



Padre  
Wasson  
Foundation

Starke Familien • starke Gemeinschaft

Number 1

## Your Foundation Report 2021: The First Year

### Report Earthquake Relief Haiti

December 2021 - four months after the earthquake



Thank you

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Photo: Gabriel Rozycki Sanchez

# WITH YOUR HELP

*"Sharing makes you happy. Sharing means quietly and humbly giving some of what you have to someone who needs it. Maybe it's money. Or maybe it's time."*

*Padre Wasson*

## **Thank you, dear friends.**

Thank you for taking the time and also giving a lot of money. Your sharing was the prerequisite for everything we are allowed to report to you today:

Many years ago, a donor took the time to write me an email. He had heard that in Haiti, gangs were killing children in the slums. At that time, I forwarded this email to Father Richard, who ran Father Wasson's organization there. He did some research and found out that children were indeed being abused for burglaries and eliminated as witnesses afterwards. He realized that the children had not learned to distinguish "good from evil." They did not go to school and it was easy for the gangs to recruit them with empty promises.

Father Richard acted and under his leadership dozens of schools were created in the slums, where today tens of thousands of children and also many adults learn. Sometimes a small impulse is enough to get big things rolling. The small impulse that a concerned person triggered at that time by writing this email resulted in a huge good wave in the end.

In the earthquake in Haiti on August 14, it seems to be the other way around: With this huge destructive wave, every impulse seems far too small. And yet every sign of solidarity, no matter how small, is extremely valuable because it gives hope. Those who have

lost everything need this hope, encouragement and support to give everything once again, to rebuild their modest existence. I would like to pass on the gratitude of these people here:

**Thank you. Thank you so much for your and your solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Haiti after the devastating earthquake!** The quick response and help of so many people has overwhelmed us and also presented us with new challenges and completely turned our planning upside down. This report is intended to give you an insight into what aid has reached us and how it has been or is still being implemented in Haiti by our partners.

We have not received the donor's contact information with all donations. If you are missing our feedback, please let us know.

Although Haiti was our dominant theme at the Foundation in the second half of 2021, there is much else to report. Therefore, the Haiti review has now become our annual report. We put Haiti at the beginning and our base, Father Wasson, at the bottom. Because his thoughts and his work are the foundation on which everything is built. We welcome your feedback, questions, suggestions by email to [info@PadreWassonFoundation.org](mailto:info@PadreWassonFoundation.org) or by phone to 0721-9379035. Of course we also welcome letters by mail.

Stay tuned, because there is always something new to report. But until then, on behalf of the Foundation, I wish you all the best for 2022.

Best regards

Yours

*Stefan Gräfe*

Trust Director

Padre Wasson Foundation

Beginning of January 2021



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# EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI - YOUR DONATIONS TAKE EFFECT HERE.

137 Donations  
16.002 Euro for Haiti

Reliable local groups with whom relationships have existed for many years are providing or have provided earthquake relief to families thanks to your donations (see also the map on the next page):

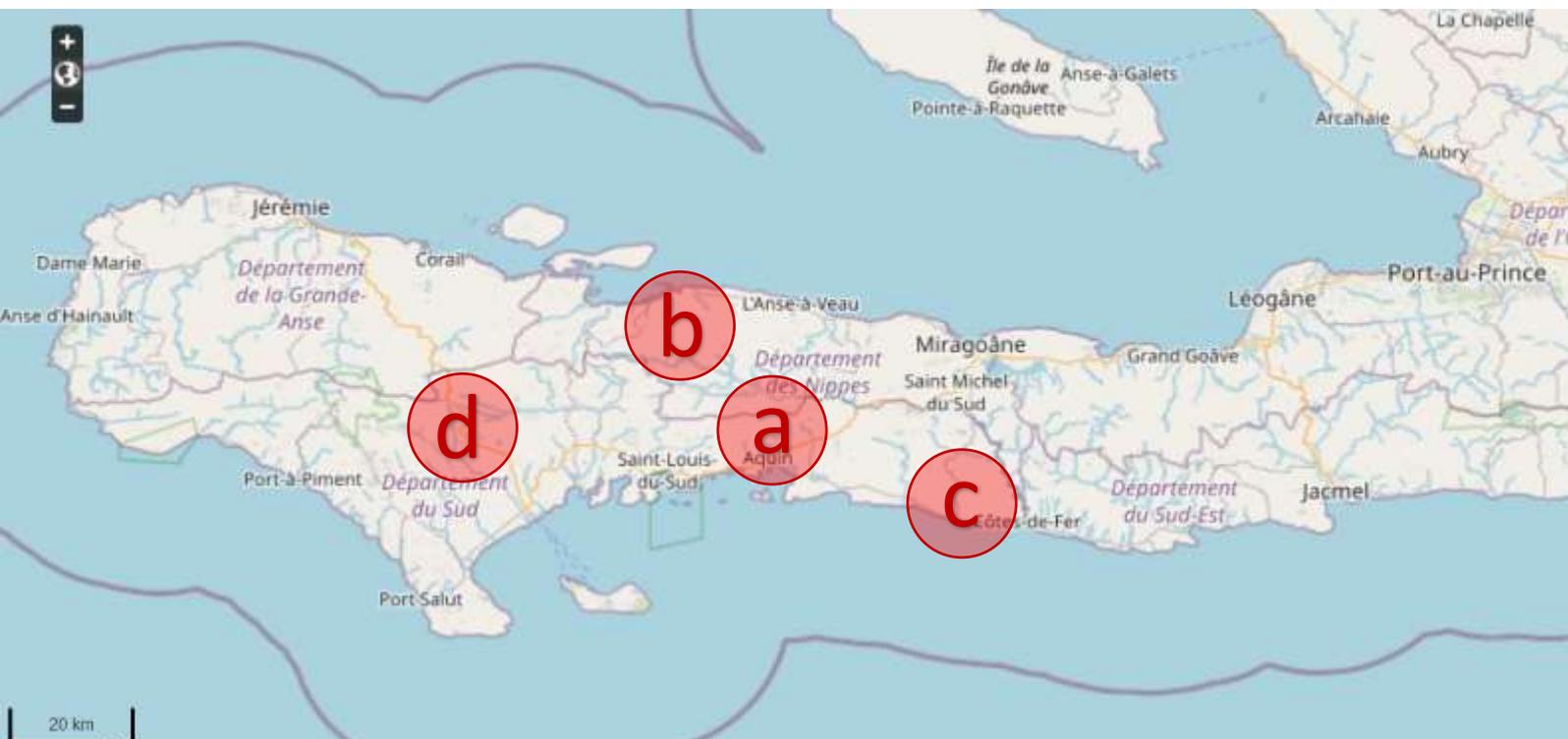
- a. **Biohaus Foundation for Environment and Justice**, \$13,000 to be used with its partners including **Haiti Projet Education**, which helps in the city of Aquin and surrounding communities, and **Fondation St. Luc**, which provides medical assistance in Barradères, Plaine Martin, Rambo, Camp Perrin, and helps families build shelters with building materials and pitch in.
- b. **Locally Haiti**, \$3,000 to build shelters in Petit Trou de Nippes / Titrou for two families.
- c. **Amis de Fond des Blancs**, \$1,300 for shelter for a family in Fond des Blancs.
- d. **Diyite**, \$1,000 for medical assistance to affected women of the micro-credit project in Camp Perrin.

This meant that we were able to forward the donations in full via the fastest possible route, having reached appropriate agreements with all our partners in order to also meet the requirements of the financial supervisory authority.



For two reasons we had decided to distribute the donations among several partners. First, this way more people can benefit from the donations at the same time and second, some have reported a big problem: Namely, roadblocks and robberies are increasing in many parts of Haiti. Criminal groups are robbing the transports to the crisis areas. By distributing the aid among different groups, the risk of a total loss was almost eliminated.

Map of the affected southern region in Haiti and locations of project partners:



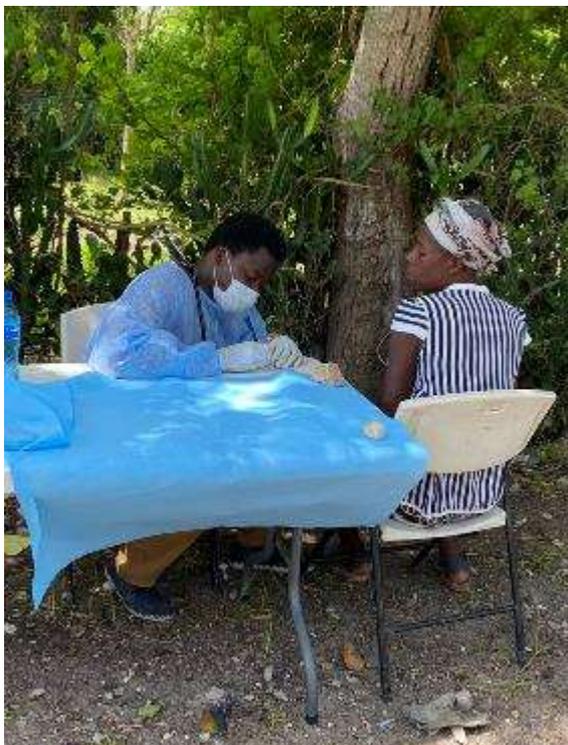
Read the information from our partners in Haiti on the next pages.

# DIYITE (www.diyite-haiti.org)



The director of Diyite, Maria Antonia Blasco, reported to us on October 2: "I would like to tell you already that your 1,000 dollars have been used. Half of it was used for food aid, and the other \$500 was used for two missions of the mobile clinic and for medicines. The second mission was very impressive: people were treated non-stop for seven hours. Poor Dr. Gabriel on site is exhausted but happy. I will send the detailed report, expenditure summary with photos and videos soon."

She sent a video greeting from Haiti, available here: [https://bit.ly/diyite\\_1](https://bit.ly/diyite_1)



Emergency aid: Haiti earthquake



Dr. Gabriel used the donations directly for treatments in mobile outreach.

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**Learn more about the background and why Diyite's support is so meaningful (and why we chose them):**

The Diyite organization (the name is Creole and means "dignity") was founded by Maria Antonia Blasco in Barcelona after she had made numerous trips to Haiti since 1999 and had come to appreciate the country and its people. She had been particularly impressed by the strength and resourcefulness of the women in the rural areas. Often it is the women who provide for the whole family, or at least try to do so with the modest means at their disposal. More than a decade ago, Maria Antonia therefore founded a micro-credit program, which provided the organization "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" in Germany, then headed by Stefan Gräfe, with the necessary capital. Since then, this project has been running and 400 women continuously receive a small loan, which they pay back over six months.

More important, however, is the care provided by the Haitian employee Maria Jose, who trains the women in many practical matters and establishes necessary contacts. For example, many families have fruit trees nearby and when the fruit is ripe, they sell the harvest. But at harvest season, prices are so low that it brings little income and only for a short time. So Diyite has organized courses on how to make jam, sterilize the jars and also teach a few marketing tips. With small impulses, big developments become possible.

After repaying the loan, many women continued to deposit money - in a savings account, as it were. In this way, they have learned to finance sensible larger purchases. The entire project follows the rules of the Grameen Bank\*. The economist Yunus was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his commitment to fighting poverty in Bangladesh. His Grameen Bank, founded in 1983, grants microloans to the poorest people in the country, especially women. In our case in Haiti, five women are always jointly responsible for paying back the loan before new loans can be made.

The project has been running for a long time (still with the original money in circulation!). However, there have already been severe setbacks due to several natural disasters in the region. The recent earthquake and subsequent hurricane have also destroyed much. In these situations, a visit from Maria Jose is a ray of hope for the women. That's because many live so isolated that the only way to get there is on foot. This means that virtually no help gets there. It is often enough to encourage people to find the strength and energy to build something for themselves again. Every sign of solidarity helps a lot

and, of course, the payment deadlines are then also adjusted in a joint discussion with the women.



