

**Ueber die Mauer, 23th of July – 6th of August 2016 – daily reports
sent through Monika Hofmann (origin)**

Betreff: daily report 24th of July, Über die Mauer

Dear Parents

After planning and preparing since nearly one year it's reality:

The German group arrived in the early morning in Ben Gurion at about 4 a.m. and one hour later they entered the gate to Talitha.

Here you can follow them: <https://www.uberdiemauer.com/2016/de/tagebuch>

Flight and trip to Talitha was uncomplicated and all of them went to bed to sleep some hours until Brunch at 11 a.m.

It was the first contact for some of the students to taste some Arabic salads – so they now know how the Palestinian felt last year.

We had a short guided tour with Carolin and Moritz, the two Brass for Peace volunteers, in Talitha Kumi, our first accommodation.

In the afternoon there was the first meeting with all the 15 German students and the 12 Palestinian. It was nice to see, how they talked to each other after one year seeing again. Some games helped to remember the names.

Also the first rehearsal took place. I'm very glad, that Carolin, Moritz, Stefan and Fridtjof are the conductors during this tour. They do a good job and I'm sure, everybody will enjoy making music together. It was a good sound after the first rehearsal!

Also Anna (volunteer in Beit Sahour) and Antje (one mother of German students) prepared some games, especially the well known "killing-game". We will tell more about this in the next days.

So you see, everything is going well!

Many greetings to all from Talitha Kumi

Monika plus team

Betreff: daily report Monday 25th of July Über die Mauer

Dear Parents,

it was a long and hot day for all – like in Germany last year.

In the morning we had our first meeting in Dar Annadwa (internationales Begegnungszentrum) with almost all students in Bethlehem. So it was interesting: the Palestinian were there in German time, the German Palestinian time.

Easy to explain: the German group, 20 members today, had to catch the public bus from Talitha (coming from Jerusalem) to Bethlehem. But the first bus didn't stop, so they had to walk a long distance to the next stop. And there they had to wait. And to wait. And to wait. It was very hot today. And they waited still. At long last there was a bus,... and they were really late, but they called me. I was waiting with the Palestinian. German time of course 😊 you can imagine, what they were talking about 😊

Some of the Palestinian students prepared a guided tour in Bethlehem: Lutheran Christmas church: Nataly and Lubna explained a lot about the congregation. Next stop: Salesian handicraft school: because Saher had school today he invited us. It was very interesting to look to the workshops for carving olive wood, doing pottery and looking to workshops for carving mother of pearls.

Then we walked through the Suuq, the daily market. You can buy everything there: fruit, vegetables, meat, but also shoe and underwear. So everything. Very impressive.

In the nativity church Shadin and Fadi explained about the history and also in the milk grotto church we heard about Mary and the baby Jesus.

On the way back we visited one of our friends, Jack, he has an olive wood factory and a shop. By chance he had birthday today and we sang "happy birthday" for him. It was very emotional for him.

Also the German had their first time Falafel! As I felt, they enjoyed it.

The rehearsal in the afternoon was very long, but very concentrated, so you can hear a difference between yesterday and today. Maybe you find some pictures or videos in facebook or in the blog: Anna and Felix are very busy to post everything! Thanks you two!

Of cours we did some games. And in the "killer –game" some people were killed today. In that game you have to kill special persons in a special mind. In the beginning everybody gets two secret papers: one with a name of a student, one with a special item, maybe a bottle. You have to give this person e.g. the bottle by hand, so that he doesn't feel that it is in the game. If he takes it, he is killed. The games needs several days, and there could be just one winner. So we are sad, that we lost some students today 😊

Today Nancy and Grace visited us shortly in Talitha Kumi. It was nice to meet them again!

Have a good night! Hopefully next report from Sebastiya, if there is a internet! And we will meet Hani Azar, he is coming with us.

Monika and team

Betreff: daily report Tuesday, 25th of July, Über die Mauer

Dear all,

Today we travelled by bus to Sebastiya, that means, that we did a trip to the North of the Westbank.

