

04.01.2011 – 30th Jubilee of ASA – speech of J. Wolfer, board of ASA e.V., Germany

Dear brother Sukumaran, dear staff of ASA, dear children, dear guests,

I am very glad to have the chance to celebrate the 30th Jubilee with my Indian brothers and sisters.

Today we celebrate 30 years of ASA and 28 years of Indian-German-friendship.

It was in 1983, in my memory it is like it happened yesterday, when by the grace of God, I first time met my Indian brother in Kanyakumari. He invited me for dinner to “Annai Children’s Home” (ACH). The Home was founded two years before, a very simple building giving shelter for 25 destitute and orphan children, healthy food, medical treatment, school education and spiritual practice along the Christian tradition. Deeply impressed by the friendly atmosphere we soon became friends and I decided to support Sukumaran as good as I could.

Back in Germany I founded together with Heidi Leidig and many other German friends the “Association for the support of Annai Children’s Home”. We invited our Indian brother to Germany to write a conception about the future of ACH. Sukumaran had the vision of living together with the poor children on a farm in a natural, peaceful surrounding. Some years later the vision could be realized. His father found the land and with the help of the generous donations of the friends in Germany as well as England it could be bought and cultivated.

So in 1989 “Annai Seva Ashram” (ASA) was established here in Aramboly. Now a small paradise was created where 30 children can grow up on a green farm with plants and animals in a family like community. Due to the German sponsorship-program all can stay in ASA as long as their school education or vocational training is finished and they can start working to live by their own means.

In 1997 ASA started Annai Hospital at Layam to give medical treatment to the poor villagers. With the support of our German friends, in 2005 ASA could open their own modern hospital building.

In 1983 I asked my Indian brother: Why are you interested in social work? He answered: “To serve the poor actually is Divine worship!” Seeing God in the poor children he started to help them. By the grace of God our paths crossed and the Indian-German cooperation began. May God continue to bless ASA, its children and coworkers, during the next 30 years and help to find people who are dedicated to this kind of Divine worship in India, in Germany in the whole world. Jesus said: “Serving the poor is like serving me!”

By Joerg Wolfer