A simple dwelling in rural Haiti.

*\*the Grameen Bank has unfortunately come under criticism in recent years and with it the whole idea. In 2020, Deutsche Welle reported that critical reports about the benefits of microcredit were accumulating. "Several scientific studies failed to find any poverty-reducing effect of microcredit. Many borrowers remained stuck in a debt trap. Even many proponents of microcredit now meekly concede that the positive impact of microcredit is unclear." To us, this criticism is very understandable, because there was a real boom in microcredit lenders over several decades. Even established banks sensed a business with high interest rates. Diyite uses the interest to finance the salary of a local employee. And it is precisely their work that is the key to the success of microcredit programs and a service that banks and even many organizations do not provide in this way. So, as is often the case, it's not just about what you do, but more importantly, how you do it. And at Diyite we have the certainty that the social benefit is the goal and not the profit. So the project has been running for many years still with the original money, which is continuously paid back and lent out again. One can do something (good) after all!*

# AMIS DE FOND DES BLANCS



Confirmation of registration with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Haiti

The organization "Amis de Fond des Blancs" is led by Ferel Bruno, one of the first Haitian "children" of Father Wasson. We have known him since his time at the English school in Arizona in the 1980s, which Father Wasson had built at that time on the property of his late parents (against the vehement opposition of the discriminating neighbors). In any

case, Ferel Bruno has already launched several community projects in the isolated area of Limonade (more on this below). After the earthquake, he had immediately organized the distribution of food aid packages to affected families.

Our donation of \$1,300 for a new shelter for a family has long since arrived there, but implementation is difficult. Here is his interim report on November 5:

*"I want to give you an update on the \$1,300.00. We went off to build the houses. After spending two days on the land, we had to come back because the gangs announced they were going to block the main road. We had to return late Sunday - the next day, Monday, the gangs attacked many cars, buses and three tankers of diesel.*

*The news in Haiti this week is not good. The fuel crisis is making life difficult for everyone. About 50 hospitals are closed because they lack fuel for their generators. There is little transportation to get to work, and food is not being delivered to stores or markets. All food supplies in the countryside have been lost because of fuel problems, and gangs control all areas. Violence continues to increase in Port-au-Prince. Last Saturday, there was a mass shooting at a school in Bourdon, not far from Petion Ville. Over 150 gangs continue to terrorize the city. In 2021, according to the news, some 800 people have already been kidnapped.*

*But we will never give up on our people. They are amazing people who share the fate of living in a time of extreme problems in Haiti. They deserve all the support they can get from us. Even though the news has been terrible again this week in Haiti, we will not just sit and wait, because as soon as we have fuel and clear roads, we will return and finish building the homes for the families. I hope you understand that we need to protect ourselves from the gangs.*

*We will continue to fight to ensure that the young adults and families do not join the gangs in the communities. With your help, they will complete their education, learn a trade, and be able to build a stable future and contribute to the safety of their communities.*

*May God help us and protect us.*

*Ferel Bruno"*

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Ferel Bruno had already told us about obstacles at the beginning of September: "Now we are focusing on the earthquake to continue to support the families who are currently in difficulty. Last week we brought more water and food, and we want to continue to do so.

*We did not stay in the city, but went to the countryside where the poor people lost their farms and houses. We used mules to bring water and food to the families for a week, promising to return in a week. We cannot transport much because we are stopped on the way by gangs and people who want to steal the material. We use different strategies, for example, we pretend to carry sand so they don't stop us.*

*We are very grateful for any support you can give us so we can continue to help those in need."*

On August 25, about ten days after the earthquake, Ferel Bruno describes the situation on the ground like this:

*"Report what we have done:*

*Last Wednesday we left to support the earthquake victims. Yesterday afternoon we came back. We went back and forth between Fond des Blancs and Les Cayes, but mainly to the villages because we noticed that all the relief supplies were in the towns. We went to the villages and not to the towns. Many farmers had lost their livestock and gardens that morning of the earthquake when they went to check on their livestock and their work. Some farmers died from mudslides and falling rocks. We stopped in Aquin, Cavallion and Les Cayes. We used both trucks to transport all the relief supplies without any problems.*

*We packed bags of drinking water rations, prepared corn, and obtained tarps to temporarily cover roofs. We then distributed the following in the area of Aquin, Cavallion and Les Cayes:*

*600 bags of drinking water bags from our own production.*

*250 bags of corn from the production of farmers.*

*20 tarpaulins of plastic that we had in still our warehouse. "*

Corn is packed into rations:





Drinking water (as well as drinks or food) is often packed in simple plastic bags in Haiti. Here, small water bags are packed into large bags for distribution.



Plastic tarpaulins as a quick roof for the emergency dwellings.

*We want to continue to distribute water, but we no longer have plastic bags to fill the water because we have distributed everything in the villages that do not have access to water. I'm also thinking of helping families rebuild their homes in the countryside rather than in the cities because everyone is focused on the cities.*

*We want to make more water bags for them if we can get the necessary water supplies, as we see that water is a priority because all water sources are contaminated black or red after the earthquake.*

*Thank you for allowing us to do whatever we can to improve the lives of families.*

*Ferel Bruno"*

It is precisely the construction of the house that we want to help with the Padre Wasson Foundation and for this the cost for a family is 1300 dollars. The money is on site and will be used as soon as the security situation and the availability of diesel allows it.

Ferel Bruno writes about the history and past achievements of his organization:

*"Amis de Fond des Blancs has initiated and led numerous projects and has been working with others in the community of Fond-des-Blancs since early 2008 to facilitate comprehensive, holistic community development."*

*"Amis de Fond des Blancs" has a long history of agricultural projects there. They were responsible for the reforestation of orchards in the commune of Fond-des-Blancs. Over a three-year period, they distributed more than 60,000 fruit trees to the target communities through their affiliated farmers. Today, Fond-des-Blancs is a place where trees can be seen again compared to other regions of Haiti. The same goes for goats, which were bred with imported Nubian goats and are still in demand. We helped the families with the goats so that they could gain independence. To do this, we raised the goats and gave them to the families in exchange for other products, while we also provided for the families. "*

# LOCALLY HAITI



November 3, 2021

Dear Friends at Padre Wasson Foundation,

On behalf of our friends, partners, and local leaders in Petit Trou, thank you for standing with Haiti.

As you know, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on August 14th was centered just five miles from our sister community of over 31 years, Petit Trou de Nippes. Thanks to your support, our leaders in Petit Trou have had resources to continue their essential front-line work in health, education, agriculture, and girls' empowerment, while also providing urgently needed shelter to families who have lost so much. Your grant of \$3,000 USD was received on September 9, 2021 and was spent on provisional housing structures in the community.

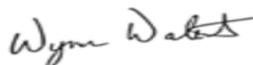
Too often, local leaders are left on the sidelines of their own crisis when a disaster strikes. Our model is different, placing local leaders, vision, and talents at the center of a community driven response. Their work is our work – and we are grateful for your investment in their courage.

Attached you'll find an excel sheet that displays the cost of building three provisional structures in Petit Trou. Cost shows is the total of materials and labor, per structure. They were not purchased as individual units, they were purchased in bulk, as part of a larger housing initiative.

I confirm that 100 percent of the funds you generously shared were spent on shelters like these, and that 100 percent of the funds you sent were spent in Haiti. You'll also find several photos attached, these providing examples of the types of shelters you supported.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

With gratitude,



Wynn Walent  
Executive Director  
wynn@locallyhaiti.org

Translation:

November 3 2021

Dear Friends of the Father Wasson Foundation,

On behalf of our friends, partners and local leaders in Petit Trou, we thank you for standing with Haiti.

As you know, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on August 14 occurred just five miles from our sister community, Petit Trou de Nippes, where we have been for 31 years. Thanks to your support, leaders in Petit Trou were able to continue their important work in health, education, agriculture and girls' empowerment, while providing much-needed shelter to families who lost so much. Your grant of \$3,000 was received on September 9, 2021 and was used for temporary housing in the community.

Too often, when disaster strikes, local leaders are left on the brink of their own crisis. Our model is different: We put local leaders, their visions and talents at the center of a community-driven solution. Their work is our work - and we are grateful for your investment in their courage.

Attached is an Excel spreadsheet showing the cost of constructing three temporary buildings in Petit Trou. The costs are the total cost of materials and labor per structure. They were not purchased as individual units, but in bulk as part of a larger housing initiative.

I certify that 100 percent of the funds you generously provided were spent on shelters like this one and that 100 percent of the funds you sent were used in Haiti. Also attached are several photos showing examples of the shelters you supported.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

In gratitude,

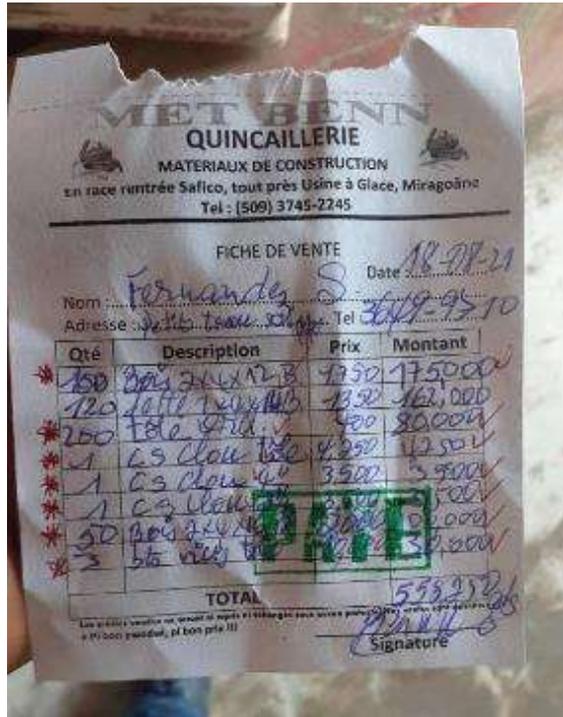
Wynn Walent  
Executive Director

**Director Wynn Walent has published an impressive video review of the year, showing the many projects the organization has been able to implement in Haiti:**

**[www.bit.ly/locally\\_haiti](http://www.bit.ly/locally_haiti) (in English).**



The team in Haiti



Receipt from the hardware store in Miragoane



Here is an example of new accommodation for a family

We agreed with Wynn Walent, the director of Locally Haiti, that our contribution of \$3,000 would very specifically pay for the housing of two families.

The two families had houses in the city that were completely destroyed. They are now getting a new shelter in another place, where they can gradually build a real house again.



Pictures of the destroyed houses

# BIOHAUS FOUNDATION



The Biohaus Foundation ([www.biohaus-stiftung.org](http://www.biohaus-stiftung.org)) has been active in Haiti for over 10 years and is a pioneer there in many areas. It works closely with local partners and has a strong connection including many outreaches on the ground. Its partners include the "Haiti Projet Education" and the "Fondation St. Luc". We gave the Biohaus13 Foundation .000 dollars, which the founder and chairman of the foundation, Willi Ernst, immediately forwarded to the partners in Haiti.