Starting early in the morning, our bus should take us in Talitha Kumi,... but what do you expect.. he was late. But it was no matter, we had a save trip to Sebastiya. After around 2 hours we arrived. It's not far from Bethlehem, but Palestinian are not allowed to take the road through Jerusalem, so we needed even long time just to go around Jerusalem. There are a few checkpoints, but today no control.

Sebastiya is more hot than Bethlehem. As we reached Kayed Palace guesthouse we could feel this difference directly. Kayed Palace was built around the year 1850, later it was destroyed. Since some years it's renewed and used like a guest house. There are different levels for the rooms, a big yard in the middle, several terraces and it has a beautiful atmosphere. We had some discussions after allocating the rooms. We asked the students to discuss it professional, like in a council – and it worked.

Dinner was perfect and also the rehearsal was very nice – in the evening in the big yard.. . I was organizing some things during the rehearsal in the upper terrace, when there came some local women. They were a little curious about this new sound in Sebastiya. I think, in some days every body will know something about our group. Good promotion for our concert.

After rehearsal we ha a short walk through Sebastiya, there are many ancient houses, and a road with columns from Roman period. Also we visited the grave of John the Baptism. It's said, that he was there in prison, later on he was buried there. In our times there is no Christian family any longer, but many orthodox pilgrims come to pray in Sebastiya.

And everybody is talking to everybody in English, very different to the last year in Germany. I'm very happy about this.

And just in the moment it's the daily end – and you believe it or not: they sang together "Abide with me" (Bleib bei mir Herr) in four different voices. I wish you could listen – it sounds beautiful!

And now there is a little wind, cooling down, perfect day!

Greetings from Sebastiya!

Monika and team

Betreff: daily report Wednesday, 27th of July Über die Mauer

Dear all,

Today it was second day in Sebastiya. The temperature was a little less than yesterday, we were very happy. Even the humidity was very high, but in the afternoon there was a cooling wind.

We had a typical Arabic breakfast, lots of salat, bread, hummus etc. For some of the German a little strange, but some of them started to like the taste.

Punctual, nearby German time we started with rehearsals at 8:30 in the morning. Every voice had his own rehearsal, so the local people could listen the tenor voice from "Heal the world", the Soprano was practicing a Suite of Vivaldi, the Alto and Basso practiced something else. Maybe the people of the village get confused a little bit. Or it makes them curious to listen to our concert on Friday.

In the afternoon we had an intercultural workshop. The aim was, to observe a special situation in a little sketch. Then to interpret it and exchange experiences. In the following reflection most of the students had a light bulb moment (Aha-Erlebnis): they noticed, that they always interpret situations based to their own background, and that's also an option to change the perspective and also the kind of interpretation. Valuable experience!

And the killer game run on. Many people were killed in these two days. Shadin killed.... ME! it was the event of the day! You could hear the applaus through the complete palace! Great job!

During the break after lunch some of the students walked a little bit, they were excited about the landscape, figs (Feigen), olivetrees and everything. And it's not our last hike.

Tomorrow – sorry, today – we do the next hike: sunrise-hiking, starting at 5 a.m.. ... whoooo set up this schedule???

Bye bye for this time!

Yours Monika and team

Betreff: daily report Thursday, 28th of July Über die Mauer

Dear all,

the night was very short... we asked the students to get up early, because we wanted to leave at 5.a.m to do the sunrise hike. For me it was about 3 hours to sleep. Some others slept even shorter... but they all were punctual. German time. We had a good alarm clock: one of our youngest students has very much energy... he wake up and was on power. Nobody couldn't sleep any longer. And then we walked to the archeological sights of Sebastiya, guided by a local people. We climbed up a little hill and waited for the sunrise. But the sun was hidden by clouds.. So there was a cold wind, some of us were shivering, but we waited, and waited. Then suddenly the clouds opened a little and we could imagine how it could be without clouds. The nature changed their color totally. And also the temperature at the moment, the sun wasn't behind the clouds... so we walked to a small shop to get traditional sandwiches: Chacktschuka: bread, filled with eggs, tomatos, and some spices. Hm,mmm

We continued our hike, looking to roman columns, a ruin of a christian church and the former railway line to Turkey. It was amazing to see, which some of the students enjoyed the nature and for whom it was boring a little. But we had fun together!

