



REPPER

Réseau d'Echange de Projets et de Programmes en faveur des Enfants de la Rue

N°6

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THE BENEVOLENT AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS, DO WE NEED THEM?

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM THEM?

HOW TO WE CHOOSE, TRAIN, WELCOME THEM?

We have received lots of replies to the questions in REPPER N°4. These replies are not hypothetical; they reflect the actual experiences of the various participants. We have chosen to publish those replies which seem to us most representative of the expectations of us all; we are devoting almost all of this bulletin to the theme of the **voluntary** sector.

During the summer of '97, students from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP) and the association they have created ("Rue des Enfants"), were asked for help by "Mulemba" in Angola, "3/4 of the World" in Guatemala and "Caritas" in Mauritania. What was the outcome?

IN MAURITANIA: Message from Mr. Lo Samba Yero - Caritas - B.P.515 - Nouakchott.

"In REPPER N°4 we learned of the possibilities offered by "Rue des Enfants". We asked for their help in the following areas:

- Organizing the administration of the project.
- Setting up data bases and updating the various follow-up files for the project.
- Creating a presentation booklet for the project.

In September, 3 members of the association - Flore, Nicolas, Amaury, provided their expertise for the project. During their stay in our country, we shared our experiences and, above all, made the most of their know-how. Today, we must reiterate our sincere thanks, by means of REPPER, for their inestimable help.

We thank REPPER for facilitating this kind of **collaboration, which we warmly recommend to those who would like an idea of what is taking place**".

The opinion of the volunteers

"On the path of Father Lefort, we - three associates in Rue des Enfants - went to Nouakchott from 1 to 20 September 1997 to try to improve the organization of the street children project set up by Caritas Mauritania (Projet Enfants de la Rue (PER)). The particularly warm welcome and conviviality of those responsible for the project and of all the Mauritians contributed hugely to making our stay memorable; our memory will long remain imbued with the souvenir of our ineptitude, so "European", in the art of making, with our right hands, rice balls during the traditional repasts. Above all, don't try to compare our beginners' problems with the dexterity of our Mauritanian friends who, in two ticks and three movements, came up with veritable ping-pong balls ready to be swallowed in a single mouthful. We at least provided amusement during the meals. Not least because two of us are left handed, thus increasing our handicap!

From the work angle. A week of preliminary observation helped provide the basis for our suggestions. Our mission was orientated, therefore, along three main directions: **updating** the files of information on the children; **setting up** (thanks to software already on the association's computer) of data bases using these files; providing an **outline** of a presentation booklet for the project. A major effort was made to train those responsible for using the data bases, which should help in getting to know the children better, re-orienting action on the basis of the information collated and improved communication with the partners who thus have useful and reliable data.

By and large, we were impressed by the professionalism, dynamism and earnestness of those responsible for PER. In improving the internal workings and facilitating external relations, we hope we have contributed to strengthening a construction, the foundations of which were solidly established before our arrival. The hindsight provided by the few months which separate us from the mission highlights our agreeable souvenir accentuated by the joy and hospitality of the Mauritanian people. This simple life and exemplary goodwill was extremely edifying. We went to provide our know-how as students of a school of commerce, but did we not reap more than we have sown?"

IN ANGOLA: Robert Mery - "Mulemba" Association - 6 domaine d'Estrées - 64320 Idron.

The mission defined by F. Sohm:

- Make use of the abilities of Sabine, Yolaine and Louis in seeking the financing and setting up files;
- Help us to develop our postcard selling activities;
- Help publicize Angola, a country so little known or understood in France, and to which our association and its members are so attached.

Most of their time was devoted to setting up a file "requesting funds" from the European Union Delegation in Luanda. These funds will be used for developing agricultural exploitation. On 4 December, a contract was signed with the European Union allocating to our association a subvention of 51,000 écus. As a bonus, the person in charge of security and food aid was particularly impressed by the quality of the dossier submitted! We have thus been able to start up the construction of a water reservoir and complete the procurement of an irrigation system.