The work focuses on the following four areas:

- *IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE*

*Among them, in the hospital of Cayes, in the area of Maniche, in the more remote area of Rambo and in Camp Perrin, more than 3500 patients have already been treated.*

- *HELPING FAMILIES REBUILD*

*After the 2010 earthquake, the need to avoid tent cities at all costs was recognized. Therefore, families should now help with donations of materials for the construction of shelters made of wood and sheet metal. For example, 25 sheets of metal, 20 wooden stands, nails, etc., and also a donation of food. The cost per shelter is about 1,300 US dollars and 200 US dollars for the food packages.*

- *PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND HYGIENE*

*Another focus is on hygiene and health care for the population by providing water filtration systems, hand sanitizers, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and sterilization tablets for water treatment.*

*Medical programs have been strengthened, St. Luc has opened a clinic in St. Louis du Sud and continues efforts to provide medical care in Jeremie Province.*

- *PROVISION OF GENERAL RELIEF SUPPLIES*

*In the days following the earthquake, St. Luc made several trips to help with rescue efforts, bringing food, clean water and medical supplies to the areas and distributing them to Haitian leaders on the ground.*

You can find very comprehensive information about the Biohaus partner Fondation St. Luc on their homepage, where Father Richard Frechette CP and the local teams report on the outreaches: [www.bit.ly/St-Luc](http://www.bit.ly/St-Luc) (in English).



## Disaster relief after earthquake in Haiti is underway - Biohaus partner in Aquin is in full action and reports:

**After the earthquake that struck the south of the Caribbean state of Haiti on Saturday, August 14, initial relief and reconstruction efforts have begun. The trauma of the population over at least 2200 dead, thousands injured and countless destroyed buildings is great. But it is precisely the smaller aid organizations on the ground that are providing very important and direct help.**



In the city of Aquin, which has about 10,000 inhabitants, the organization "Haiti Projet Education", HPE for short, with which the Paderborn BIOHAUS Foundation for Environment and Justice has been closely associated for 10 years, has been very active since the hour of the quake. It brought injured people to the hospital and provided food for the population in emergency kitchens by cooking on the streets with rice and beans organized by HPE.

The direct communication with the Haitian friends of HPE works very well by phone and WhatsApp, they sent photos and cell phone films that show the extent of the disaster: "80% of Aquinas' houses have collapsed, especially those built of stone and concrete. We can't keep track of the number of injured, the hospital is hopelessly overcrowded," reports Kebrau Lazarre. "Now, after the floods, there are also other problems: Latrines have to be rebuilt and dry sleeping places have to be built. But the infrastructure of HPE, created with the energetic help of the Biohaus Foundation and donations, helps us a lot," says Claudette Coulanges, who is also already known through her visits to Paderborn. "And we were able to immediately put the first quickly delivered donations into food aid as well as the construction of shelters."



Next, HPE has disbursed some of the donated funds as loans to purchase food and building materials to families who have been hardest hit and plans to build latrines to prevent epidemics.



The Biohaus Foundation will of course remain in close contact with its friends in Haiti, as the need continues to be enormous. "Experience after the last natural disasters in Haiti shows that large aid organizations and government funds often do not reach the people affected at all, especially in rural areas," says Willi Ernst. "That's where organizations like ours and HPE are most effective, and the donations arrive very quickly and one-to-one directly."

# FACTS ABOUT THE 2021 EARTHQUAKE



(Wikipedia) A major earthquake struck Haiti at 8:29 a.m. local time on August 14, 2021. The quake had a magnitude of 7.2 MW. At least 2,207 people died as a result of the quake,[1] and 12,268 were injured, some seriously[1] The effects of the earthquake were exacerbated by tropical depression Grace, which brought heavy rains to Haiti two days after the earthquake.

The epicenter of the quake was located about 37 kilometers northeast of the major city of Les Cayes and 125 kilometers west of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. The hypocenter is located at a depth of 10 kilometers. The quake occurred on the Enriquillo-Plantain-Garden fault, in the vicinity of which the earthquake of January 12, 2010 had also occurred, killing more than 200,000 people.



The quake was also felt in Cuba, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

Several aftershocks with magnitudes above 5 MW occurred.

#### VICTIMS AND DAMAGES

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the quake reached a level IX intensity on the Modified Mercalli Scale. According to initial reports, several hundred people were killed, many buildings collapsed or were damaged, and hospitals were overwhelmed by the onslaught of injured people. The departments of Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes and the towns of Les Cayes, Jérémie and Anse-à-Veau were particularly hard hit. Contact with Petit-Trou-de-Nippes was interrupted by destroyed telephone lines. Roads were damaged, and the main road between Les Cayes and Jérémie was rendered impassable by a landslide. Only minor damage occurred in the capital Port-au-Prince.

According to the latest situation report from the Haitian Disaster Mitigation Agency (DGPC), as of August 21, 2,207 people are dead, 12,268 are injured, some seriously, and 344 are missing. 52,953 houses are considered destroyed, 77,006 damaged. According to government figures, at least 650,000 people in the departments of Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes are in need of emergency humanitarian aid. This corresponds to around 40 percent of the population there.

According to the USGS, an area >100 km<sup>2</sup> with a relatively high population density is affected by possible ground liquefaction (ground liquefaction can occur as a result of strong shaking of water-saturated, mostly sandy soil layers by an earthquake).

On August 16, Haiti was hit by tropical depression Grace, which exacerbated the effects of the earthquake with heavy rainfall. Warnings were issued for widespread rainfall of 125 to 250 liters/m<sup>2</sup>, with local levels up to about 375 liters/m<sup>2</sup>. Because Haiti is heavily deforested, it is particularly vulnerable to mudslides and landslides as a result of heavy rainfall.

Source:

"Haiti earthquake 2021" page. In: Wikipedia - The free encyclopedia.

Edited 21 October 2021, 21:09 UTC. URL: [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Erdbeben\\_in\\_Haiti\\_2021&oldid=216570107](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Erdbeben_in_Haiti_2021&oldid=216570107)

(Retrieved: December 14, 2021, 01:42 UTC).

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# THANKS TO THE FUNDRAISERS!

*And thank you - the donors!*

The earthquake has presented us with a special situation: While we are taking the first steps with the newly established Padre Wasson Foundation, it happens: The people in Haiti are hit by another disaster, just four weeks after they asked us how we survived the flood disaster in Germany. Such solidarity unites. And solidarity with Haiti is our sign, with your donations and words of encouragement.

As chairman of our foundation board, psychologist Joseph Ferdinand had immediately organized a fundraising campaign. So did Heiko Seeger, my former colleague at Our Little Sisters and Brothers, the German fundraising office that Father Wasson had founded in 1984 (today the association is called "NPH Kinderhilfe Lateinamerika"). Both campaigns had the goal of raising 10,000 euros each. Together they managed to raise the amount.

Then the Schwäbische Tagblatt reported on Joseph Ferdinand (you can access the article on the Internet at <https://bit.ly/TagblattJF>):

# Unterm Dach will keiner schlafen

**Unterstützung** Der Haitianer Joseph Ferdinand, der in Tübingen lebt und arbeitet, sammelt Spenden für sein Heimatland nach dem Erdbeben. Von Sabine Lohr

**K**urz nach dem schweren Erdbeben auf Haiti im Jahr 2010 verließ Joseph Ferdinand seine Heimat. Das war geplant: Der damals 29-jährige, geboren und aufgewachsen in Port au Prince, hatte in Haiti Psychologie studiert und ein Stipendium bekommen, um den Bachelor in Heidelberg zu machen. Seinen Master legte Ferdinand in Leipzig ab, danach kam er nach Tübingen, wo er am Hector-Institut arbeitet und seine Doktorarbeit schreibt.

Am 14. April bebte die Erde wieder auf Haiti. Das Beben war wesentlich stärker als das vor elf Jahren, aber es traf nicht die Hauptstadt, sondern den Südosten, wo es kleinere Städte und viele Dörfer gibt. Erdbeben davon wurden vollständig zerstört, 2000 Menschen starben, zahlreiche werden immer noch vermisst.

„Es ist gerade Regenzeit“, sagt Ferdinand, „aber die Menschen schlafen draußen.“ Es gebe viele Nachbeben, „da will niemand unter einem Dach schlafen“. Auch die Krankenhäuser behandeln die Verletzten im Hof. Es mangle an Medikamenten, an Zelten, an Lebensmitteln. Und manche der zerstörten Dörfer seien nur schwer zu erreichen, denn auch die Straßen dorthin seien zerstört.

Hilfe kommt nicht oder nur schleppend an. „Nach dem Beben 2010 sind viele Spenden einfach verschwunden, nur etwa 10 Prozent des Geldes kam bei den Leuten an, die es gebraucht haben“, sagt Ferdinand. Stattdessen sei es bei korrupten Organisationen gelandet. Korruption sei auch heute noch ein Problem.

Deshalb will Ferdinand den Menschen auf Haiti helfen. Im Dezember 2021 gründete er zusammen mit andern die Treuhands-Stiftung „Padre Wasson Foundation“, die sich zum Ziel gesetzt hat, schutzbedürftigen Kindern zu helfen und Erwachsene und Kinder in Notsituationen zu unterstützen. Ferdinand ist im Stiftungsrat der gemeinnützigen Organisation auch deshalb, weil er Einrichtungen in Haiti kennt. Er hat, bevor er nach Deutschland kam, bei Hilfsorganisationen in Haiti gearbeitet, kennt deren Arbeit und die Strukturen – und die Leute.

Eine dieser Organisationen ist „Locally Haiti“, die schon seit 30 Jahren Familien unterstützt und medizinische Zentren unterhält. Eine andere ist die St. Luke Foundation for Haiti. „Sie hat Krankenhäuser, Schulen und verschiedene Wirtschaftsprojekte“, sagt Ferdinand, „und sie sind sehr aktiv im Kampf gegen Corona.“

Denn auch die Pandemie herrscht in Haiti. „Es ist nicht so schlimm, wie es etwa in Italien war, denn Haiti hat eine junge Bevölkerung“, sagt Ferdinand, „aber es starben auch in Haiti Menschen an Covid-19.“

Dazu kommt, dass das Land seit Jahren politisch instabil ist. Zur Zeit gibt es nur eine Übergangsregierung, nachdem Präsident Jovenel Moïse Anfang Juli ermordet wurde. Doch Ferdinand ist zuversichtlich: „Der haitianische Geist ist stark. So wie unsere Vorfahren es geschafft haben, uns von der Sklaverei zu befreien, so werden auch wir es schaffen, uns aus dieser Krise zu befreien und das Land voranzubringen.“

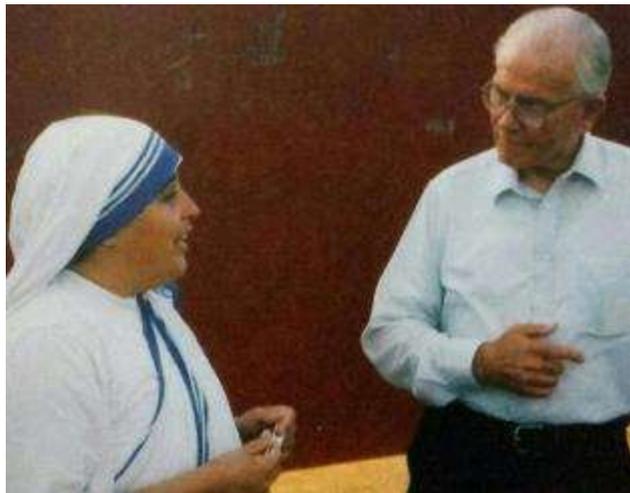
**Info** Das Spendenkonto der „Padre Wasson Foundation“ lautet IBAN: DE19 5679 0000 0000 7970 70



**Der Haitianer Joseph Ferdinand sammelt Spenden für die vom Erdbeben Betroffenen.**  
Bild: Lisa Maria Sporer

Through this, many more people have shown their solidarity with the people of Haiti by donating. In the name of all our sisters and brothers in Haiti: Mesi ampil - many thanks to the numerous donors, but also to the fundraisers whose call made this possible! And because every donor may also tell others about us, you are all fundraisers as well - "fund increasers" and donation motivators ☺.