Back in our Palace we had a small break, some of us tried to sleep, me too. But every five minutes somebody was asking for me. Then I was back in my bed I just listened to some boys sitting in front of my door. Two Palestinian tried to teach about 5 Palestinian (the shy ones) to speak some Arabic words. The Palestinian did it like maybe their teachers at school. It was very funny, tears came up to my eyes and I couldn't sleep.

During the breaks the students started to talk to each other more and more. And soon as the students changed to their native tongue, the others asked them to switch back to English. It's much better than last year, they really get into good contact.

For the rehearsal in the afternoon we asked them for whom wanted to conduct one of the songs. We have 27 students, and 20 wanted to conduct. Even if they didn't it never before. Everybody prepared his piece of music and did it. Some of them in classical style, some of them in freestyle, it was wonderful to see, that all of them are talented and all of them spent applause, even if it was not professional. Also Hani, our Arabic team member and Antje, responsible for games etc, did it. Nobody laughed at somebody, all of them respected each other. That's our next conducting generation in our ensembles!

Then we discussed the allocation of the students to the host families. Like last year they had to discuss it by themselves but with following some rules. It was much easier and faster than last year and everything is working well.

Our dinner was a typical Arabic meal: Msachan. It's bread, on top of it onions and Summak (Essigbaumgewürz) and a piece of chicken, and grilled of course. In the first moment it's a very unexpected taste, but many of them liked it. During the evening we did some more intercultural games, to figure out, how to deal with stereotypes in our and the other culture.

The day was long, everybody is very tired. We expected that ☺ so it's a good chance to fall asleep today much more early than usual and tomorrow we hopefully are fully concentrated for our concert.

Have a save night! Monika

Betreff: daily report Friday, 29th of July Über die Mauer

Hello to everybody

This morning we postponed the breakfast to 8.30 a.m., and anyhow the students were still tired.... So we enjoyed a very silent breakfast. In the rehearsal we divided the group again in four groups: trumpets and low brass and German or Palestine. So every group worked hard for the concert. After lunch there was a long break, the students enjoyed and the staff relaxed a little. Later the students made some games by them selves, it worked really good.

Then we did the last preparations for the concert. The conditions were really hard, because we had about 34 degree Celsius and sticky air, the humidity also very high. So you always feel sweaty and the skin feels wet. And during playing the instrument, your mouthpiece is sliding up and down on your lips. The students played a very good concert, 60 minutes, just two short announcement. Congratulation to the volunteers, you worked very good!

The funny thing: just 5 minutes after coming back to "our" palace the students started to repeat some songs from the concert with their instrument. It seems that they didn't play enough today.

Today was the dinner in the big court yard of the palace, instead of walking to the restaurant like every other evening. It was again a special Arabic food: the dug a big and deep hole and made fire in it. Then they take a round rack with different layers. The layers are filled with meat, afterwards they put the rack into the hole and cover it. After some hours the meal is ready. Delicious!

And now it's party in the courtyard, some students are dancing, some are talking together, others play cards and some – like me – are nearby sleeping. Although the music is very loud. They seem to be very happy together.

An in addition to the report yesterday: of course the Arabic lesson was for the German students (I wrote a mistake yesterday). If you follow the link you can see the video. Enjoy it!
https://www.facebook.com/brassforpeace/videos/1665414370448464/?autoplay_reason=gatekeeper&video_container_type=0&video_creator_product_type=2&app_id=2392950137

All the best from our pre last day in Sebastiya,

Monika

Betreff: daily report, Saturday, 30th of July Über die Mauer

Dear friends of „Über die Mauer“

This day was the last day in Sebastiya, in the old palace. After the concert the students and the teamers had a big party, especially some of the students didn't sleep a lot. So during breakfast it was very silent. Everybody was tired, and somehow without energy.

But to play together different songs gave them the energy back. For our short concerts on public places we have some music in our books, that's not fitting to a classical concert. So the volunteers gave the next generation the chance, to do rehearsals and to conduct. I enjoyed to see, that some of our students – German one and Palestine – are able, not only to conduct (it means, making the figures with the arms), just also to show their musically aims and work on it. Bravo, next generation!