Following a proposal from the German Embassy in Luanda, a second dossier will be drawn up; the aim being to finance the construction of a small centre for the children of the sectors in which our two homes are situated.

Yolaine's, Sabine's and Louis' stay has had, moreover, an unexpected outcome: expatriates or Angolans who had previously shown no interest in our association have offered to help. For all this, our deepest thanks. Thanks to them we are progressing towards our goal: provide a future for the children of the street."

The volunteers' views:

Work "We set off to help the members of the association in day to day administration and, principally, in fund raising. We thus helped in the sale of the association's post cards, and drew up files for the medical follow through of the children. Our main task with Mulemba, however, was drafting a proposal for seeking funds from the European Union for irrigating agricultural land. To this end, we gathered and collated all the data needed for the proposal, which was submitted the day we left, not without difficulty! It was worth the effort, however, for, great news, three months after we got back the proposal was accepted and the funds required (more than 300,000 ff) obtained. We think that, thanks to that grant, and thereby the complete cultivation of the agricultural land, Mulemba will be almost self paying and will be able to provide for its children."

Discovery "What images will we keep of the country and its people? An overwhelming impression of contrasts, but of waste too. Contrasts when walking around Luanda, the capital: magnificent buildings bordering streets piled with refuse and difficult to circulate because of potholes, cars revving and polluting among the street vendors mutilated by landmines. Waste when the goods in the markets are so slightly varied while the land is of such unbelievable richness..."

During that month, each time we were able to meet the children was a unique moment. Our inability to speak the language was sometimes frustrating, but the children's songs of welcome, their smiles when they came to shake hands and say "Bondia" sufficed as exchange.

Numerous encounters helped us to discover the many aspects of this ravaged country. How can we forget the wounded and ill in the hospital in Luanda we visited with some young Angolans? The, too few, doctors, the underpaid nurses, leave the sick untended for days on end. We could read the suffering on the faces of the sick, and yet never did we hear these men, women and children moan or complain ...

A further contrast: on the other side of the street, hundreds of faithful wait impatiently for the church doors to open so that they may pray and sing. They are neither richer nor less exposed to illness and suffering, but there they are, finding the energy to laugh and clap their hands. It was a real pleasure for us to share their joy and to live these moments with them.

Joy, misery, suffering, smiles, welcome and simplicity of relations: these few words do not suffice to express our experience but they do express the reality of what we saw and what we tried to share with the Angolans."

GUATEMALA: - Anne Pascal - "Les 3/4 du Monde" - 45 rue de Richelieu 75001 Paris

The sister organization Cedic and Solo Para Mujeres (SPM) had already used the services of "Consultants du Monde" whose audit highlighted the absence of satisfactory communication with financial backers. It entrusted a second mission to Adélaïde, Mathilde and Mathieu, during the summer of '97, for the following reasons: "Our regular qualitative assessments convince us of the depth and effectiveness of SPM's work with girls on the street. The annual reports of its activities, however, leave something to be desired. In particular, these reports contain statistics often difficult to interpret and not always consistent. We hoped therefore to carry out with our partners an in-depth study of their methods in the hope of making improvements useful for them and for us.

The mission brought to light a very satisfying aspect: the basic data are regularly recorded and updated. In each home, the names of the girls present and their activities are noted daily. The subsequent centralization and use of the results in a consistent framework leaves, however, something to be desired.

During their three-week stay, the students were able to analyze the procedures used and reconstitute a clear and, to all intents and purposes, complete analysis of the activities in 1996. They suggested some simple improvements which were implemented on the spot. Since their return, they continue with us to reflect upon a proposal for the further improvement of the situation, which will be presented to our partners soon. This should provide the annual activity reports with a clearer and more faithful view of the results obtained. We feel responsible for the funds entrusted to us and wish to demonstrate that they are being put to good use.

