

VEM- Community of Partnership - Equal Mission -.

The partnership unites us, Christians from Germany, Africa and Asia, through our common faith in Jesus Christ and unites us in the mission of Jesus to witness the love of God to the world. We share the joys and hardships of our lives, learn from each other, intercede and take responsibility for each other. Through the diversity of gifts, but also through the diversity of challenges, a global perspective opens up for our partnership. With the help of this partnership, the various church congregations around the world experience a new change of perspective and can thus learn from each other.

The partnership thrives on meeting each other, discovering each other, setting common goals and celebrating our faith together. To make this happen, the congregations set out together.

What the partnership looks like today, I would like to tell you from my own experience:

- Once a year, we celebrate Partnership Sunday in the partnership. We use the same liturgical texts, songs and intercessions. Thus, in this special service, the bond through our common faith can be experienced. The preparation of the service is always done alternately by the different partner churches.

- In addition, we exchange information between the partners by sending each other regular reports in which we tell about the current situation on the ground and how the respective brothers and sisters in the partner church are doing.

- In addition, we support each other in various projects: The partner churches in Germany often support the partner churches in Africa and Asia in their projects and help people to get out of problems and emergency situations, e.g. in the children's homes, school projects but also through emergency aid. There is also financial support for scholarships from Africa and Asia.

- In order to get to know each other better and to learn from each other, mutual visits usually take place every 2 years. On the one hand there is the delegation of the respective church leadership with interested church members, on the other hand there are also the youth delegations, with many young people from the partner churches. Through this program the partners get to know each other better, experience the different cultures and projects in the respective countries. Unfortunately, the mutual visits had to be postponed indefinitely due to the Corona pandemic.

- In addition to the mutual visits, however, there is also an exchange of staff members to enable a better understanding of the work methods and structures of the respective partner church.

The partnership continues to develop and is on the right track. We are getting closer and closer to our common goal by helping each other, learning from each other and praying for each other. Together we walk the path in good times and in bad. But we cannot deny that this partnership still has a long way to go to make possible an equal partnership, where we can support each other on a common level, and where some partner churches are not the helpers and the other partner churches are the needy. Because partnership means that we should be both helpers and needy equally for each other.