# FATHER WASSON, MOTHER TERESA AND HAITI



Sister Kolbe with Father Wasson

No less a person than Mother Teresa made Father Wasson aware of the suffering of many children in Haiti. Together with Father Richard Frechette CP, he went to Haiti where Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity were caring for babies born to dying mothers, many of whom had AIDS. Many of the babies did not survive, but those who did needed care, love and a place to live. After visiting the poor country and the children's hospice, Father Wasson founded an orphanage there in 1987. A hospice for dying children followed, which Father Richard turned into one of the best children's hospitals in the Caribbean. Today, Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs, French for "Our Little Sisters and Brothers," is a respected organization that manages to work successfully with and for the people of Haiti in the midst of political chaos, economic disaster and uncontrollable crime. Father Richard continues to work in Haiti and in 2000 founded the St. Luc organization to complement Father Wasson's children's programs. St. Luc reaches tens of thousands of people in the areas worst affected by poverty with schools, drinking water and medical care.



Photo: Gabriel Rozycki Sanchez

# THE THREE AREAS OF THE FOUNDATION

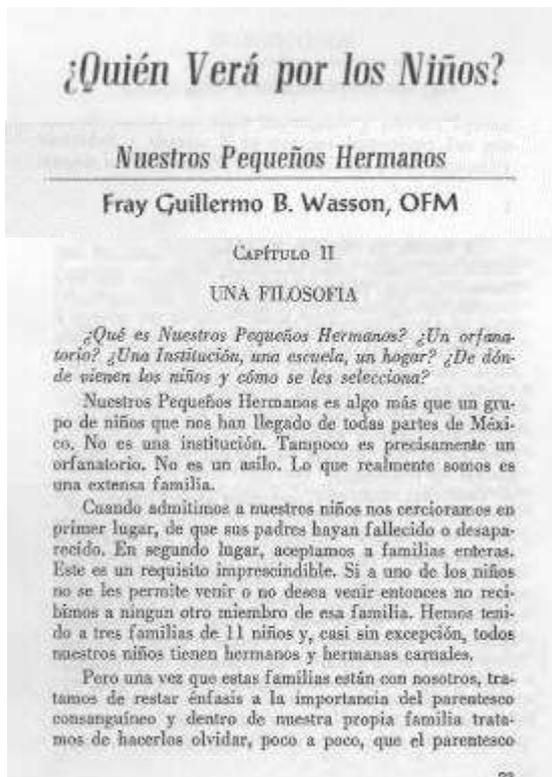
- Know the philosophy
- Promote the big "kids"
- Act and help respectfully

## **Why our foundation (also) provides emergency aid**

The Father Wasson Foundation grew out of a project that we started together with the family that Father Wasson founded, "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" (Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos - NPH). "We" are my parents who have always accompanied Father Wasson's work, former "children of Father Wasson" such as Joseph Ferdinand from Haiti or Alejandra Garcia Buhler from Mexico, former volunteers and collaborators of Our Little Sisters and Brothers. Many people who had known Father Wasson and have a strong relationship with him and his work. But also some who were infected by the idea of giving a home to his life's work.

Due to many changes in our society, some traditions that Father Wasson had established have fallen out of time. Starting with the idea of placing children together in large groups and homes, which is no longer the norm. Not even at Our Little Sisters and Brothers. We are seeing a loss of identity with the changes, a fading of the underlying values that are elemental to community cohesion. We want to change that!

Our goal is to describe the foundation of his "extended family," as he called it, to document his works and thoughts and make them fit for the future.



In view of the needs of his extended family, which can implement the results, this will be a core area of the foundation's work:

***A. The scientific study of the philosophy of Father Wasson, based on the thoughts that Erich Fromm and Father Wasson had formulated. From this we develop practical concepts of how community can be shaped in a meaningful way.***

In addition, we have noticed that still many "orphans" instead of standing on their own two feet fall on their face when they live their own lives. This does not have to be.

Our thoughts are already very concrete here: The idea of the extended family brings together people who are in themselves strangers in a common family structure. Originally, orphans of different origins became sisters and brothers. And this is still the case today

and, remarkably, it also works across national borders. The children and young people in one country feel a brotherly bond with those of the family in another country. You probably have to have experienced it to understand it better.

Of course, children do not usually live with their parents forever. Little sisters and brothers also grow up and move into their own lives. And then? Father Wasson explained that most of the time a child can fall back on the family network. Parents provide support during education, an uncle or aunt helps find the first job. This is exactly what "his orphans" would not have if it were not for this special family, which even represents a much larger network than a biological family could ever create.

There are many small groups that remain connected and continue to live exactly the idea of the extended family. They are the role models that Father Wasson described. This is where his legacy lives. This is what we want to strengthen, to make visible and



Photo: Gabriel Rozycki Sanchez

support the adult "children", the "alumni" or "former", in order to carry on the family in the same way that Father Wasson started it:

***B. Alumni Network - connecting, empowering and giving a voice to the former children of the Our Little Sisters and Brothers family.***

And what if an earthquake hit Haiti? Would Father Wasson have started his day unchanged? Certainly not. In the 1970s, when he learned of the floods in Veracruz, Mexico, that had orphaned dozens of children, he immediately traveled there to care for them. His example is followed by "his children" and so is our foundation:

***C. Direct aid to children and families in need.***

And that brings us to the earthquake that catapulted our beginning in the plan to the end. Better said: you have done that, because your help has underlined the priority where we must engage first. We do this in the spirit of Father Wasson, according to his philosophy of unconditional acceptance and charity. And we do this together with many "alumni", the former students who are actively involved in the Foundation and on the ground in Haiti. And so the Foundation, and with it the memory of Father Wasson and his philosophy, lives not in theory, but very practically now and today in deeds.

**Thank you for being a part of this community. Thank you for your solidarity, support, donations, encouragement, prayers and thoughts for our sisters and brothers who are suffering. Thank you for living the idea of family, for establishing eye level and showing compassion instead of pity.**

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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Paths are created while walking*

*Antonio Machado*

The volunteer members of the Foundation Board usually met every month, and more often if necessary. This year we were able to concretize the foundation's goals, worked on many foundation issues, expressed our solidarity with the flood victims in Germany and jointly considered and decided on the use of donations for earthquake relief in Haiti. We also had numerous discussions with NPH International, NPH Europe and NPH Kinderhilfe on the subject of cooperation.

So far, the individual members have focused on the following:

**Alejandra Garcia Bühler - Alumni and Mexico**

**Joseph Ferdinand (Chairman) - Haiti and Research on the Philosophy of Father Wasson**

**Stefan Gräfe (Trustee) - Administration and Communication**

Our Board of Trustees was still small in 2021 with its three members, which also had advantages. We will now invite additional members to fill in missing competencies.

# FINANCE

What is money good for if not to  
make the world a better place?

Elizabeth Taylor

Statement of income/expenditure of the Padre Wasson Foundation since its foundation

<b>21.12.2020 - 31.12.2021</b>		<b>31.12.2021</b>
<b>Endowment for restricted use</b>	25.000 €	
Official fees	- 1.050 €	
Fees Haiti earthquake support	- 355 €	
IT and web site	- 163 €	
Bank fees	- 52 €	
Memberships	- 30 €	
		<b>23.350 €</b>
<b>General funds</b>		
<b>Income from donations</b>		
Founding donations	3.662 €	
Donations Haiti earthquake relief	16.002 €	
Corporate donations	3.300 €	
Donations for stipends	3.060 €	
Unrestricted donations	2.435 €	
Public funds	425 €	
	<b>28.884 €</b>	
<b>Program expenses</b>		
Haiti relief to Biohaus foundation	- 11.432 €	
Haiti relief to Locally Haiti	- 2.551 €	
Haiti relief to Fonds des Blancs	- 1.118 €	
Haiti relief to Diyite	- 900 €	
Flood relief to Stolberg (Germany)	- 200 €	
Stipends	- 2.449 €	
	<b>- 18.651 €</b>	
		<b>10.233 €</b>
<b>Total assets as of Dec. 31st 2021</b>		<b>33.583 €</b>

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# PAVING THE WAY - ALL BEGINNINGS ARE DIFFICULT

*In order for the possible to emerge, the impossible must be attempted again and again.*

*Clemens Brentano*

The idea for our foundation matured many years ago, actually since the death of Father Wasson. Without him as the central guiding figure, there are many opinions and interpretations of how he would have acted in certain (today's) situations. "What would Father Wasson do" was at one point the buzz word. But then it became quieter and quieter at NPH about the founder. On the new homepage of NPH International one looks for him in vain. One must click oneself already up to the "Timeline", the search function has apparently no access to the history. Thus, the concern of his followers that his legacy might be lost is growing. The call to preserve his memory is getting louder and above all, to preserve the spirit of the community.

Then last year, the opportunity arose that freed up time and resources, and an enthusiastic group created the Father Wasson Foundation on December 21, the birthday of our namesake. True to his motto:

**"Do it now!"** Father Wasson

The vast majority of the people who were enthusiastic about the idea have a personal connection to Father Wasson and his large family of "little sisters and brothers". In fact, the current umbrella organization, NPH International, wanted to donate the foundation's capital. "That's exactly what we need," the president and the executive director agreed. Why they dropped out is a political story that we would like to tell you over a cup of tea.

The new vision of operating independently of NPH also has advantages. Shorter decision-making processes and a larger sphere of action, for example. In any case, we have received a lot of encouragement, especially from people who are rather critical of the developments in the NPH organization in recent years.

We learned that many people close to the organization have a lot of respect and appreciation for Father Wasson, for his idea of the extended family and how he had exemplified it. Many are also grateful to the organization for all that they have received and learned there. And yet, they view with concern when "The spirit of Father Wasson is lost." This is a statement we heard several times. And this is exactly the motivation of the Father Wasson Foundation: to describe his philosophy and make it applicable to the whole family of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" and beyond. For Father Wasson noted:

***"As our community continues to exist over the years, new situations will undoubtedly arise entirely. But studying the original concepts can then help evaluate a new situation and address it with the proven principles."***

We also look at the larger problems of our society and think that more love and community would do us all good. But that comes later. Our specific starting point is within the context of Father Wasson's extended family. Hence the name - admittedly, we won't win any marketing prizes with it. But the hearts of "his" children and children's children. The mix of Spanish and English connects across countries. And in English, "foundation" means not only endowment, but also foundation and foundation. We think that fits perfectly.

# COMMUNITY: OUR PARTNERS

*The foundation is like a bridge  
that connects those involved.*

## PROJECT PARTNERS

Amis de Fond des Blancs  
Biohaus Foundation  
Diyite  
International Erich-Fromm-  
Society e.V.  
Copper city Stolberg  
Locally Haiti  
NPH

## FUNDING PARTNERS

Amazon Smile  
Bardusch GmbH & Co KG  
Education Donor  
European Union  
Hotz+Architects PartG mbB  
Microsoft  
Ministry for Social Affairs,  
Health and Integration Ba-  
den-Württemberg  
City Karlsruhe  
Donors Help

## SERVICE PROVID- ERS/TOOLS

101domain GRS  
Bitly  
Boost panel  
Office Dr. Walter  
DigiSigner  
European Union  
Freiburg Intl. Academy  
GoFundMe  
Google My Business  
Ionos  
LinkedIn  
Mailchimp  
MapsMe  
Notebook Partner  
Online  
Volunteer Agency  
Orbit Fox  
Paypal  
Travel agency Lesser  
Remitly

Ryte  
Semrush  
Site Kit  
Stripe  
Tech Soup  
Termly  
Transparency Register  
Themelsle  
Heidelberg University  
Upwork  
Visean Brands Consult  
Volksbank Karlsruhe  
WeCanHelp  
Wise  
Wix  
Wordpress  
Yoast SEO  
Yumpu

**Many thanks to all partners and to the Wasson family for their cooperation and all supporters in our first year!**



DANKE

GRACIAS

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# THE FOUNDING ACT: THOUGHTS FROM OUTSIDE AND INSIDE

## Your Questions & Our Answers

Thank you for your questions, your encouragement and also your criticism! We can only learn from this and improve. Father Wasson did not see it differently when he said: *"I appreciate constructive criticism. I feel gratitude to a person who, in all sincerity, takes the trouble to criticize us - me or our work."*

Read some selected comments and our thoughts on them:

- ***In which areas is the NPH organization not active, so that there must be a supplement to this?***

"Our Little Sisters and Brothers" has two areas that already tie up all available resources: The aid programs for children and young people in Latin America and the fundraising (collecting donations) for them. The representatives of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" find the study of the organizational philosophy and the further development very meaningful and there are also approaches to it. Within the existing structure, however, no sustainable way has been found so far, since the permanent lack of money forces all resources into social work.