After the lunch we left Sebastiya – we had five beautiful days in this old palace. We were free to use every room as we wanted, und in the same time it was a save area so we could work concentrated during our stay. It was a very good atmosphere and I want to thank everybody who helped us, to have a successful workshop there.

Antje, one of our teamer was wondering, what the old stones are thinking about us. So she wrote a short story, pleas find it attached. Sorry, just in German, but it's too late for me to translate.

Since afternoon the students are with the families. I'm very curios to hear, how they feel.

Tomorrow we will meet at the Checkpoint to perform in the Evangelical service in the Church of Redeemer (Erlöserkirche) in Jerusalem. And after we did a small concert we will have a short guided tour in Jerusalem. Unfortunately only four Palestinian students have the possibility to come with us, because they have a permission to pass the Checkpoint. The others didn't get this permission, so Carolin stays with them in Bethlehem, making music in the Lutheran Christmas church in the same time. We tried our best, but it didn't work with the permits. Hopefully next time.

Have a good night

Monika

Betreff: daily report, Sunday, 31st of July Über die Mauer

Dear all,

it was a long and intensive day in Jerusalem – at least for the 15 German and the four Palestinian who had a permit to come with us.

We met at 8.a.m. in the morning at the Checkpoint in Bethlehem, nearby all of the students were punctual. So we could pass the checkpoint very quickly, also the four Palestinians didn't got trouble. One of the public busses was waiting for people so we could stay together as a group and at 9 a.m. we arrived in Jerusalem, old city, in the Evangelical Church of redeemer. So it was enough time for practicing and warm up.

During our prelude I was very deeply moved... tears came up in my eyes, because this moment was great: 8 years ago we NEVER thought, that Brass for Peace will work as good as it is. Also we never thought, that a exchange program could work, and that there are at least some Palestinian joining us in Jerusalem. It was a great feeling for me, sitting between German and Palestinian who have the same feeling for music, the same favorite songs and many other common things. I'm proud of everybody of them students and volunteers.

After the service we had a short concert in the cross coat. Although the people were talking to each other they listened and clapped very loud at the end. After having a small break, one of the volunteers in the church of Redeemer guided our group to the tower of the church and through the old city. So they heard a lot about the different quarters in the old city, Jewish settlements in the Christian quarter and about the wall surrounding the old city.

Many thanks to Leander!

Also the way back was easy, we walked with our instruments to Damaskus gate and found the bus to Beit Jala/Bethlehem easily. Some of the students were dropped off somewhere on the way, but the Palestinian students, who stayed at home (because of the missing permit) were waiting at the street to pick their guests up. It was another perfect day.

Carolin stayed in Bethlehem with all the students who didn't get a permit... Carolin wrote: *Part of the group who havent been allowed to enter to Jerusalem played in the service in Bethlehem. As always the church and all the members welcomed us very warm. We enjoyed playing in the service and the people over there enjoyed as well. The priest mentioned that I by myself am leaving soon and it was kind of surprise, when they took me in the prayer – Carolin mentioned, that she still has problems to understand the Arabic during the service, but the surprise she could understand!*

Best wishes to all!

Monika

Please: maybe you are wondering because you maybe get the mails twice a day... the reason is: internet in my home is not really good, so sometimes it's a delay in sending. Sorry.

Betreff: daily report, Monday, 1st of August, Über die Mauer

Dear friends of Über die Mauer

Relaxing-day! It was really necessary. Nearby every student was sleeping long in the morning. Because every student stayed with the family I don't know exactly what they did. Some of them stayed at home, one was with a teacher in the Bethlehem University, some of them did a little sightseeing, etc. As I met them in the afternoon they all looked satisfied.

I asked some of them how they feel in their families and they first of all told me, that's like at home. The mother takes care of them and also the mothers are very good cooks. For me it's good to hear, that all of them like the Arabic food. It's totally different to the German food. Even if it's e.g. the same vegetable like "Kusa" (Zucchini), it's cooked totally different, also the spices are very different.