The volunteers' view

In July, '97, we set off for a month-long mission in Guatemala. We went to work in Cuidad de Guatemala with Solo Para Mujeres, to whom we were introduced by one of the financial partners - the association 3/4 due monde.

SPM looks after young and teenage girls living on the street, completely abandoned. It helps these girls to get off the street for good by proposing an alternative: providing work in place of prostitution, theft and drugs. Our work with SPM stemmed from the fact that 3/4 du monde lacked statistical data on the results of SPM's activities, thus hampering its fund raising from potential donors. Our work on site followed three paths: establishing precise statistics on the children looked after by SPM; establishing with the Guatemaltecs organization charts collating the information showing the results of SPM's homes and activities; and, as a consequence, reorganizing the tools used to follow up these activities (records of presence at the homes, etc.). To this end, we were warmly received by the Guatemaltec team who were most welcoming. Nevertheless, at the outset, we felt ourselves to be somewhat out of tune with the immediate concerns of the association, viz., the urgent need to find funds. Moreover, SPM's work is deeply humane, based on personal relationship with each child. The educators have little interest, therefore, in statistics and finances. In their eyes, after all, saving the children is of the essence.

We were nevertheless able to maintain the viewpoint of our mission, for the Guatemaltecs were extremely interested in our role as an outside eye on the association. With a great deal of enthusiasm, the heads of the homes and the educators demonstrated in depth their day to day activities: participation at street level, visits to homes, meetings with girls, lots of discussions. From whence, little by little, they became involved in a simple follow up of the homes' activities.

At the same time, we considered the following matters together: drawing up a proposal for a request for funds from the European Union; reflections on the existing operating and bookkeeping system (rules used, documentation available, etc.); optimizing communication between SPM and foreign fundholders (clarification of the data to be provided to partners ...).

Other kinds of intervention:

That of 4 student scouts of Millau who, after one year's preparation in France, spent August in Guatemala, taking with them sport equipment for the association "Cedic" which attempts to re-integrate armed gang members. The sporting and cultural activities they were able to suggest help the youths to construct a solid social and caring attitude, thus leading them to self-help.

In the Philippines, volunteers from the Sister Emmanuelle association, volunteers from Alsace and scouts from the Paris region, worked "harshly" to renovate toilets unuseable for over a year, re-painted rooms for boys and girls in a Reception Action Centre (for children and old people picked up by the police for vagrancy).

Orders to the volunteers

Ashalayam (India): has drafted a charter summarizing the Institution's desires and expectations: Before committing themselves, the candidates must visit the various centres to understand their functioning, methods, type of work and organization. Then, and only then, may they submit a candidature. The volunteers must see to their own social security and lodgings. They must collaborate closely with those responsible for the centres (there are no more than 2 volunteers for each centre, except in the principal centre which has numerous activities). The volunteers are asked to voice, most freely, their suggestions and innovative ideas, for the responsables feel that the system improves continuously thanks to the ideas of those who involve themselves intelligently in the programme, take an active interest in it, make it progress.

Maxim of the Ashalayam: "NOTHING *must* be done, NO ONE *must* do. Every one must simply do his or her best, in a given situation, for the good of the children."

Virlanie (Philippines) has edited a "guide for volunteers", sent to those submitting a candidature, so that "every one, given his or her circumstances, may find the means to join with the common aims of the Foundation, spin a common web of the desires of each and all, while respecting the culture and the language of persons as yet unknown (relatives, social assistants, educators, medical and administrative staff, other volunteers). Volunteers come to serve and to bring something of themselves to the Foundation. They have not come to apply their ideas or pre-fabricated programmes without reference to local realities."

Contents of the guide:

General presentation of the Foundation: background, teaching goals, status and financial backing.

Philippine context: history of the country by means of a few dates; a concise summary on the reason for the existence of the street children.

Programmes: 9 homes - schooling - craftsmanship - help to slum families, medical programme, innovations under way...

Staff, operation, means of action ...