- ***The "plan is to send donations primarily through NPH Children's Aid to support specific NPH projects in Haiti or other Latin American countries" Why not***

***directly through them - possibly as a new fundraising resort? You could also use the infrastructure of the Karlsruhe fundraising office.***

Yes, that is correct. Unfortunately, the Karlsruhe fundraising office did not respond to our corresponding inquiries. In the meantime they have positioned themselves and consider the Padre Wasson Foundation as competition. Our donations have been returned to us, so we are now working on direct aid to NPH and beyond, completely independent of NPH Children's Aid. However, we are keeping our offer of cooperation and we are in talks with the leadership in Karlsruhe and International. At least we received a nice Christmas greeting from the Germany director, which gives us hope.

- ***I wish much success with the foundation.***

Thank you!

- ***Does the (parallel) "Padre Wasson Foundation" really reach completely new groups of donors - or is this just a redistribution of the existing "donor pie"?***

The Padre Wasson Foundation does not have access to the existing donor group of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" and is comparatively small in financial terms. The donors in the world are so numerous, diverse and numerically strong that there is certainly room for many more charitable organizations without this being noticeable to others. Our founding donations were all independent of donations to "Our Little Sisters and Brothers", in many cases we know they are extra money.

- ***A good start and good luck!***

Thank you.

- ***The quote from Joseph Ferdinand, a member of the foundation's board of trustees, is too vague for me and would not suffice as a justification or template for a text of the articles of association: Is this more about research and a (non-profit) fundamental work with universities and professors, or is it really about alleviating direct need?***

We plan to do both: the scientific work, which Mr. Ferdinand will supervise, and the direct emergency aid. The earthquake in Haiti last August showed that it is impossible for us to do purely scientific work and close our eyes to the need of our closest fellow human beings. Therefore, we follow the example of Father Wasson, who always sought a solution when he learned of an emergency situation. Our third area is the work with the alumni who grew up at "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" or with their families. Here we see a great need that the organization is not able to meet, which is not only due to money.

- ***General question: How much money does a newly established foundation need to raise first in order to be able to do charitable work from the surpluses/interest on capital?***

That is a good point! Interestingly, the foundation supervisory authority at the regional council has drawn our attention to the fact that immense assets of foundations are hardly of any use. Their suggestion was to adopt the model of a "consumption foundation", which we have followed. This allows us to spend up to 10% of the foundation's assets on our purposes each year, if necessary. The capital is therefore not "lost" to the good cause. Since we initially established only a trust foundation, there is also no requirement for a large amount of capital. We therefore finance our charitable work primarily from donations.

- ***Good luck with the new project!***

Thank you very much!

- ***Due to low interest rates for years, many foundations have become insolvent (or have misappropriated assets); how is the Padre Wasson Foundation to be protected from this?***

For the above-mentioned reasons, interest does not play such an important role for us, but the trust of our friends, co-participants and also beneficiaries is elementary! We have a small, manageable structure and purely voluntary employees. A great transparency and openness gives interested people insight into our activities and finances. Unfortunately, experience shows that there is no guarantee for a reasonable and proportionate handling of the donations entrusted to us. Trust has to grow and needs to be earned. We would like to have a watchful eye of the donors and the existing control bodies, the foundation board and our whole environment so that money is used where it does good and for what it was given. In particular, we have the active participation of the former "NPH children", the "big sisters and brothers". It is clearly in their interest that the money be used purely for the benefit of the children and their families, in accordance with Father Wasson's principles.

Since we are currently able to cover the low administrative costs elsewhere, we even use the donations 100% for the respective purpose, without deductions.

- ***I think that with such a foundation, one must pay particular attention to not becoming a keeper and collector of cold ashes, but to guarding the embers and also blowing into them again and again to keep them alive. This is a tight-rope walk, because his time is not our time and his answers were certainly right then, but what would Father Wasson say and do today?***

Thank you for this impressive picture and the challenge to carry the old into a new time. This is exactly our primary motivation, because we think that the fundamental values of Father Wasson's philosophy can be continued into our time. Values that already Erich Fromm studied in his time and considered very special and remarkable. In other words, we want to prevent the ashes from getting cold and blow into them vigorously with the Foundation and revive the embers.

- ***Quite frankly: The idea doesn't really appeal to me, I've read books by him [Father Wasson] but he doesn't play a role in my life.***

There is not much to add to this honest statement, were it not for the wonderful book review of Father Wasson's work on the Sermon on the Mount, which the same author gave us three quarters of a year later. This ends with the words "After reading this book, one has the impression of having come a little closer to Jesus and his words, thanks to Father Wasson." You can find the whole text on page 63ff and soon on our homepage.

- ***As you already know, the Padre Wasson Foundation is one of the organizations that our staff particularly liked. Therefore, we will support the organization. We wish you continued success and good luck with your upcoming projects!***

We would like to thank the company bardusch and its staff for the large donation for the alumni project and congratulate them on their 150th anniversary!

- ***I find the spreading of good ideas and thoughts just as important as concrete help because, as in the case of Father Wasson, it can act as a multiplier for good in the world.***

This makes us very happy and hits "the nail on the head". Thank you for this incentive and the founding donation!

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# ALUMNI - WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?

*Once you are out, it is usually very difficult to ask for help again .*

People who have gone through difficult times try to overcome them. For them it is especially important to be in the present, in the "here and now" instead of in the past. Almost all of Father Wasson's "children" have gone through a sad history. This story even connects them to each other. But it belongs to the past and Father Wasson motivated his protégés by helping them overcome their self-pity. He called this "pobre de mi" / "poor little me" ("oh, poor me").

His method was community: newcomers were welcomed by their peers, and the young people who had been with him longer took over this task. "Yes you are sad, we understand. We understand that you miss your mother. We all miss our parents. But now we have each other and this new family." The healing power of this community already impressed Erich Fromm.

But where is this community today? Children in the Family Children's Villages are no longer classic orphans. They are assigned by the social authorities for many reasons. The family "Our little sisters and brothers" often has no influence on the length of time a child stays there until he can (hopefully) return to the family. His absolute refusal to adopt "his" children could not be enforced everywhere today by Father Wasson.

Currently, more than half of the children who benefit from Our Little Sisters and Brothers programs live with their biological family.



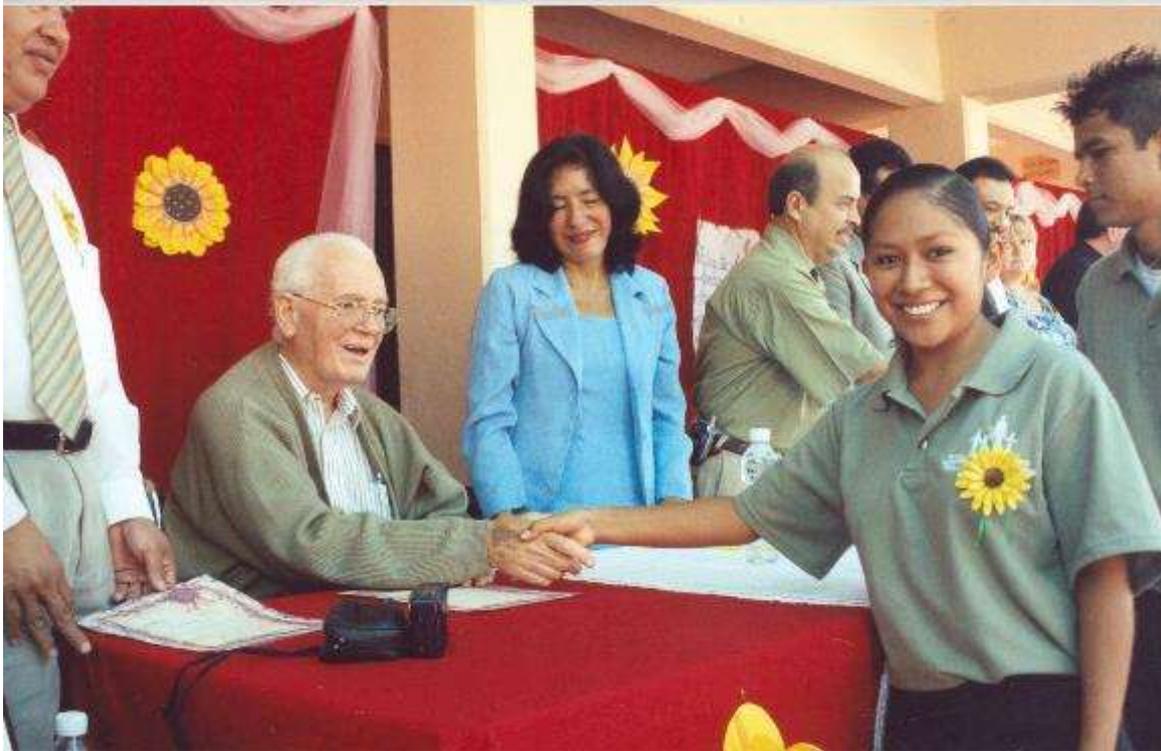
Photo: Gabriel Rozycki Sanchez

UNICEF recognized back in the 1990s that children get the best development in small families. So the pillar of security at NPH, of unconditional acceptance ("here is your new family and you will never be sent away") is crumbling from the outside. But also from the inside it is getting harder and harder to follow such absolute criteria.



Without a doubt, the personal well-being of each child is still the focus of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers," and rightly so. This was Father Wasson's insight and also a decades-long important evolution. Today, the organization continues to integrate all children into the extended family, whether they live in one of its facilities or with their family. In many places this works amazingly well and the children are happy and also proud to be a part of this special family.

But what about when the support of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" ends? There is a great intention to be a loving family to the young adults as they start their own lives. The educational team of NPH International has formulated clear processes, and in each country, responsible persons have also been designated. However, for various reasons, this does not always work out. Lack of money and bureaucratic structures on the side of the organization, shame, defiance or envy on the side of the young adults - there are many hurdles to overcome.



The executive director of NPH International describes the work with the "Hermanas y Hermanos Mayores" (Big Sisters and Brothers) simply as "muy complicado" and repeats: it is very complicated. One can see the headache that this subject causes him. He himself, a "Big Brother" in the NPH family who directs the international organization, occasionally seems at a loss at this point.

Father Wasson liked to bring complicated family issues down to a common denominator: what would "normal" parents do? And parents quickly have the answer: "we don't abandon our child". And that's exactly what makes NPH special: the children don't stay with us until their 18th birthday, but until they are ready to stand on their own two feet. But this step into their own lives is accompanied by the individual facilities of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" certainly with different approaches (and budgets).

The Father Wasson Foundation is in contact with precisely these independent adults. We strengthen in them and in their children the sense of belonging, that they are part of the huge family that Father Wasson once created. We advise and support their social initiatives, because in them lives the philosophy of Father Wasson. These initiatives save other alumni from poverty or help them overcome it. The goal is to harness the benefits of this international community. The Padre Wasson Foundation can fill an important gap here.