Today one of the families invited all the teamers to their house for lunch – that was really great. The family has five boys, and four of them are members of Brass for Peace. And also they have three male guests. Plus six of our teamer. It was a big table, and it was fantastic food: filled Kusa and wrapped leaves of the grape ("Dawali", Weintraubenblätter). Very delicious. And some cookies, and coffee.... Not only the volunteers enjoyed to stay and eat with the family, even the three guests from Brass for Peace. Our language was a mixture between Arabic, English and German, sometimes within one sentence. Funny!

After the meal we visited their factory for mother of pearls (Perlmutter) – again very interesting and very different to the kind of factory we saw before. And suddenly a little idea raised up: one of our students has birthday today, and I was looking for a small gift for him, something very special. So I draw a shape of a trumpet and the workers made it from Mother of Pearls. Lovely! And we took a little video of this.

At 5:00 p.m. we met all in the pool of one hotel in Beit Sahour. It was still hot. We booked a separate part of the tables, it was like a small isle in the middle of the pool. And somehow everybody disappeared in the pool, they really had fun, with loud music. One of them had a ball and they started to play, all the students together and they stayed in the water at least 100 minutes. Great feeling! There is no grass to lay down and relax, there just chairs around the pool, to sit, eat and drink or swim. Later we did a birthday party for Timo: some of the mothers brought some cakes, candles and other stuff, and we sang some songs for him. It was a big surprise for him, and also he was very happy, especially the little trumpet he liked very much. Hopefully he never will forget this birthday with songs in German and Arabic.

When it got dark, they switched on some colored light at the pool, and suddenly the children in the pool started to splash the water – all together. They took the beat of the music, it was really funny. About 30 students stood in the middle of the pool, and many people around the pool to take videos or pictures. Most of the time the Palestinians and the Germans mixed up, but at the end many of the Germans were sitting fully clothed beside the pool and the Palestinian and some of the Germans still had fun in the water. I guess, the German were really tired, because it was again a very hot day, about 34 degrees. During the night it's about 24 degrees, but still very warm. So just in the moment I'm writing this report (11:30 p.m.) it's still very warm. So now you are updated a little. And please look to facebook and the blog: in the next days we will update some of the videos! At the moment it's too complicated because of the slow internet. And thanks a lot for the lovely feedback some of you gave me in the last days.

Good bye, Monika

Betreff: daily report, Tuesday, 2nd of August, Über die Mauer

Dear all,

another day was gone in a short time... we visited one family of our students on their land, a little outside of Bethlehem to the south. It's called: Tent of Nations. The bus picked us up early in the morning at different points in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, with us our instruments. Then the bus took Hebron road, until the Jewish Settlement Neve Daniel. There the driver had to leave the big road and he had to continue on a small path, parallel to the big road. Some of the students were wondering, why he couldn't stay on the big road. That's easy to explain: Palestinians are not allowed to take every road in the Westbank, there are two classes of street-systems. Some of the streets are just for settlers, and Neve Daniel is one of them. They built it just for Israeli Jews. Ok, we had to take the small road, going down, and up again – and there we could see the land of Tent of Nations. But down in the valley, after the half of our road the road was blocked with big stones. So everybody had to leave the bus and to walk. I know it since I went there the first time, 2009. But for the German it was the first "real contact" with the occupation. The road shell block people to reach the Tent of Nations. So we walked around and above the blocking stones and continued our walk. As we reached Tent of Nations we had a breathtaking view in nearby all directions. But the issue: on each mountain around the Tent of Nations there is a Jewish settlement, some of them are still or newly under construction.

So Daoud Nassar did a lecture about the Tent of Nation, also called Dahers Weinberg. The Jewish want to have Daouds land, but it is now 100 years that his Grandfather bought this land. Israel doesn't matter about the deed of ownership (Besitzurkunde), they want to have it. Again and again Israeli military started to take or destroy parts of his land. Or they want to buy it. But Daoud keeps the Land, because in Palestine land is like the mother: you don't sell it.