Principally, what is expected of volunteers: coordination with the Philippine team, which pre-supposes much effort, viz.: adapting themselves to a different culture, respecting social codes and morals, comporting themselves in a manner edifying for the children, integrating themselves into the family life and rhythm of the homes, not setting in motion any projects without consulting the team and the other volunteers with whom weekly meetings are foreseen (and in which the week's activities are considered and discussed) and, in which, twice a month, Dominique Lemay takes part.

Bibliography, filmography.

Practical information.

This little 18-page guide provides the essentials of what Virlanie, in our opinion (this may not be true for other institutions), expects from volunteers.

Oser (Dare) - B.P.15074 - Douala - Cameroun - Charles Chateau classes volunteers in categories:

"Local "benevolent helpers" on site"

Indispensable, they take over numerous tasks (in the medical field, professional training, logistics ...), and make it possible to economize substantially.

They are usually recommended by someone of confidence.

They provide a letter outlining their motivation and a CV.

They are interviewed by one of the association.

They spend some time familiarizing themselves with the system. A long term commitment is expected from them (at least one year).

"Specialist help"

They carry out missions on the spot (filming, mechanics, training in psychology...). For instance, during the summer of '97 a couple made a film on the street children in Douala.

"General help"

These are young Europeans who come to lend a hand for a month or two without any specific mission.

Results, after two experiences, are inconclusive, for:

these were young people'

this was their first experience outside Europe;

they had not come on a specific mission, and mixed humanitarian action with tourism.

LITHUANIA - VILNIUS (Communauté St Jean - Frère Jean de la Croix - Onuté Grigaité - N.D. de Rimont - 713390 Fley)

"In 1996, an ACTION ON BEHALF OF STREET CHILDREN (more specifically, boys up to 14 years old) WAS INITIATED BY Monsignor Backis, Archbishop.

At the outset, a brother and 3 young Lithuanians (Onuté, Paulius, Mindaugus), to find out, pinpoint the problems of these youths and suggest solutions adapted to their needs, went out into the streets of Vilnius, and, as elsewhere, on other continents, met children alone, near the railway station, the supermarket, at the public refuse dump, on stair cases, in the underground heating systems when it was cold ... They got in touch with these children, afraid and almost silent. Communicating with them is difficult and discouraging; a first approach (tentative to set up a relationship) was made nevertheless, by means of games, sport, and, thanks to bicycles, an outing suggested by an instructor, a relationship began with Robertas, 13, who was soon joined by 5 others coming out of hiding ... meetings began on a regular basis.

How to help them was of course the question which arose from these encounters and to which an answer was imperative, given the approach of winter. Finding a shelter was the first thing. After lengthy discussion, the Town Hall agreed in principle to the creation of a REFUGE: on opening day in February 1997 three children came to sleep.

To be admitted, the children must respect 3 rules (common to all associate members of the network): no stealing, no telling lies, no bringing drugs. At the outset, the children tried the patience of those in charge, by glue sniffing in the entrance. They were turned out by the educators who, while downhearted at this decision, stayed firm in spite of the children's tears and prayers ... Little by little, by insisting on the need to respect promises given, whether those of the educators or the children, transgressions became rare and confidence was born.

About 15 children came to the refuge, 6 to 8 of them regularly, and, these, progressively, asked to be taken off the street. For them the team opened (in the same place as the refuge), a section "**observation centre**": in the morning the children get schooling, in the afternoon sport and cultural activities.

During this period, the educators follow up each and every outlet to find families, contact them when this is possible and suitable, for, for 5 of the children this seems utopic, if not dangerous: these are families destroyed by poverty, of course, but above all by the Soviet system (education taken from parents and entrusted to State establishments) and by drink. Obliging the children to return to such families would be to ensure they ended up back on the streets. For these children, the team has opened **a home** in the country, presided over by 3 adults, Onuté, Paulius, Mindaugus. The children attend the village school.

