



## **Striking images of hope**

### **Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann publishes illustrated book on his aid projects in India and Tanzania**

(Essen, November 2009) **A new illustrated book entitled 'Hoffnung geben' ('Delivering hope') proves the old adage that a picture says more than a thousand words. Each image in this book illustrates the work of the Christian relief organisation wortundtat e.V., which delivers aid to well over 100,000 people in India, Tanzania and Moldova – especially the poor. It provides free medical care, carries out extensive welfare work, offers educational opportunities for all age groups and oversees the installation of urgently needed infrastructure, as well as spreading the word of God's love of mankind. Behind these efforts is a well-known personality: Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann, the book's publisher. Since founding the wortundtat association over 30 years ago following an encounter with leprosy sufferers, he has channelled not only money, but boundless energy into helping the poorest of the poor.**

wortundtat has always operated on the principle of helping local people help themselves: rather than sending development experts, the German-based organisation provides only financial support and strategic advice. With equal dedication, Dr. Deichmann consistently monitors the work of local aid workers: since 1977, the committed Christian and entrepreneur (now 83) has been travelling at least once a year to the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and since 1996 he has been visiting southern Tanzania to keep abreast of progress on current projects. On his trips to India in autumn 2008 and Tanzania in the summer of 2009, Dr. Deichmann was accompanied by Rüdiger Fessel, a press photographer from Duisburg who has spent more than three decades working professionally for the daily media. The things he saw made an impression on him that is reflected in his pictures.

This 132-page illustrated book presents a small selection of Rüdiger Fessel's photographs taken during the two trips. Around 100 large-format images strikingly depict various aspects of human poverty and the ways in which aid can be extended to people in need. The pictures are accompanied by contributions from several authors describing the activities that the wortundtat organisation undertakes, thereby giving hope to those in despair, showing the powerless how to help themselves and opening up new futures to people with no prospects.

#### **Run or stay and help**

"Thirty years ago, when I first came to India and found myself confronted by multitudes of leprosy sufferers, and I saw the obvious signs of poverty and squalor, I didn't know whether to turn and run or stay and help," says Dr. Deichmann, recalling the early days. He chose to stay, and founded the wortundtat relief organisation. As the images and essays in the book make clear, a simple friendly gesture or an embrace can matter as much as material assistance in giving people cause for hope. "If that message comes across to somebody leafing through the book, then we've achieved something important," says Dr. Deichmann, who also wrote the foreword.

Other contributions vividly depict how adversity can turn to optimism, and how the word effectively complements the deed. The illustrated volume, authored in German and English throughout, is now available from bookshops.

**Dr. Heinz Horst Deichmann (publisher) / Rüdiger Fessel**

Hoffnung geben! Wie Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe in Indien und Tansania möglich ist

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More information on aid projects may be found at [www.wortundtat.org](http://www.wortundtat.org).

To download various printer-friendly pages from the illustrated book along with a printable cover page (300dpi), click on *Service* → *Press/Download*. These are free to use with the wortundtat e.V. photo reference.

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**wortundtat e.V.**

wortundtat is a private Christian relief organisation founded by Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann in 1977. Since its establishment, it has provided all manner of help to disadvantaged people in India, Tanzania, Moldova and Greece. In 2008 alone, more than 100,000 needy individuals benefited from the work of wortundtat. The name of the organisation ('word and deed' in English) says it all: wortundtat spreads the word of God's love for those who are amongst the poorest of the poor. At the same time, the non-profit organisation delivers a wide range of practical support in the social and medical fields. On consecutive occasions, wortundtat has received the seal of approval from the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI). The seal provides the guarantee that wortundtat utilises its donations responsibly and according to statutes. wortundtat experts scrutinise how donated funds are used in operational areas by monitoring accounting processes and performing visual inspections; additional checks are carried out by an independent auditing company.