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# SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AND MENTEES 2021

*Education will lift these children out of the poverty into which they were born.*

*Padre Wasson*

For the Padre Wasson Foundation, 2021 was already quite a whirlwind start on many levels. At the same time, our mentees are particularly important for our work (i.e., the people we mentor). While our vision is clear, namely to provide alumni with opportunities so that they can continue to develop them outside the protected environment of the organization. In doing so, we focus on education. In particular, we want to support those young people who are at particularly high risk.

While we mostly advise them on their career paths, these young people also advise us on the design of the foundation and our strategy. In this way, we have access to the network of former "children of Father Wasson" in different countries, learn about their real needs, hardships, friends and peculiarities, and can adapt our planning. And for the mentees, it brings an opportunity to involve their "peers" and to give something of their privileged role. All in all, this results in a nice mutual enrichment and meeting at eye level.

**May we introduce the first scholarship holders and mentees here?:**

## Dieusson Lafrance (Haiti): General Medicine

Dieusson has already worked as a doctor in various hospitals in Haiti, most recently at the St. Damien Hospital of Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs (Our Little Sisters and Brothers), where he was responsible for the former children from the Children's Village and a doctor at the St. Luc Hospital. On weekends he worked as a volunteer with Father Richard Frechette in the slums of the capital. Then he trained a successor there to begin further training at the Freiburg International Academy.

The foundation is mentoring him and was also able to arrange a loan for him, which he will pay back later.

Loans are a dignified way for adults with prospects of earning an adequate income to realize their wishes without slipping into a dependency of gratitude. In addition, others can later benefit from the money. This is an established model in many countries, but rarely in Latin America.

Dieusson has three siblings with whom he grew up in the Children's Village of Our Little Sisters and Brothers - so he is an alumnus and "child" of Father Wasson himself.



## Lennard Cabezas (Nicaragua): Medicine

In 2019, we became aware of the young man who described to us his wonderful-beautiful motivation why he wants to become a doctor. He lives with his parents and two sisters in a very simple house near the Panamericana. They have some land where they



have planted fruit trees and keep chickens. The father works as a security guard and bought the house with a loan for \$2000 after the old wooden dwelling was hit by a falling tree in a storm. The family cannot afford to send their children to college, but we have been able to arrange matching donations so far. We are also mentoring Lennard and have financed a laptop for him, which he was able to buy second-hand locally. So he can finally do his study tasks, presentations and research independently from the internet cafe.

Since 2020, a scholarship from Germany has enabled him to study at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua. In the fall, nph Kinderhilfe thankfully announced that they would cover the costs. The Padre Wasson Foundation was able to provide him with a laptop, which he urgently needed for his studies.

Lennard regularly tells us about his academic success and what makes us especially happy: his two younger sisters Brandy and Zela are also motivated to study after school. All three are "children" of Father Wasson in the second generation and went to school in "Casa Padre Wasson".



Lennard, Brandy, the mother Reyna and Zela at Brandy's graduation ceremony.

## Wilmer Ernesto Erazo (El Salvador): Dentistry



Wilmer first came to Europe as a teenager with Father Wasson, where he was allowed to visit his godmother and proved to be a true talent for languages. Although he later had a chance to stay in Germany, he decided to study dentistry in El Salvador. Despite many difficulties in a country where this field of study is rather reserved for children of privileged families, he successfully completed his studies in 2019.

Sometimes Wilmer thinks he's down on his luck. But we can perhaps see just the opposite:

Because the dental association had made a mistake in his license to practice dentistry, he was not given it like his fellow students after graduation, was not allowed to take the intended job and consequently had no income. And

then came Corona, which hit the country hard. And the measures were drastic: banned from going out except for certain days and only to buy food. The stores were controlled by the police, without the right final number in the ID valid for that day, people were even detained. Hospitals were overcrowded, staff overwhelmed. The government was desperate for medical personnel, and many young doctors came forward to help care for the Corona patients. But hygiene in the hospitals was poor. Two of Wilmer's young fellow students soon died of Corona. And Wilmer? His application had been rejected because he couldn't prove he had a license to practice. And the dental school remained closed for an entire year. So he tried everything to keep his head above water. He sold sandwiches until the police forbade him to do so (right, he didn't have a license for that either). He asked all his friends to lend him money.

When the chamber finally reopened, it was staffed with young officials to protect the older officials. The new "powers that be" told him that if



he wanted his certificate, he would have to pay another thousand dollars. Wilmer continued to run up debts... In May 2021, an opportunity arose to come to Germany as a skilled worker. We have a shortage of doctors in many areas. He soon began helping out at the nursing home while he prepares for the various exams to be "put through his paces" by the medical board to work as a dentist. We accompany him on his way through the jungle of regulations, procedures but also funding opportunities and have arranged a loan for him to cover the costs he has to bear himself.

Wilmer is the oldest of four children. His mother died giving birth to his youngest brother. The latter had a serious accident in the fall, he was hit by a car and almost killed. The surgery and treatment in El Salvador consumed a lot of money, luckily Wilmer was able to support his family. Since his sister is a nurse, his little brother was in good hands. His psychological strength was then put to the test once again when two siblings and the stepfather themselves fell ill with corona. He advised them not to go to the hospital under any circumstances, and in the meantime all three have recovered.

In December he got a first professional license and accepted a job in a dental practice. The road to licensure in Germany is still long (and costs a lot of money), but we are confident that he will make it.

## Kervens Edouard (Haiti): Economics

Kervens is a bright young man. He has applied to the University of Heidelberg for a place at university. He writes about his motivation:

*"For more than two years, Haiti has faced one of the worst political and economic crises, affecting life in all areas including schools. In addition, there was the Corona pandemic, which made the situation even worse. Despite everything, I was able to keep my motivation high and successfully complete the official exam (high school diploma) at the end of last year. "*



Kervens (left) upon his arrival where he was met by Foundation Board member Joseph Ferdinand.

*"Successful study in Germany is of great importance to me. The opportunity to learn the important concepts and methods of political economy and then to apply this acquired competence to the economic development of my home country drives me particularly."*

We think Haiti needs people with this idealism. However, we would rather support students there. The fact that we have nevertheless promised Kervens a scholarship has several reasons:

On the one hand, he actually managed to get not only a place to study in Heidelberg, but also funding for the language course he has to take before the Studienkolleg (which effectively leads to the Abitur exam for foreign students in Germany). The second hurdle was at least as high: the visa. But he managed that, too! The responsible consulate in the neighboring Dominican Republic showed a lot of empathy for a young person leaving his country for the first time. In addition, Kerven's father was worried that his son would "slip" after graduating from high school, because there was no way for him to start studying there right away. Finding a job in Haiti is also next to impossible.

The situation in Haiti continues to be uncertain. Kervens told us with concern that he reads about murders every day in the news from the homeland. Even famous musicians are not safe since the president was assassinated. After his uncle promised us support, we decided to accompany him here on his way.

Part of Kervens' family grew up with Our Little Sisters and Brothers in Haiti. So he is one of the "second tier" alumni and gives a nice example of how Father Wasson's influence works

into the other family members of the children who did not grow up under the umbrella of the organization.





Photo: Gabriel Rozycki Sanchez

# I COULD NOT SLEEP FOR FEAR



To protect the person, we do not mention their identity here.

## *Testimonio - Experience Report*

*As fate would have it, I come from one of the most dangerous countries in Central America. I love my country, I love my people, but crime is part of our daily life. Crimes of all kinds are committed: Kidnapping, rape, murder, armed robbery. Most people emigrate to the United States because they are looking for a better future, and often they also flee the country for various reasons.*

*Then I witnessed a person being murdered a few streets away from my house. I was on my way home around 6pm and I could see them shooting at a person and he fell to the ground. My immediate reaction was to run and get to my house as fast as I could, I reached my house and locked myself in, trying not to make any noise so they wouldn't notice where I had gone in. Almost all the houses on this side of the street have the same facade with black doors or gates and with somewhat dull colors. The colors almost always repeat between black, light green, wine red and light blue. However, the house I lived in has a green color and a black gate. I had adopted two dogs from the street to*

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*keep me company. When I entered the house, my dogs started barking and in a way betrayed me. It is worth mentioning that about three weeks earlier my cell phone had broken and my internet had not worked for two days, so I could not communicate with anyone.*

*My country is also one of the most corrupt countries in Central America, where politicians steal the people's money, the rich get away with it, and the police sell themselves for a few coins, so I personally have no confidence in my country's justice system.*

*The boys chased me and didn't manage to see exactly which house I entered, but as I mentioned, my dogs gave me away, so they knocked door to door until my dogs barked again, and that's how they knew where and which house I had entered. That day, after knocking on the door of my house and finding out where I lived, they came back around midnight. I couldn't sleep for fear that they would get in, and if they did I knew it would be the last day of my life. They knocked and knocked on the door of my house, which is not an ordinary door, but a gate, as it is the entrance to a parking lot. They knocked several times, but I did not open. The next day I didn't dare leave the house because I was afraid they might be watching me and waiting for me to leave the house, so I didn't leave the house or go to work. The same day they came again in the early morning, and my fear increased, so on Tuesday morning I decided to leave the house, determined to do everything. But I had to be careful. I didn't want to endanger anyone around me. From work I sent an email to my friend Stefan Gräfe in Germany, whom I had met many years ago through NPH and who is now the director of the Padre Wasson Foundation. He helped me to organize everything and to leave my country. Now I am planning and organizing my life from a different perspective, which was not in my plans, but we must take advantage of every stumbling block to strengthen ourselves and in this way learn about the different ways we can get back up when we are on the ground.*

*Thank you, Stefan, and thank you to the Father Wasson Foundation.*

# A PADRE AND HIS 50,000 DESCENDANTS

*"That the children practice charity is most important to me.  
Because if they love, they will be loved.... "*

*Padre Wasson*

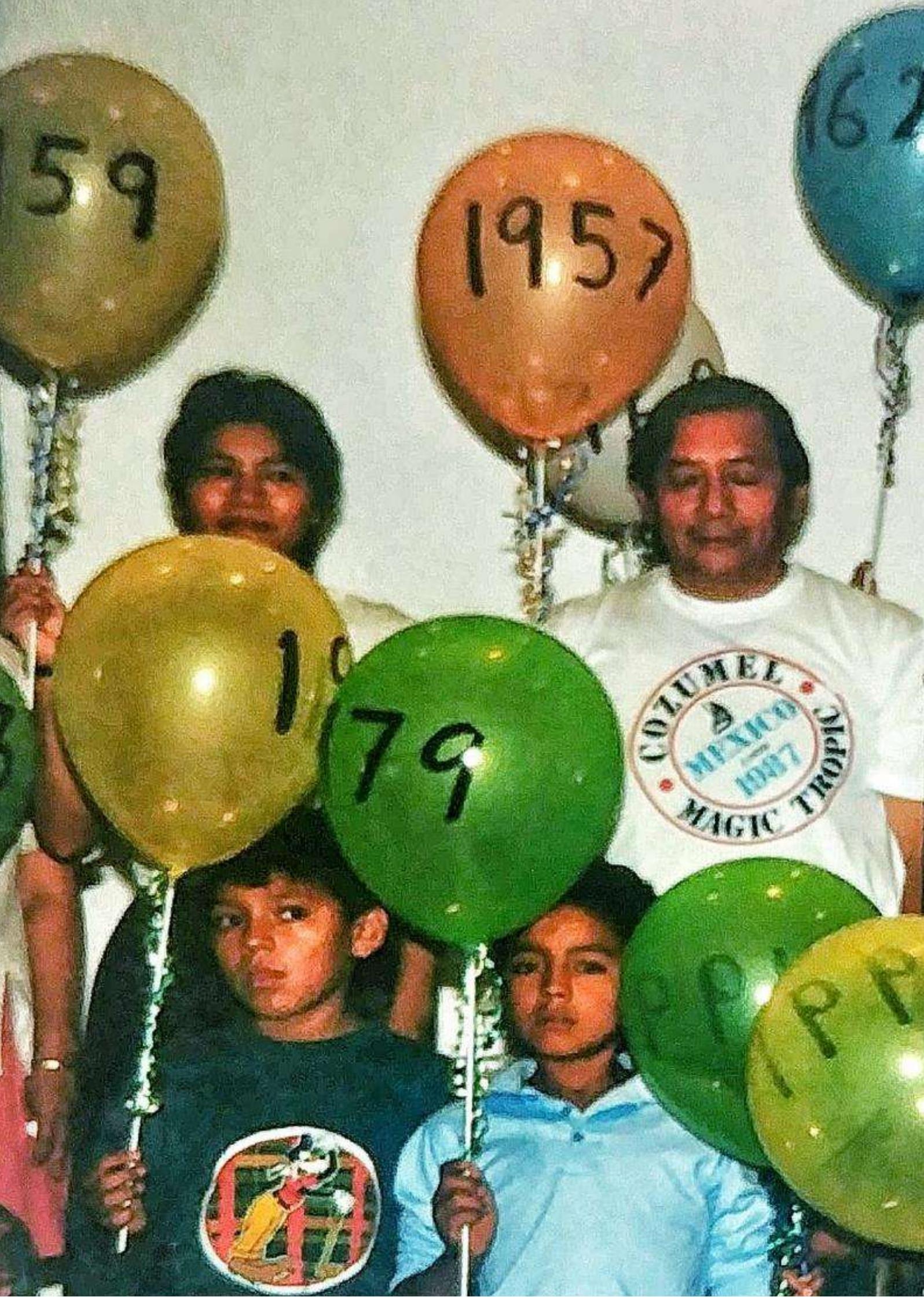
A computational experiment:

