



## ZZg in short

### Who we are

ZZg is the mission organisation of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands. ZZg is part of the European Continental Church Province and as such part of the Unitas Fratrum worldwide. Founded in 1793 ZZg has been preaching, for more than two centuries, the Good News that God came into our world in Jesus Christ.

### What we consider as our mission

ZZg preaches the Good News not only in words (predication), but also in action (service). ZZg aims at preaching the Gospel, diaconal care and development cooperation. And, what is more, ZZg considers informing people in the Netherlands, aimed at raising awareness, one of its central tasks.

In the beginning ZZg focused on missionary activities in Surinam, but later other countries came into the picture. At the moment Tanzania is an important country for us, not in the least because the Moravian Church in Tanzania counts 500.000 members: half of the total membership of the Moravian Church worldwide.

### Some figures

Revenues 2010	€ 2.516.660
Spent in Surinam	€ 1.148.691
Spent in Tanzania	€ 146.345
Spent in other countries	€ 141.829
Expired obligations	€ 117.893
Staff	9
Office volunteers	3
Subscriptions ZZg-news	ca. 29.000
Donors	almost 10.000

Costs for our fundraising compared to the revenues from fundraising	14,8 %
Management and administration compared to total expenditure	10,0 %

### The way we work

Our work in the South consists of three types of activities:

1. Missionary work  
Spent: € 215.364  
This is direct support to the Brother Communities in the partner countries that we work with.
2. Diaconal care  
Spent: € 182.764  
This is direct help, often by partner organisations, given to the poor nearby.
3. Development cooperation  
Spent: € 1.145.003  
This is support of bigger projects and programs which aim at lasting improvement of the situation of the target group.

### What we believe

A stone plaque reminds us of the gathering, on May 28th 1793, when thirty-four brothers signed the statutes of the "*Unitas Fratrum for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Heathens*". ZZg has been preaching its missionary Gospel for 217 years now.

## 2010 at a glance: completion and reorientation

### Completion

Looking back on 2010 we see the next outlines:

- the end of the policy period 2006-2010 and the end of the first period of financial support by the government
- falling revenues and expenditure cuts by the government.
- changes in staff

The policy period 2006-2010 came to an end. The policy paper *Moved in motion* mainly addressed the question HOW the financial means should be spent. That the money ended up in the right projects, through a specified distribution key. It was less interested in the question what results were yielded from the projects that were financed.

ZZg was able to finance the programs for development cooperation from the government through the so-called MFS1 System of Financial Support by the government. In that system ZZg was a member of the alliance *Change for Children*. This system of financial support by the government came to an end in 2010.

Revenues from donors fell in 2010, like they did in the previous years. Public opinion showed growing concerns about the meaningfulness of development cooperation. In 2009 ZZg became a member of a new alliance for the second period of financial support by the government, MFSII. This is the so-called ICCO Alliance, with the organisations ICCO/Kerk in Actie, Prisma, Edukans, Yente, SharePeople and ZZg as members. Unfortunately, the Alliance was allocated only 60% of the means that were requested, due to government cuts in the budget of development cooperation. For ZZg this meant that only one program (Surinam) remained of the two that were submitted, i.e. Surinam and Tanzania.

As for staff, we marked the end of an era. Job van Melle, General Secretary, left ZZg after ten years of service. We also said goodbye to Werend Griffioen, head of the Communication department.

### Reorientation

A policy paper was drawn up in a process of intensive cooperation between the staff and the Board. It's titled: *Commitment works!* Key words are commitment, compassion and future. This policy paper shows that many activities and projects continue more or less, but that there are shifts of emphasis in the approach.

The main emphasis in policy decisions is no longer *HOW* we spend our means. In the years to come we will look especially at results and sustainability. *WHAT* do our partners want to achieve, and how will they sustain their results when our support decreases? This shift of emphasis did not appear out of the blue but is the result of the lessons learnt in the previous policy period.

This shift of emphasis in our policy has consequences, of course. Last year we had intensive contacts about the future with some of our key partners in Surinam, Tanzania and Jamaica.

### Our successes

We have succeeded in translating the lessons from the previous years into a policy vision that emphasizes getting results and sustaining improvements by the people for whom the projects are meant.

The consultations with our partners were sometimes difficult. It is not easy to discuss what did not go well in the past, and to find out what each partner can do to make things better. But these consultations were necessary to make our partners go along with our shift of emphasis. We have succeeded, together with our partners, in remaining focused on the matter and at the same time in sustaining our partner relationship.

The shift of emphasis in our policy decisions was described in a memorandum (*Procedure Financing and Dispatching Projects*), in which our methods are stated.

Finally we are proud of our donors who have remained loyal to us. They are still an important pillar on which our work is built.

## **What can be improved?**

We have not succeeded yet in formulating a strong and appealing vision on our missionary work. Of course, ZZg will go on supporting the Moravian community worldwide, but missionary work comprises more than that. We recognise that it will take more than a few months for a truly innovative vision to come about, because we are going to develop it together with our partners. We have started developing this vision already, but this process takes time.

In the new policy paper, we have not been able yet to formulate a strong and comprehensive vision on fundraising. This too needs our attention in the years to come and this too is not going to be solved soon. Finding new ways takes time.

## **About the future**

Big changes are taking place in the field of development cooperation, and ZZg is going to change with it. We are aware that we still have time to prepare ourselves for the period after the government support comes to an end. As far as we can tell, there will not be a third period of financial assistance from the government. This means ZZg is going to lose a third of its budget in 2015.

Because of this we feel an urge to find new groups of people who are committed to our work. They don't have to be just donors. There is, for instance, an increasing number of entrepreneurs who feel committed to work for a better world. It is clear that the way we work will be different in five years' time, especially if we want to work together with entrepreneurs effectively.

We will focus systematically on the opportunities that lie ahead of us. But we will also keep in mind where we came from.

After all, we did not start off as an organisation for development cooperation, but as a society for missionary work. It is good to try and find a new content for the words *missionary work*, especially in a period in which we notice that the core of the problems and solutions is more than just money or lack of materials. We see more and more that vision, perspective, motivation and discipline are just as important as building materials, computers, school roofs and well functioning toilets. But these cannot as easily be solved with just money.

Maybe ZZg finds itself in the same position as Peter and his colleagues, when they were asked for alms. He answered the beggar: " Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee". The poor man asked for a short-term solution and received a structural one which did not cost any money. Perhaps we can do more with less money in future, concentrating on solutions of a different kind.

The new Policy paper 2011-2015 does not provide a fixed set route. We cannot predict where we will be in 2012, 2013 and further. We will have to adjust our course, taking into account ZZg's aim to support the Moravian community worldwide, and the ever changing opportunities to achieve this. Our objectives for each year are important instruments to plot our course. Every three months we will assess them and see to what extent our work achieves tangible results, and if our investments in time and money contribute to achieve our objectives for the year. At the end of each year this effort will give us information for a new, adjusted course. For one thing is certain: *commitment works!* But not along straight roads.