SENEGAL - Centre d'Ecoute Doomi Neep - Emma Cissé - Av. du Pr. Lamine Gueye - Thiès.

"Doomi Neep" means "Children of the World". The idea of opening this listening post stemmed from the experience of the person in charge who collaborated with Enda Youth Action in the struggle against Disinherited Children. Thiès is a focal point (it must be crossed to get to the capital or to another region) and a big rail centre, hence children in dispute with their families collect there. A family house rented in the centre of town takes in young people up to 17 years old. The team working there is also active outside. It covers the town in search of children wherever they congregate (railway or bus station, markets, cinema entrances..), and, by means of contact and discussion, tries to persuade them to come to the centre.

Through chats and activities, it endeavours also to make the population aware and become an active partner in this action in aid of the children. The availability of a first aid stand in the street, and health care in general, is a neutral means often effective in making the first contact.

Once in the centre, the children can have a shower, an "emergency" meal, and take part in useful activities: learning to make footballs and to read and write, manual labour... "Listening, as a means of re-education, consists of gaining the children's confidence, sympathizing with them and, by chatting, obtain the maximum information: particular problems, family relations, environment... After a stabilizing period, we seek contact, or even return to, the family with, when necessary, logistic help to facilitate professional training or schooling."

Help is also offered to the "**tabilés**" (students of a marabout) who, entrusted to the **Daara** (Koranic schools), are often parted from their families and lead very difficult lives: begging, often leading to truancy and life on the street.

The listening post has written a "beginners' book" for young workers (shoe-shiners, lighter fillers, looking after cars, etc.). It wanted a simple pleasant to look at booklet, easy to use by the educators and understandable for the children targetted who may, thanks to the illustrations, identify with the people in the stories."

MADAGASCAR - "Les Enfants du Soleil" - **Pierre Boutaud** - L'Ecorcerie - 86240 LIGUGE. Tel: 05 49 53 06 15. Fax: 05 49 88 89 40.

The Association has a headquarters agreement with the Government of Madagascar. Its aim is to look after the street children and increase its activities with children in great physical and moral distress. It is run by a team of unpaid helpers (old St-Cyriens mostly, active or retired, mothers, ..) from all over the place. They work in France to obtain funds or in Madagascar where they take turns to help out those responsible locally for the project.

In Antsirabé about a hundred children are fully taken care of and another hundred or so partly (schooling and lunch canteen). In Fianaransoa likewise, and in Tamatave where, at present, only a night hostel is open. The children are split up in homes: they find a modicum of the family structure they have lost. Efforts are now concentrated on the following areas:

Professional training for the children (it is not enough to save them from misery, they must be re-integrated into society with the maximum chance) and **trainers**.

Creating listening and welcoming posts: it is in such centres that children find, often for the first time, adults who listen to them, where they can wash, be looked after, sleep in peace, and, in certain extreme cases, be fed. Here too families can be sought and sometimes children may be reunited with them, or, if not, they may be directed to homes when there is no other foreseeable solution.

The Association does not isolate itself from other activity, on the contrary, it seeks all possible means of partnership with, for example, Caritas, the Marian Brothers, the Antsirabé Association of Prostitutes...

PHILIPPINES: CHAMELEON (Ecole de Commerce et de Développement 3A, 3 Chemin des Cytises, 69340 Francheville. Tel: 04 72 38 32 22)

This is a new association, created by Mme Laurence Ligier (French) and her friend Mme Zaida Palmares (Philippine). Their aim is to set up a FAMILY FARM, on land provided by the municipality of PASSI, to help integrate 30 little girls and teenagers, from 6 to 15, living in D'ILOILO province on the island of Panay. "Our farm is for BEING not HAVING. The farm will show what can be done for durable development. The children will learn that the earth doesn't give fruit and vegetables unless we respect the basic cycles of water and the elements. We must GIVE To RECEIVE..." The girls will get, on the farm, schooling and semi-professional or craft training (sewing, gardening, photography, etc.). Workshops will also be opened for PASSI's most destitute children, who may likewise reap the benefits with their family (if they have one) of the psychological and medical help available.

