobi whilst we built up a radio ministry in Kenya. There are now 90 radio stations that have been established by DIGUNA. And the team has grown. New choirs are being formed all over Kenya. A rehabilitation clinic for the 'Blue Cross' was to be built; the funds were in place. Unfortunately, these plans were thwarted by corruption. 'The Lord gives – and the Lord takes away.' It is important for me to know that the Lord has a good plan for our lives in all things (Jeremiah 29:11).

Current radio management team in Kenya

I look back with a sense of fulfilment and gratitude.

A look back with gratitude

We have just handed over our house in Kenya. After 50 years in Africa. We will remain connected to the people and our projects in Africa and will continue to support and encourage them as much as possible.

We live in Bolheim. We are part of the Evangelical Brückengemeinde in Heidenheim. Elfriede and her first husband, Frieder, were co-founders of this congregation.

Martin und Elfriede Mischnik

have helped to build and shape DIGUNA

Denn ich weiß wohl,
was ich für Gedanken
über euch habe,
spricht der HERR:
Gedanken des Friedens
und nicht des Leides,
dass ich euch gebe
Zukunft und Hoffnung.
Jeremia 29,11

CALLING BEFORE CAREER

Just the other day, a friend asked me: "Why did you decide to move to South Sudan? How does that fit in with your careers? Didn't Dominik have a much better job as an engineer in Germany?"

These are fascinating questions that we very rarely get asked so directly. And yet I like these questions, because they make you think and provide an excellent starting point for conversation. After all, it is actually hard to understand why someone would swap a secure job for a missionary's life in a country as unstable as South Sudan. Isn't it?

It is a privilege to serve

When I told Dominik about the conversation, he replied straight away: "For me, it's a privilege to work in South Sudan. So many people spend their whole lives searching for their calling and for the certainty that they're in the right place. We're able to live out our calling – not least because other people donate to us and pray for us. I'm grateful for that."

God's guidance on our journey

Yet our journey to South Sudan was by no means straightforward or predictable. Our personal, individual callings also differ greatly from one another. Considered life in Germany to be far more challenging than life on the mission field, Dominik, as a native of Swabia, felt very attached to his homeland. His calling arose rather when he turned the question around: What reason do I have not to follow Jesus' Great Commission? After living in Ngechek with DIGUNA for three months in 2022, neither of us could find any reason not to invest our lives in God's global mission. And so we openly applied for a position with DIGUNA – whe-

A shepherd on his way home to the village

rever staff were most urgently needed. We have now been living in South Sudan for two years and are grateful to God for giving us this place to live and work.

Facing challenges with confidence

Of course, there are also times when we doubt our calling – for example, when challenges seem overwhelming, when we face rejection, or when our work and efforts seem in vain. As long as He considers it meaningful and right for us to be here, we do not wish to question that.

Our response

My answer to my girlfriend's questions? We moved to South Sudan because God led us there, step by step. We don't want to serve a career, but God. In doing so, we get to learn and experience that God provides. God protects. God heals. God changes people. God can do anything. What a privilege!

Delight at the recovery of a child with burns

Dominik with one of the few Christians in the village

Dominik und Rahel Neuffer

serving as missionaries in South Sudan since 2024

CO-WORKERS UPDATE

We are very grateful that, over the past few weeks and months, God has called new workers into the mission field in AfricaThe following volunteers have been called to serve in Africa. Thank you very much.

Leandro Saredi

Ngechek / Kenya

Josef und Ellen Klause with Rahel, Tabea und Marie

Mbagathi / Kenya

TESTIMONIES FROM MISSIONARY LIFE

In 2020, I joined the Diguna Mission in Tinderet shortly after finishing my high school education. I got to know Diguna through a friend from my church.
I started ministry in the year 2018 at my home church in Machakos County, and a few years later I was baptized.
When I joined Diguna, I became involved in different departments, with my main focus on evangelism. I also serve in the car workshop. Other areas of my service include school ministry, pastoral ministry, and children's ministry.
I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve Him in different ways and to grow closer to Him. I have grown in faith and have made many new friends.

