

DUST CLOUDS - JOY IN LEKU////

To avoid the morning traffic, the journey begins around 5 a.m. Although it is still dark, the streets of Addis are already busy around this time. Road sweepers are sweeping, some people are out for a jog and others have started fires on traffic islands to resist the cold. It all takes place in the dark because most of the streets in Addis are unlit.

After the last of the ten team members is picked up, and after a short prayer, the journey starts. Going by van, the team leaves Addis Ababa for Leku, a city in the Sidama region of Ethiopia. From Addis, the road goes downhill into the East African Rift Valley, where the climate is much hotter. The Rift Valley is characterized by many acacia trees, spaciously spread throughout the landscape, providing much-needed shade. As the team reaches Awasa in the afternoon, the climate has changed again. The region is now somewhat cooler and much greener. The same evening the Evangelist and some team members head to Leku. where the crowd already awaits the "Feranj" - the white man. "Feranj" is a term borrowed from the English language, and originally probably meant French. Lively praise and worship takes people along. Expectations are high. The atmosphere is charged!



For four nights, Evangelist Daniel Schott preaches the gospel dynamically and vividly – touching people's hearts. Thousands of them confess their sins and hundreds receive healing this weekend. The Evangelist keeps asking the people whether they are really healed, and the healed keep raising their hands to confirm their healing. Jesus still heals today! The crowd is thrilled. Again and again, excited shouts of "Hallelujah" rise towards heaven. People are dancing joyfully. The whirled-up dust moves across the crowd – a sign of real joy!

















Due to the Corona crisis, no gospel meetings have taken place in that region for about a year. Hence, more people than expected come to the Gospel Festival. The event was planned for 30,000 to 40,000 visitors. However, an estimated 70,000 people come to hear the gospel, just on Sunday afternoon. As Daniel leaves the stage on the last day, dozens of children surround him to touch or hug the white Evangelist. What a warm farewell!

A leadership conference is held on two mornings. The participants are hungry for the Word of God. On the second day, many people show up and the church is filled to overflowing. They listen attentively and receive prayers. The Holy Spirit moves powerfully, confirming the Word with signs following. Revival is in the air! After four days the job is done. The harvest has been brought in. Leku will never remain the same!

Early Monday morning the team heads back to Addis Ababa, driving by mud houses and living fences – sometimes made of growing cacti. Driving past countless donkey carts, loaded with water containers, straw, sugar cane, banana leaves, or other goods. Those are driven by children or young men, sometimes standing upright and enjoying a good ride on the carts.



LEARNING FROM CREATION////

It was quite refreshing to evangelize in Africa once again, in March. So many things have happened in Nigeria and Ethiopia. There is nothing better than seeing people saved and healed! Hallelujah!

In Ethiopia, I met a church planter with an impressive ministry. Each month three churches are planted by his ministry. It is very important to him, to teach young pastors biblical principles by using examples from nature – God's creation. In that sense, I have learned from mangos and bananas

There is a mango variety in Nigeria, called *German Mango*. It seems like a contradiction. However, the more I think about it, the more I realize that the name describes my ministry quite well. Some Christians in Germany dislike my loud and wild style of preaching – exotic, much like a mango among apples. In Africa however, a mango is much appreciated, especially if it is a *German Mango*. It seems the Lord has reserved certain fruits for each continent. And sometimes it happens to be a *German Mango*.

And now concerning the bananas: People in southern Ethiopia like to eat Kojo. It is a rustic flatbread, made of pseudo-banana – popularly known as the false banana. The plant looks like a banana tree but it does not produce any fruit. To enjoy Kojo, the banana tree must be felled. Then the layers of the banana tree trunk are scraped and mashed – sometimes with bare feet. The mash is then buried in the ground and left to ferment for a few years. Later it is dug out, pounded, and buried again. Finally, the mash is dug out and used to bake gray-colored, chewy, and lightly sour flatbreads, named Kojo.

The false banana tree has to die "many deaths" before it becomes useful and edible. Nevertheless, Kojo is not to be underestimated. It is a healthy food full of fibers. And even more – it is delicious. I have tried it!

Whenever there are crop failures, people in the northern part of Ethiopia suffer from starvation. Not so in the south, where Kojo is available. Thus, Kojo is a real lifesaver! Had Jesus lived in Ethiopia, I am sure he would have spoken about Kojo. In John 12:24 he says, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

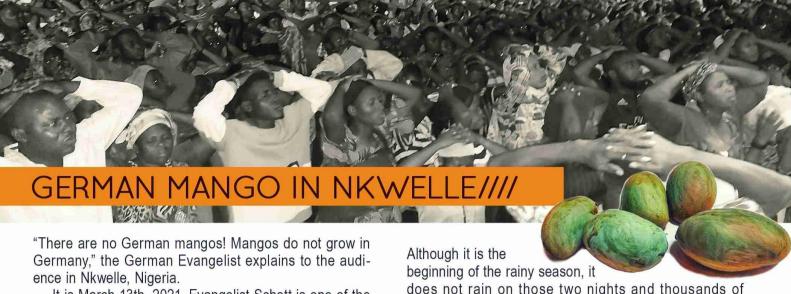
What I have learned from mangos and bananas? Be wherever the Lord wants you to be! Radically surrender and serve him, and he will use you as a lifesaver.

Ready for a "Kojo experience"?



D. Schott Evangelist





It is March 13th, 2021. Evangelist Schott is one of the guest speakers at the gospel meeting in Anambra State, in the south of Nigeria. Rev. Canon lyke Egbuonu invited him once again, to preach the gospel to the people of his city.

And what about the mangos? Well, a variety of mangos grows in that particular region, called German Mango. Why it was given that name remains a mystery, but it is in great demand and expensive, too. As Daniel speaks about the German Mango, he wins the hearts of people.

does not rain on those two nights and thousands of people hear the gospel. Most of them receive the forgiveness of their sins, some of them for the first time. People are healed each night. Evangelist Schott asks the people to confirm their healings by raising their hands. Each night more than 50 hands go up. Testimonies follow.

Again and again, Daniel asks the people by whom they were healed. The answers are clear, "Jesus!" or "God!" Excited, the crowd shouts with one voice, "Hallelujah!" All the glory belongs to Jesus.







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