The originality of this project is the will to take on the girls (topic of the next bulletin should you so desire) - to set up an administrative council consisting mostly of women and Philippines. Should you wish to help this association, it needs not only, of course, funds and equipment, but also volunteers (10 a month) to build the farm (it should be completed by the beginning of May), and, for short periods, to train and set up activities.

ZAIRE - Fondation Emmaüs - B.P.16701 - Kinshasa - Tel: 70899 - 20437.

"We should like to create in Kinshasa something along the lines of REPPER and we take this occasion to give you our opinion on the topics you suggested in the previous bulletin."

a) **Unpaid helpers, volunteers in our NGOs and Associations**

The standard of living in Zaire is beneath a tolerable level, for various reasons (non-payment of civil servants, unemployment, bad government ...), thus, even if the educators in our associations offer their services for nothing, we must nevertheless take this social aspect into account. We choose them from the basic structures of the Catholic Church. They must demonstrate Christian and moral qualities, and have the necessary abilities. We use them as the need arises and for varying lengths of time: from 3 to 6 months on the streets and from 1 to 3 years in the homes. We must, however, encourage our staff with bonuses in cash or in kind.

b) **Associations and the Media.**

To publicize ourselves we must use the newspapers, magazines, television, radio, to make aware, educate and inform our populations. This also helps us to find partners and local funds. To accomplish this task we need equipment: a typewriter, computer, photocopier, would be extremely useful, as would stamps and pre-paid reply forms to communicate with the foreign and international press.

ANTOINETTE and JEAP-PHILIPPE LOUIS - 3 rue Simon le Franc - 75004 Paris - Te.: 01 42 71 32 80.

After two years' preparation, they are leaving at the beginning of May on a 6 to 9 month trip, which they are paying for themselves, in Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and India). They wish to "make this trip a human adventure based on two complementary activities: set up a twinning and sponsorship project with Asian schools - put into effect a structure which will require physical help and energy for a month or two, whatever the mission (construction work, schooling, etc.)". Any one interested should contact the Louis directly.

BURKINA FASO - Association Burkinabe de l'Orphelinat (Burkinabe Orphans Association) - Be Sidai c/o **Sana Léon Degtoumda** - 06 B.P. 9140 Ouagadougou - Tel: 31 54 15.

Mr Sana Léon Degtoumda, known as "**Petit**", started looking after orphans up to 7 years old 30 years ago. Helped by his 3 wives, in his home and homestead, he has at present 37 children as well as his own. Two years ago he met by chance some Americans who built him two solid little buildings. While concentrating on children up to 7, his association also looks after street children he meets in his work in a newstand in the town centre. He and his 3 wives see to the childrens' education even though they have neither partners nor means. He struggles to have the children enrolled in school, or in apprenticeships, directing others to little jobs by giving them small goods, such as film, to sell... At present, 7 children are running small businesses, one is a nurse, one apprentice works in a garage, another has left to study sociology at University...

Together with the Monks of Monastère, he has acquired land to set up in farming which will help out their finances. Likewise, thanks to French residents, improvements to the homestead should be under way soon. Finance is a problem: Mr. Degtoumda's job must meet almost all costs. He is helped from time to time by "whites".

INITIATIVES, INNOVATIONS, as they emerge from letters and bulletins.