Brian Wambua Kitumbu

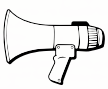
has been working for several years, including at the workshop in Tinderet

---

I have been in Congo for several months now, because of the great cultural differences, I have come to appreciate a wonderful creation of God in a whole new way. The different cultures are also very much evident within the church. Dancing and singing go hand in hand here; youth work is organised around choirs, and for a long time I didn't understand the language. I now understand a lot of the language, but I often don't know what they mean by what they say. But there is one thing I do understand and which I always look forward to: before his death on the cross, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. No matter how great the cultural differences are and how little I understand my Congolese brothers and sisters – when we take Holy Communion together, I know this: Christ's body was broken for you, and it was broken for me. You have been forgiven, and I have been forgiven, and we have fellowship in the blood of the Lord. A wonderful invention of God, which unites his church across cultures.

Alois Wiebe

actively supports the Aru station in the Congo



LODWAR/KENYA

Mission work is like an African cooking area

After 24 years of experience here in the scorching Turkana region, I would like to compare our missionary work to an African cooking setup: just as the cooking pot stands securely on three stones of roughly equal size without tipping over, so too are there three aspects on which our work has been founded from the very beginning:
Stone 1: Good cooperation with the Turkana church leaders
Stone 2: Adequate staffing levels
Stone 3: Sufficient funding

Since the change of leadership in the church administration last year and due to the growth of the work, our cooking pot sometimes wobbles a little...

Under the Men's Tree

Thanks to the evangelistic men's ministry under the 'Men's Tree', many churches have been established here in Turkana. Focusing initially on reaching out to men has proved successful. We would very much like to extend this work to the largely unreached south-west. Unfortunately, due to disagreements amongst church leaders there, this is not possible at the moment.

Church buildings

Each year, we aim to build at least two simple churches made of steel beams and corrugated iron, in order to keep up, at least to some extent, with the establishment of new congregations in the hinterland. Stephen Kilel, our project manager, has a capable team of Turkana craftsmen with whom he builds the churches in just under a week. A new and encouraging development is that urban congregations or individual wealthy Christians

WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF, WE COULD EXPAND AND DEEPEN OUR WORK IN ALL AREAS.

1 Traditional Turkana men on their traditional stools
2 Stephen Kilel building a church out of corrugated iron
3 Lolupe Garden

sometimes contribute to the funding. AIC Kanamkmer, for example, has agreed to cover half the costs of the church in Napeikar, which is due to be built next.

On-site biblical and theological training

Rather than sending pastors far away to other parts of Kenya for training, we have long recognised the need to offer Bible college training here in Turkana itself. A working group is currently developing a curriculum and laying the foundations for theological and biblical training. The pastors of the 170 AIC congregations could then receive their initial and further training here in Turkana.

Gardens – Combating hunger

To tackle the ongoing hunger crisis in Turkana, we began creating artificially irrigated gardens in 2012. The initial success was encouraging, but it began to wane after a few years. Since April, we have been trialling a drip irrigation system in Lolupe. Water drips continuously and sparingly through small holes in the hoses, moistening the soil. Please join us in praying that this trial and the farmers' efforts will bear fruit. We urgently need more long-term staff for the rewarding yet challenging work here. Stephen Kilel and his wife Joyce are doing exemplary work, and I support them as best I can as a pensioner. With more staff, however, we could deepen and expand our work in all areas.

All three cooking stones must remain stable; otherwise, our cooking pot could quickly start to wobble.

Elisabeth Bode

is currently supporting the Lodwar project from Nairobi

MY JOURNEY INTO MISSIONARY WORK

WITH GOD EXPERIENCED

My name is Katembo Lwanzo Michee, writing this article from Nairobi, Kenya, with sincere gratitude.
I'm the 5th born in our family, and I was the only one who was born in a mission field, where my late father was serving after being transferred very far from our home province to do mission work and to serve as a teacher in a Bible college.
I grew up going to church on Sundays and going through all the motions of the church tradition in which I was raised. Yet, even then, it was not a personal faith for me, and it never really changed my life until I was confronted with challenges about God through a sermon by a servant of God preaching at a youth retreat in July 2007, and through this, I was born again. Little did I know that all along, God had been actively pursuing me and calling me to Himself.
After I got my Master's in Education back in Congo in 2016, the late Makusudi called me through Kazele to come and serve in Kenya under DIGUNA MEMA Trumpet Ministry, which I accepted, and I came in May of the same year. Throughout my journey with DIGUNA, I have learned a lot and have come to realize that God used DIGUNA as a key part of my calling to serve. I praise God for how He has used DIGUNA to reach people and to bring me on board to serve Him. I know that I'm not the only one through whom God has worked through DIGUNA to illuminate the truth of Jesus Christ in many lives. Nonetheless, I wanted to let you know that I have found my true identity in Christ, and for that I truly thank you.