The organization "Our little sisters and brothers" has counted that since 1954 "over 20,000" children have grown up in the children's villages of the big family. This calculates an average length of stay of about 6 years (this seems little, so would have to be verified). We have distributed this over the decades and added the descendants. For now, without any scientific claim (that will come later).

In 1954, Father Wasson started with 8 children, in 1963 there were 400, in 1975 about 1000. From 1985, more countries were added. In 2010 and after, about 3500 children lived with "Our little sisters and brothers", today it is a little less. Currently, there are as many external ones, but we have not yet added them.

Our model calculation would yield, in addition to the 20,000 adults, their nearly 25,000 children, 10,000 grandchildren and just under 3,000 great-grandchildren. So there could be a group of well over 50,000 people, just under half of whom would be children up to 14 years old.

**Next page: On the 1995 anniversary, each year since the founding is represented. On this occasion, the persons carry a balloon with the year of their admission to Father Wasson's family of "little sisters and brothers".**



59

1957

62

10

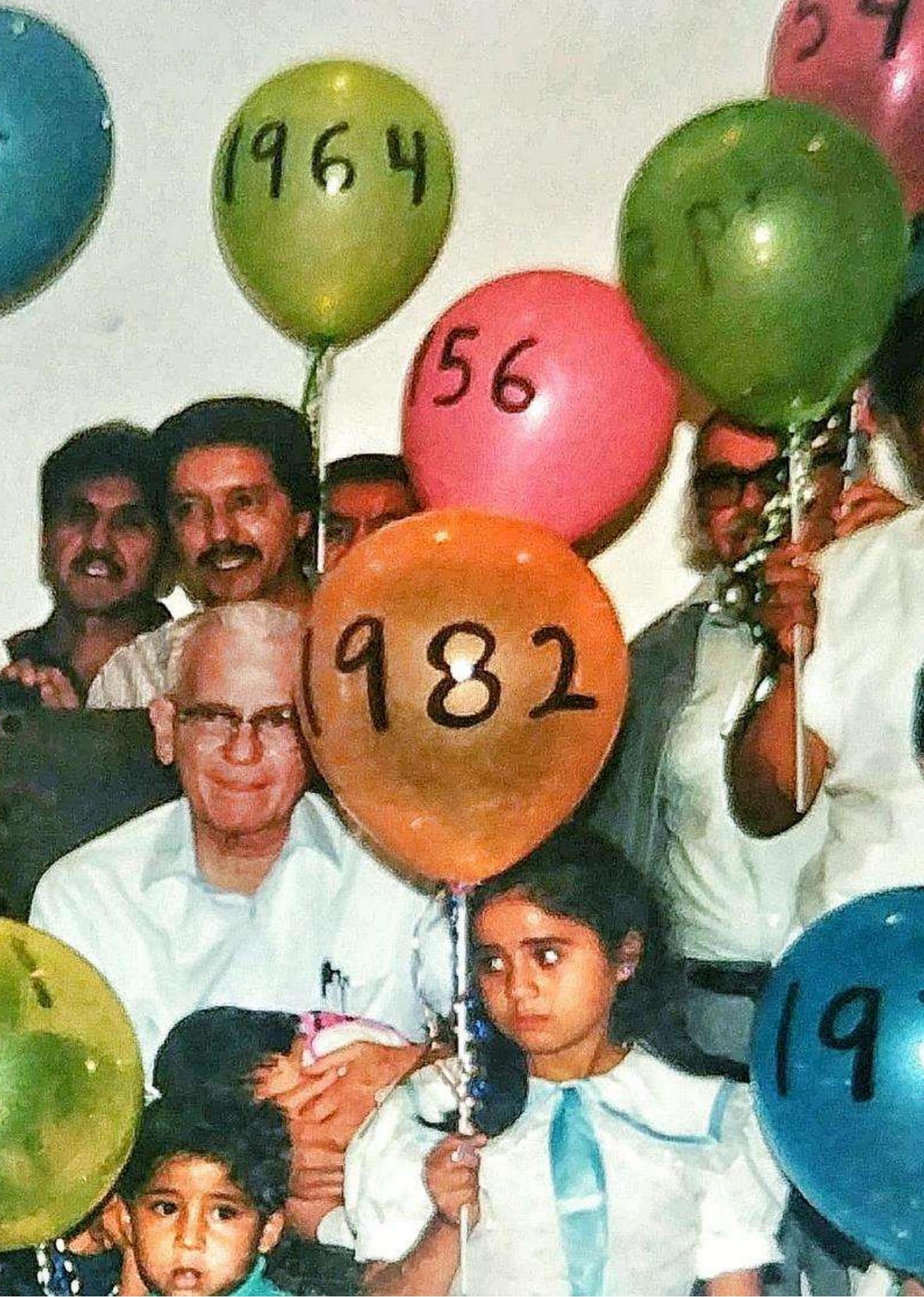
79

COLUMEL  
MEXICO  
1957  
MAGIC TROPIC



1957

1957



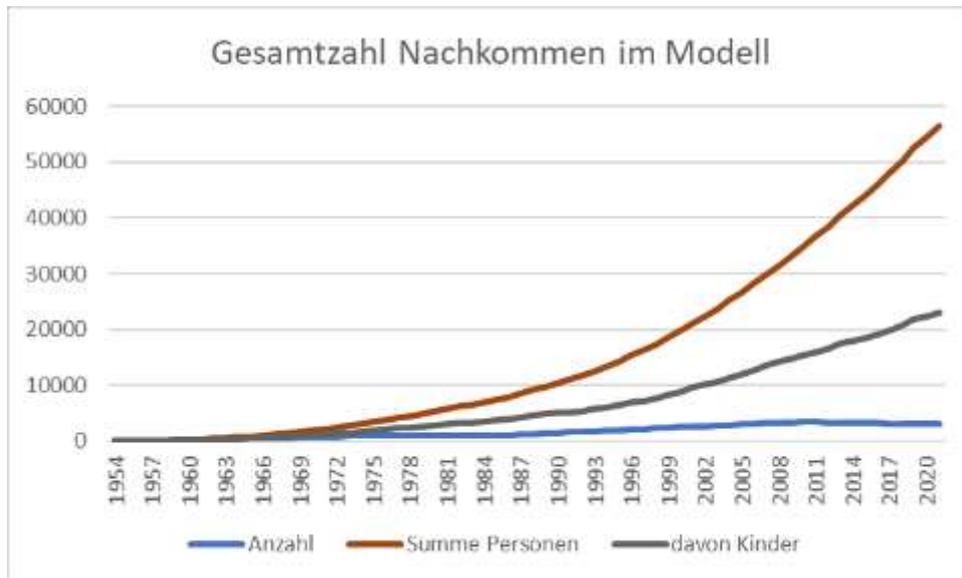
1964

56

1982

19

Then we assumed that the adult "Big Sisters and Brothers" leave the orphanage at age 19 on average and have 1.5 children at age 23 on average, as do their children's children.



Most of the "children" of Father Wasson, also have other relatives. Although Father Wasson tried to focus on the children who did not have a mother. In doing so, he took all the siblings together and it was often a challenge just to determine who the "siblings" were. He solved this by meaning all "children of one mother." In any case, there are half-siblings, much older siblings, uncles and tanks, cousins and grandparents who more or less know about the philosophy of the community, many even know the facilities of "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" from their own visits. One of the goals of our foundation is to learn more about the living situation of this group as well and to invite them together with the people who themselves grew up with Father Wasson to a community with suitable offers. This could strengthen the biological family structures and be beneficial to the development of all associated children. We estimate that this is more than 100,000 more people.

Our calculation may be far from reality, however, it becomes clear that possibly the "descendants" of Father Wasson's family could be the larger group. From our personal experience we know that at least the direct descendants of the

The older sisters and brothers were often taught by their parents the values that Father Wasson had established.

Why are we interested in the descendants? It is today's generation and it may grow strongly. Unfortunately, we know many examples where their parents did not manage to overcome poverty. Yet that was a stated goal of Father Wasson. In order for the following generations today to get to know and use the network of this special family, we would like to network and strengthen them among each other. One obvious project would be a scholarship program to enable the children's children to receive an education. Financed by their parents' generation, because many have a good living today and are very grateful to Father Wasson and "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" for this.

The arithmetic experiment has also revealed a completely different development: Since Father Wasson began taking in his first children about 70 years ago, they are now at an advanced age and are reaching the statistical end of their lives. The number of deaths in this group will increase over the next decades at a similar rate as the number of new children admitted at that time. Although "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" has always been confronted with deaths from a wide variety of causes, this is an additional challenge. Among other things, against the background that the organization certainly supports in individual cases, for example, to pay for the funeral. We think this is a true proof of a real family for life.

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# FATHER WASSON: THERE IS NO JUST WAR

For many years, Father Wasson had studied the Sermon on the Mount, going to the roots of the original texts, comparing translations, and writing down his findings. His book, *The Sermon on the Mount*, was translated into German. Father Wasson had hoped for a strong reaction from the Church. He found his work revolutionary, declaring that it provided proof why war is never the adequate means. The reaction of the church failed to materialize. His book did not become a bestseller either. But the content is highly topical as Dr. Hartmut Frei shows in the following book review.



Photo: Gabriel Rozycki Sanchez

Book review by Dr. Hartmut Frei

**Father William Wasson**

**The Sermon on the Mount - My Message for the 21st Century**

If one wants to trace Father Wasson and his life, one should also deal with the Sermon on the Mount. For Father Wasson's philosophy is clearly based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which has been handed down to us in the Gospel of Matthew, perhaps the most famous text in all of Christian literature.