"Previously, we gave 3 ff per diem to each school child for food during the day. In 1997 we changed our methods; by having them eat three meals a day with a family we give them the opportunity to get out of street life". (**Oser** - letter No.1)

The child photographers of Manila - "Photography is a wonderful game but also an extraordinary healing instrument. Some children, even after a relatively long stay in a home, still lack confidence and cannot imagine "I am capable, I am not destined for mediocrity". Photography, for these children, is a means to show they have talent, to share their views on the world, to make them see themselves as artists and not as street children. A photo, a snap of life, also gives them memory, obliging them to anchor themselves in the reality of daily life, and not escape into dreamland. An exhibition is to be staged in Manila, a crucial moment for recognition by others. Several workshops are to be created (photo, black and white developing, frame making, postcards, greetings cards ...). 20 children are taking part in this project which they hope will be the Foundation's VOICE to the media, expatriate circles, NGOs, and at the local level. (**Virlanie**)

Children in prison - In August and September, Virlanie undertook substantial work. Several judges understood the importance of not letting children's affairs drag on for months or years. One judge chose to devote one afternoon per week to imprisoned children.... It's a start, other judges will follow. In September, the Minister for Social Affairs offered her help to set up a home for children awaiting judgement, something inexistant at present in the Philippines. (**Virlanie**)

Relations with the authorities: Good in **Ashalayam**. A few examples:

The regional Government has provided passes for ease of circulation.

A 50% reduction in electricity costs has been negotiated.

The Association has a jeep and a tax levy from the Government.

These few examples demonstrate the Government's readiness to cooperate with the Association. Likewise the police, who are about to agree to work with children, technical training for those leaving prison, and schooling projects adapted to needy children arriving in Calcutta.

CLASSIFIED ADS SPOTS ... MESSAGES

OUR THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SENT THEIR GREETINGS. WE HOPE THAT 1998 WILL FULFILL ALL YOUR DREAMS AND AMBITIONS.

Street walkers - drugged, prostitutes, abused, mothers of the future and thus educators, who is to look after them? Few structures as far as we are aware. Why? What are the specific problems? If you would like bulletin No. 7 to be devoted to this topic, we await your questions, experience, testimony.

Oser: is seeking benevolent Europeans with African experience prepared to spend a year in Douala after collaboration with the Association in Europe. It is also seeking training for helpers in the "street action" programme. It would like to receive photocopies, documentation, written information, on street children.

Decision taken with the agreement of the 27 associations attending the meeting on 4 October 1997: "To obtain the bulletin, all you need to do is to send to Construire, once a year, a copy of your report drafted by financiers. We dream, however, of receiving lively texts enriched by daily life, experiences, failures, successes ... and which do not speak only of "figures"!

Brother Jean of the Cross: "I consider it important for REPPER to continue its activities even if you receive few replies. We dig into it often for support when we are far away and plunged into all manner of difficulties in our activities with street children. It helps to read of the ideas and experiences of others. It is nice too to see diverging views and, from time to time, different opinions demonstrating that there is no "system" ready made, prefabricated, **and that a good action for the street children comes from the children themselves and their problems.**

MEETING: SATURDAY 25 APRIL 1998,
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at MEDECINS DU MONDE,
62 rue MARCADET, 75018, PARIS.

Suggestion from Brother John of the Cross: "For the meetings, perhaps we would gain from their being more organized on given topics and prepared in advance? We must discuss and exchange views in a more concrete fashion" (this suggestion has already been made, without result, in bulletin No. 2). If you wish to touch upon given matters, please let us know.

Relations with the Press: question in bulletin No. 4. "The more we talk about street children, the better it is, the less we speak of us on the ground, the better. We know that the article by Annick Combiér in Figaro Madame has helped us to make a lot of Europeans in Douala aware". Ch. Chateau. **Oser**

Noted by associations attending the meeting on 4 October: "structures spring up and develop everywhere at the same time. Thus, in a given period, we saw **family homes** spring to life, and now **farms** are springing up everywhere."

On the matter of resettling children in Zaire, in the ORPER association, (bulletin No.5), every Sunday the homes close and the children spend the day with families. One of the helpers has spent a year following up these families, seeing how the children are treated, how they evolve, and what the results are. If, among REPPER's readers, any one has information on publications on the good and ill of these sorts of families, please let us know the references. Thank you in advance.

WRITE TO 'CONSTRUIRE' 16 rue de la Glacière 75013 Paris
Telephone & Fax: 01 47 07 87 14