So they didn't allow them to have electricity or water, but Daoud now has many cisterns for collecting rain water and solar panels to have his own electricity. They do a lot of recycling or upcycling and cultural programs to exist also in the future. Their philosophy of life is: we refuse to be an enemy. "Wir weigern uns Feinde zu sein".

So I think, the students understood also, what occupations means for the life in Palestine.

Of course we also did a rehearsal, in one of the tents. It was terrible hot and the air was very sticky. And also everybody seemed to be very tired, but the volunteers did a intensive rehearsal and after lunch there was a little concert for the family Nassar and all the people who did the harvest of almonds.

They offered a very tasty lunch and coffee and cakes, so we had a beautiful day. Thanks to the family Nassar!

In the evening the students arranged a meeting for themselves to eat ice cream. Nearby everybody was there and they talked to each other, weather it was a Palestinian or German. Also the shy guys started to talk. So now the wall is broken down! I'm very happy!

Happy greetings!

Monika

Betreff: daily report, Wednesday, 3rd of August, Über die Mauer

Dear friends

This day was a kind of fitness-program in the morning. We left at 7:30 a.m. to go to the "Jerusalem wilderness" , just some kilometers to the east of Bethlehem/Beit Shaour. It's a kind of dessert with high mountains and deep valleys. We visited on famous valley, because there is beautiful monastery, named Mar Saba. In former times monchs used to live there in small caves, and later (483) they built this beautiful monastery for up to 4000 monchs. Now there live about 15 monchx (greek-orthodox) and they still have no water or electricity. (https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mar_Saba)

It seemed to be glued to the rocks. But before we could see this view we had to do a little hike, just down, down, down. And it was hot, even in the morning about 35 degrees. But the view was unbelievable. Because we had not too much time we just had a look to the monastery and walked the way up. Up. Up. And very steep. It was not easy to walk this small road, but we did it. Normally tourists need about two hours for going down, make a little rest and going up. We did it in about one hour. But some of our students felt to be on the limit, but everybody was coming with us. Respect to everybody!

The next stop was the Herodion, it used to be the summer palace of King Herod, and also in 2007 they excavated his tomb there. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodium> It's an man made hill, and on top and inside the hill there was the palace of Herod. In our time they are still excavating, but a small video showed how it could be about 2000 years ago. In the mountain there are some tunnels and we could pass them, it was beautiful cool inside, so everybody wanted to stay there. Even if the Herodion is in the Westbank (Area C, and Palestinians are allowed to enter) only a few of them entered the Herodion before. So also for them it was good to rediscover their home land.

Back at home I guess, everybody slept in the afternoon.

At 4:30 p.m. we met in the Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour to prepare the concert. It's a little, modern church, so we enjoyed to make music there. It was a great concert for the parents and some friends. Today also the group of the "youngsters" (between 8 – 17 years) performed in the concert, they practiced during the summer camp at Tent of nations. Lovely! And they also performed very good. All the students were very concentrated, so they did nearby everything the conductors wanted to do them. Piano was piano, and forte was forte. Maybe in the end it was a little loud, ok. After the concert the strain released and the students were very hilarious. Some people were not amused about this.

But what we never believed some years ago: Palestinian and German performed together in a very good way. Music connects people, peaceful people. That's what we want to do with Brass for Peace.

Good bye from Bethlehem

Monika

Betreff: daily report, Thursday, 4th of August, Über die Mauer

Dear all,

now it's nearly the last report – I can't believe that.

We started today with a small concert on manger square in Bethlehem, at 9:30 a.m. That means, that the students had to get up again early. And I guess, they felt like me – everybody would have liked to sleep a little longer. But everybody was there. There were some people listening and waiting, others listened while walking to their office etc. and we had fun to perform.