Katembo Lwanzo Michee

will in future be working together with his wife at the Aru station

NEWS FROM THE WORK

ABÉCHÉ/CHAD

At the beginning of April, we moved to Abéché. Now we need to find our feet in our new town and surroundings. Over the past few months, we have been busy preparing for the move. We also received active support from Germany and Austria. In addition, we had already shipped two containers for our new workshop in advance, which contained quite a lot of materials. In May, the workshop roof will be completed, and we intend to start focusing on learning Chadian Arabic. We are very grateful that everything has gone so well and that, after a long period of preparation, we are now able to be here in our new area of operation. From mid-March, the Mobile Bible School took place for six weeks under the leadership of Chadian pastors. Around 40 participants were trained in Léré (on the Cameroon border) and 130 participants from various churches in Bodo (on the border to the Central African Republic). Please pray with us that they will take what they have learnt to heart and pass it on.

ARU/CONGO

We thank God that the church keeps asking us to come along for short weekend trips. As we are a small team at the moment and the language barrier is still significant, these trips are a good opportunity for us to serve Christians by providing them with Bibles and hymn books, and to show the Jesus film to many people. We are also grateful to Pastor Agamile, who regularly accompanies us on these trips. Over the past few months, Andreas, a missionary from Chad, has been staying with us to help the church with printing literature. Klemens and Bärbel are expected to be on home leave until June, and the DIGUNA station in Uganda is supporting us with administrative tasks during this time. Mama Cecil continues to faithfully lead the children's radio programmes and the meetings for children's ministry leaders. We do not know what the coming months will bring or what God has in store for this station, but we know that He will not abandon His church in the Congo.

ARUA/UGANDA

Over the past few months, several men who regularly attended our devotions have been released from Arua Prison. One of them was a great help to us in coordinating the devotions and Emmaus courses. We are delighted to have them visit us and to see them enjoy their regained freedom, even though reintegrating into society after years in prison is no easy task. Thanks to a generous donation, our Unimog 'Barnabas' has been fitted with four new tyres. After all the breakdowns, we hope that it will now once again roll along the roads to the glory of God. Before Easter, we as a team reflected on the Passion narrative and created an Easter trail to accompany it. It was a special experience and, for many, the first time they had experienced the Passion narrative in this way. Unfortunately, the planned Bible school programme in Rigbo did not take place due to a lack of participants. This can be frustrating, but instead of moping, we went out to evangelise. Among others, two Muslims decided to follow Jesus. We thank God for this and pray that their faith ▶

will grow. At the end of April, Mr and Mrs Jung travelled to Germany for a three-month stay in their home country.

HAIGER/ GERMANY

We were delighted to welcome a two-week intern who provided us with invaluable support in both accounting and public relations. We are very grateful for her dedicated contributions and wish her God's abundant blessings and a bright future as she moves forward in life. Unfortunately, the information seminar was not very well attended, yet the time we spent together was found to be valuable and a blessing. We were particularly pleased with the large number of travellers passing through, which made it possible to send a great deal of materials to Kenya. The documents for the A-Team have now been finalised by the Immigration Office and forwarded to Kenya as well. At the same time, preparations are in full swing: dates are being coordinated with the local churches, and the calendar is filling up rapidly. Another cause for celebration is our newly acquired bus, which will soon be branded. Several events are also coming up in the near future, including Miki Day and various youth events. It is particularly encouraging that former staff members continue to support us and actively.