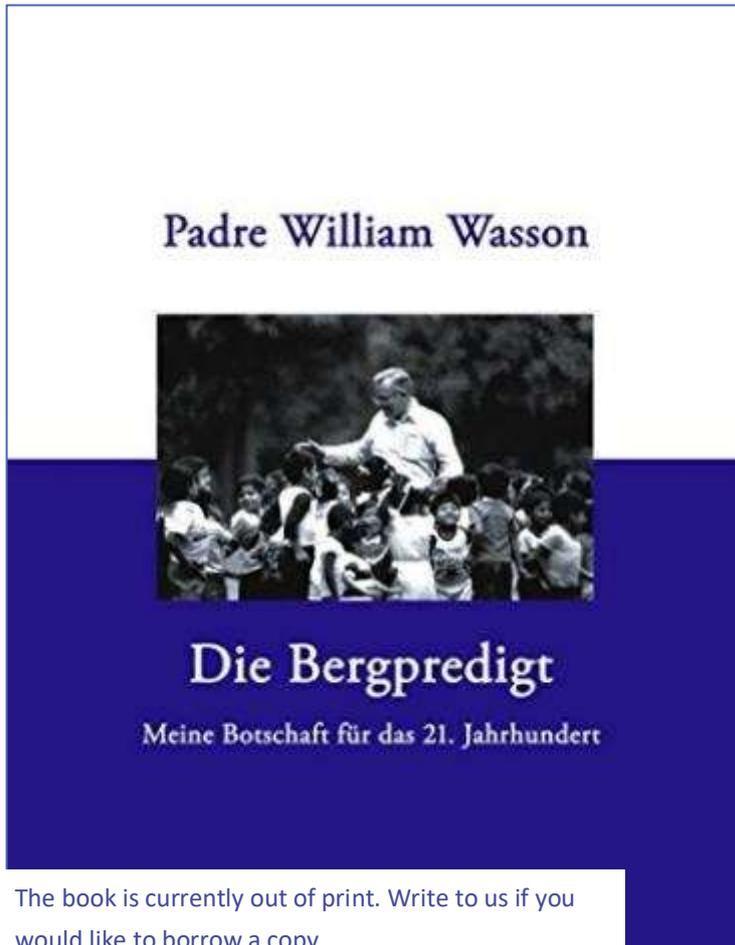
In this book "The Sermon on the Mount" by Father Wasson it is now possible to do both at the same time, to deal with the Sermon on the Mount and to learn something about Father Wasson.

First of all, two weaknesses of the otherwise well comprehensible German translation should be mentioned: First, it is difficult to impossible to translate Father Wasson's poetic and mnemonic American translation of the Bible verses into German with the same ambition, and second, the interlinear literal translation of the Greek New Testament used by Father Wasson has been replaced by the Einheitsübersetzung, so that much of the original wording and language of the New Testament has been lost in the Bible quotations.

On the one hand, this is a pity, but it does not detract from the overall work. Because Father Wasson explains the essential words and terms used in the original Greek text, the often old-fashioned words become accessible to today's readers in a new way and also independent of the Bible translation used in each case.

Right at the beginning, Father Wasson writes clear words on the topic of "poverty" and thus clearly criticizes our Western way of living in wealth at the expense of the poor in the world. He denounces not only the exorbitant spending on armaments, but also the ever-increasing social disparities, and he names the challenges that threaten the peace and security of our planet: poverty, injustice, illiteracy, disease, social degradation, drugs.

The chapter on poverty ends with a powerful appeal: "We must all become less selfish and less quarrelsome, and develop in our hearts the necessary compassion for the poorest on this planet."



**That this book, written by Father Wasson in 1999, wants to reach far beyond its time is already indicated by its subtitle "My message for the 21st century. And the statements and contents prove this claim, because they are as current as they are urgent, even today in 2021.**

Interesting also the chapter "Patience", which does not call to watch quietly and devotedly, but to feel "controlled anger" about the suffering and injustice inflicted on other people, a controlled anger as exemplified for example by Lincoln, Gandhi, or Martin Luther King.

In the further course of the book it becomes clear how much Father Wasson has dealt with Gandhi and his deductions of non-violent resistance from the Sermon on the Mount. This certainly includes the realization in the chapter "Peace" that peace is not only the opposite of war, but that a peacemaker - as Wasson writes - accomplishes the

greatest feat of which a human being is capable - to create just relationships between people.

Father Wasson proves, based on writings of very early Doctors of the Church, that in the first centuries Christianity was pacifist and thus closer to the thoughts of Jesus. It was not until the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the state religion that the pacifist era ended and Ambrose and Augustine formulated the ethics of "just war," a war that should serve to restore peace. Unfortunately, this had tragic consequences up to the present day, notes Father Wasson, who calls the just war theory not only highly questionable in terms of its derivation from the Old Testament, but who simply rejects war as a means and then proves this attitude with statements and deeds of Jesus. As an alternative to the never just war the active non-violence of Jesus and Gandhi is described. By active non-violence Christians can and should set signs on ethical questions, be loud and unmistakable and thus bring about changes. By the way, Father Wasson rejects the death penalty just as he rejects war, and he would like his church to take an even clearer position here.

Overall, the focus of the book is clearly on the topics of pacifism with the consistent rejection of war and capital punishment: "Thou shalt not kill". But also for many other terms from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, such as almsgiving, fasting, prayer without many words, stinginess, etc., Father Wasson provides good practical examples and helps for a better understanding (even if one does not necessarily have to follow his opinion, for example, in the sections on lasciviousness or divorce). Towards the end of the book, one can also somewhat get the impression that the comments become less time-related and less concrete, and after the epilogue, without further explanation for the reason for this, follows a Book II "The Last Judgment", which comes along without any personal statements by Father Wasson and therefore somehow does not really want to fit into the previous context.

**All in all, the book "The Sermon on the Mount" by Father Wasson is a highly readable and topical book, which reaches far beyond its time and challenges us as Christians on the basis of the**

**Sermon on the Mount to listen more to Jesus' words than to all later authorities. Concrete examples - especially from Gandhi - prove that there are alternatives to violent conflicts and that wrong interpretations of Jesus' teachings in history have led to bad consequences and partly still do today.**

**After reading this book, one has the impression of having come a little closer to Jesus and his words, thanks to Father Wasson.**



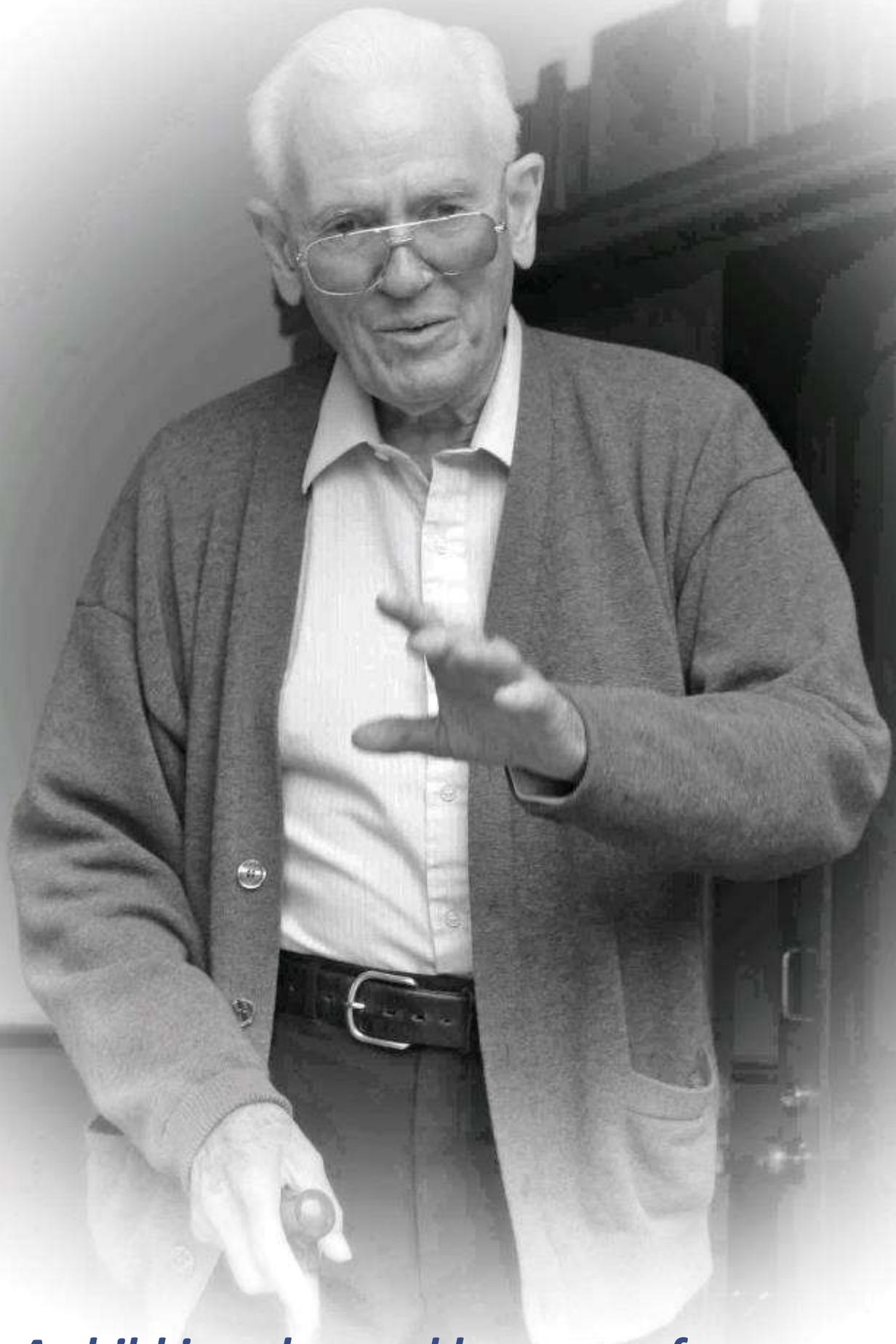
# 80 ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE

*"It's amazing what you can do in life if you take  
it one step at a time"*

*Padre Wasson*

Father Wasson himself must have been impressed by the impact of his many steps over the decades. We have counted: Over 80 institutions, groups and organizations have come into being since 1954 as a result of his impetus! The interactive map will be available later on our homepage, here is a first preview:





***A child is only good because of someone***

Only through a role model a child becomes good

Father Wasson

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY - SOON HE WOULD BE 100



Karlsruhe's mayor congratulates P. Wasson

Born on December 21, 1923, in Phoenix, Arizona, Father Wasson was always committed to the needs of the poor. He studied law and social sciences at San Luis Rey University in Santa Barbara, California. His goal was the priesthood, but due to a health problem he was denied ordination.

His father gave him a \$100 bill and encouraged him to take time off. Young Wasson then traveled to Mexico, where he was ordained a priest in 1953 by the VII Bishop of Cuernavaca. Father Wasson was assigned to the chapel in the Tepetates market district of Cuernavaca and soon founded a day care center for poor children.

A year later, he saved a boy from a prison sentence. The boy had stolen from the church's poor box "because he was hungry. Father Wasson took the boy into his care. The judge later asked him if he would take in eight more juvenile delinquents, which he did. Thus was born the extended family "Our Little Sisters and Brothers" (in Spanish Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos). The name comes from the Gospel of Matthew and refers to the least of these brothers ("Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me").

Father Wasson has dedicated his life to serving as a father, provider and teacher to more than 20,000 orphaned, abandoned and poor children. His organization now operates homes in nine countries: Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Peru and Bolivia. He has received international recognition for his work on behalf of children. As a scribe, Father Wasson has written several books, and his last book, "The Sermon on the Mount," has been translated into several languages.

On August 16, 2006, Father Wasson died in Cottonwood, Arizona, after several weeks of saying goodbye to his "children" who had visited him. His legacy lives on through thousands of "Big Sisters and Brothers" in Latin America and beyond.

The Padre Wasson Foundation, established Dec. 21, 2020, will document his work, carry his legacy into the future and connect the people whose lives he touched and those his work will continue to touch.





Padre  
Wasson  
Foundation

Starke Familien • starke Gemeinschaft

**Father Wasson Foundation**

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