

Newsletter, January 27, 2022

Dear Friends,

The efforts of our colleagues in Kabul to get the Ministry of Religious Affairs - which is our partner ministry - to resume our teaching operations are on the back burner. As reported, our people had been negotiating about this with the head of the department responsible for working with us. The head of the department was very clueless. He was frightened by the idea of girls being taught in the mosques. After all, girls could contaminate the mosques when they reach puberty. The head of the department had to consult his minister about every question raised by the talks. However, it took him several weeks before he took heart. The minister decided that girls should not be taught in the mosques. He also ordered that we no longer have to pay our teachers ourselves. We just have to give our money to the Taliban and they will do it.

We continue to pay our teachers ourselves. That alone is not a problem. The Taliban have no way of controlling our finances. But we cannot start teaching again. Our colleagues can now see if emergencies have developed in the families of our students and teachers and then provide some financial help. But otherwise, our Afghans are idle.

Worse yet! Even the fuel supply is sputtering. So far, we have been able to send our money to get it to Kabul to an account of reliable partners in Turkey. The partners cashed a fee and disbursed the money in Kabul. Unfortunately, Turkish President Erdogan has ruined his country's currency to the extent that Turkey converts incoming foreign currency into Turkish Lira and only allows it out of the country as such. A new transport route is bitterly needed. We are looking for it.

The situation does not exactly promote optimism - but it does stimulate the imagination and the will to fight. In Afghanistan, there are different routes to most destinations. Sometimes you need patience, sometimes a detour, sometimes the right contact. The situation now is a low point. It will go up.

At this time of year we produce donation receipts. For donations up to 200 € the tax offices recognize deposit receipts. So there is no need for a certificate from OFARIN. And we are so lazy not to issue one if it is not explicitly requested. We can only send donation receipts by postal mail, so we need your postal address to deliver receipts.

This business message is after the preceding horror messages something neutral, the only non-negative I can offer you. Therefore, I will close with it, in the hope that I will soon - I fear not yet next time - be able to report something really positive to you.

Best regards,

Peter Schwittek.