To get the official ok for this short public performance took lot of time. Carolin asked by e-mail some weeks ago. No answer. Then we went together to the tourist information, they sent us to the tourist police office, they sent us to the municipality. There they told us to write a letter for the Major Vera Baboun (Bürgermeisterin) and to send it by e-mail or bring it personally. So I decided to do both, via e-mail and personally. Unfortunately it was the day before Sebastiya and I didn't know that the municipality closes at 2 p.m., so I was late. I tried to give somebody the letter and it was by chance the Major herself. She sent me to another office to stamp the letter, they sent me back to another office and told me there, that they will decide about it the next day and will inform me. Next day was our departure to Sebastiya. No call, no e-mail. So I waited another day, then I called them in Bethlehem. They asked me to send the letter again and promised to call me back. But they didn't. So again one day later I called them again. This time they asked me to send more information about our program we would like to perform, then they would like to decide at the same day. I sent them our program... and one day later we got the official ok from the municipality. But that's normal. If you don't know how it's working, you won't have success. So you need a long breath. Ask Carolin! She managed our concert today within the Star Street Festival in Bethlehem. She can tell you nearby the same story. But it's no problem! Everybody knows how to deal with it and you learn to be patient and relaxed in the same time but insisting to your duty. I like that feeling here and every time it's working in the end.

We had a great performance at the Star street Festival because Carolin had this needed long breath to deal with everybody. It was a great feeling to perform on this huge stage and in front of so many people. The only thing we didn't really enjoy: we had to play loud. Very loud. Otherwise nobody would't hear us. And we practiced a lot also to play a piano (leise) or with an echo. But it didn't matter and it was a great last concert for the group today.

After the festival every student spent time with the family, and also during the day most of them bought some souvenirs. We were wearing our red T-Shirt and it was funny to see the students here and there in the shops or on the street. Nice feeling to meet and greet people with a red shirt! And hopefully the suitcase is not too heavy because we all bought a lot of souvenirs.

So now it's time to sleep. Good night to everybody!

Monika

Betreff: daily report, Friday, 5th of August, Über die Mauer

Last day. Lucky and sad in the same time.

All the students spent this day with the families in a very different way. Some of them visited the dead sea, the temperature outside was 46 degrees. Not just warm, hot! And they enjoyed it very much.

Our teamers prepared everything for the Barbecue, because we had to bring all our stuff by ourselves. So even the last day was very busy for us.

Then we met in the evening in Beit Sahour – it was great to be welcome in this nice place at Lutheran School in Beit Sahour.

The students started to play music from our music sheets. In the last days some of our members who stayed abroad came back, so the number of the Palestinian was at least 17 students. Plus some of the younger ones. Then they started to change the instruments. Trumpet players took the trombones, trombonist took the trumpets. I was surprised that it worked... only the tuning was... ok... don't ask 😊

Then we did a big barbeque, and in Palestine it's very different to Germany. In Germany we are used to have lot's of different salads and sauces, and not too much meat. In Palestine it's the opposite: much (sometimes too much) meat and just some salads. In the beginning we were afraid, that's too less bread and salad but it was ok.

Students, Parents, some friends and the two principles of the Lutheran School Beit Sahour stayed with us and we were glad to have them with us.

Then it was time to say good bye, somehow suddenly. Sad moment. Everybody embraced each other, tears in every eye. Also the mothers of the families wept a lot, me too. Also the younger sisters and brothers...

The Germans are now at the airport, waiting to the departure at 4.50 a.m. Inshallah. We are happy, because yesterday there was an announcement of a 2-day strike at the Airport. But thanks god they cancelled the strike today in the morning. So hopefully they have a good and save flight.

And thanks god we had none accident, no problems to deal with, no critical situation. Nothing! Just fun, a lot of fun.

I can't believe that all. I'm sitting at home, writing this report, like every day. But today it's a very different feeling, something is missing... the pleasant anticipation to the next day. It's like emptiness.

So for this last time I will say thanks to everybody who helped us in planning, organizing, working during the trip and hosting the German guests. Especially Carolin, Moritz, Fridtjof, Stefan, Anna, Antje and of course Hani! And Felix, Eberhard, Salameh, and Jihan, and... and.. and.. You all did a great job.

And of course all the students, because you are great. We will miss everybody!

So good bye to everybody!

see you!

Monika

PS. For the Palestinian: see you next Friday, rehearsal as usual ☺ , with Fadi and me! ☺



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Preisträger des Förderpreises 2013 "Das Salzkorn" der Ev. Kirche von Westfalen

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