LOPIT/ SOUTH SUDAN

As a small DIGUNA team, we greatly value our partnership with the Africa Inland Mission (AIM) in South Sudan. We receive tremendous support from our colleagues at AIM on matters of security and logistics. We meet regularly with female missionaries who serve in one of our neighbouring villages. We benefit greatly from this exchange. At the beginning of March, we were visited by a group of five young people from AIM who were interested in missionary work and wanted to learn about our work on the ground. We thank God for his international church and these precious brothers and sisters from AIM. A meeting of all AIC pastors in our area takes place roughly every three months. At the last two gatherings, the pastors' wives (most of whom are not yet believers) were also present. We encourage this fellowship among the few Christians in the Lopit Mountains as best we can. Alongside theological questions, practical topics such as agriculture or the possession of weapons among Christians are also discussed. We are amazed at how God's Spirit is transforming these men's thinking for His glory.

MBAGATHI/KENYA

We thank God for the chance to host DASE (Diguna Annual Sports Event) 2026. The program went well, with many participants attending, not only from our sister stations but also from our neighborhood. Our DDT school finished the first program of the year (Form 4 Leavers Challenge) in March. The new DDT class (Young Leaders Training) joined towards the end of the same month, and the program is ongoing. We also had a weekend challenge at a boys' school, where our team spent the whole weekend with the students. In March, we conducted the Impact team program, which trains our team in intercultural ministry. In April, we organized separate seminars for boys and girls for 3 days. We also hosted an open camp in our station which covers the topic "Rooted", gathered from Colossians 2:6-7, followed by a VBS program at AIC Voi. In addition, we are also preparing for the Young Leaders outreach program, scheduled for May.

NGECHEK/KENYA

In the first week of March, our Ngechek football and volleyball teams travelled to Mbagathi for the DASE matches. Our Royal Totos children finished school on 1 April, and

their parents and guardians came to collect them for the April holidays. A team of 16 members travelled to Mosiro in Maasai country for a mission to build a church. The congregation had been holding services under a tree for many years. In April, two Bible training courses took place: one in Nakuru County and another in Baringo County. Every year we celebrate our station's anniversary. To mark the occasion, we have invited friends and church leaders to celebrate with us in May. We also have ongoing projects: we have built a new gate for our dam, but are unable to install it yet due to the high water level. We are also extending our dining hall, which we hope to complete within the next two months.

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

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

TINDERET/KENYA

The past three months have been very eventful. We welcomed two groups of visitors who enriched our lives for a short while. We also held some larger events, such as a youth camp, a 'summer party' for the children at the children's home, and the annual graduation ceremony for our students at the vocational school. At the beginning of May, we were able to start a new term with the students. There has been a change in leadership at the children's home. We are very grateful to Bittok, who has served us faithfully for many years as manager and director of the children's home. He has handed over the reins to Cosmas Musoga as director and Willy Rotich as school manager. A girl from the children's home, Abigail, has required medical care in recent weeks as she needs plastic surgery due to previous burns. She still has further treatment ahead of her and needs our prayers. In the coming weeks, we will also be able to resume our evangelism outreach in schools and door-to-door. We are currently still awaiting applications from new short-term volunteers who can join our team around the middle of the year.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DAILY PRAYER REQUESTS CAN BE SUBMITTED AT GEBET@DIGUNA.DE
OR VIEWED AT PRAYNOW4.ORG/DIGUNAEV.

GENERAL / LEISURE

We are delighted that a number of retreats will be taking place again this year. Please join us in praying for God's protection on all journeys and flights, that He may keep His protective hand over every trip. Pray that the retreats will be a blessing and that many people will hear the Gospel through them and have their hearts touched.

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

Due to changes in the structure of school-leaving exams in German schools, there are fewer school leavers this year than in previous years. This is also having an impact on our short-term mission assignments: we have significantly fewer young people than usual. Please pray that the work can continue nonetheless, that God will call people, and that young people will find the courage to make themselves available for a mission.

Thank you for praying!

scale
Germany / Africa

TEAM NEWS

Home

Klemens und Bärbel Blaschke

Sarah Fink

Vanessa und Dennis Jung

Klaus und Ursel Koch

Stanley und Monika Kogei

Cornelia und Japhet Letting

Preparation

Dominik und Salome Pingist

Dario und Veronika Pohl

Jens Thielmann

Kartenvorlage aus de.freepik.com / rocketpixel

51995

DIGUNA
DIE GUTE NACHRICHT FÜR AFRIKA