

Dear partners!

It has been a few months since you have received any news from us, so it is definitely time for another newsletter! In Germany, the situation regarding Covid-19 has improved a lot in the last few weeks and some things are returning to normal - at least for the moment. In the following, we would like to share with you how our work at MaZ could be shaped under the conditions of the last months.

What's going on in the MaZ-programme?

In March, the preparation started with eight MaZ-volunteers. Eight young people who, despite the uncertain situation caused by the pandemic, could imagine embarking on a MaZ year.



Having fun in our virtual Easter-Workshop.

In May and June, the MaZ-team tried to talk to all partners, either in country conferences or by phone. It was and is always important to the team that it is not decided from Germany alone where the MaZ-volunteers go, but that the partners are also involved in this decision, because they are the ones who take in the MaZ-volunteers and are responsible for them for a year.

Since the MaZ-work is financially supported by the weltwärts programme, the MaZ-team must also adhere to their guidelines. Therefore, countries that have a travel warning from the German Foreign Office are currently excluded as MaZ project countries. Finally, at the beginning of July, it became clear that both Senegal and Ghana could be visited again. Now "only" the checklist of weltwärts had to be worked through. A glimmer of hope for the MaZ in preparation! However, only for a short time.

Already in the course of the last weeks, more and more MaZ dropped out of the preparation because they found other possibilities for themselves. Also the last 3 participants have finally decided to take a safer path. This is a great pity, especially for the MaZ-work, but also understandable that in these uncertain times of the pandemic, a MaZ-year must also be viewed with caution.

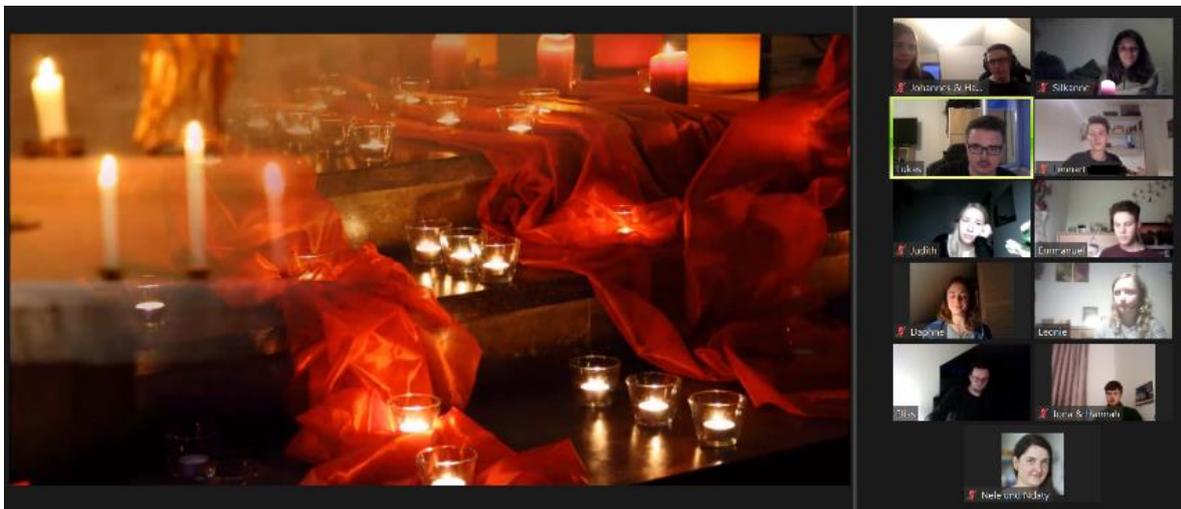
The MaZ-team is now placing all its hopes on the new group of 2022/23. We hope that in August/September 2022 all MaZ who are in preparation will be able to leave and will be welcomed by our partners!

Insights into the highlights of this year's Pentecost meeting

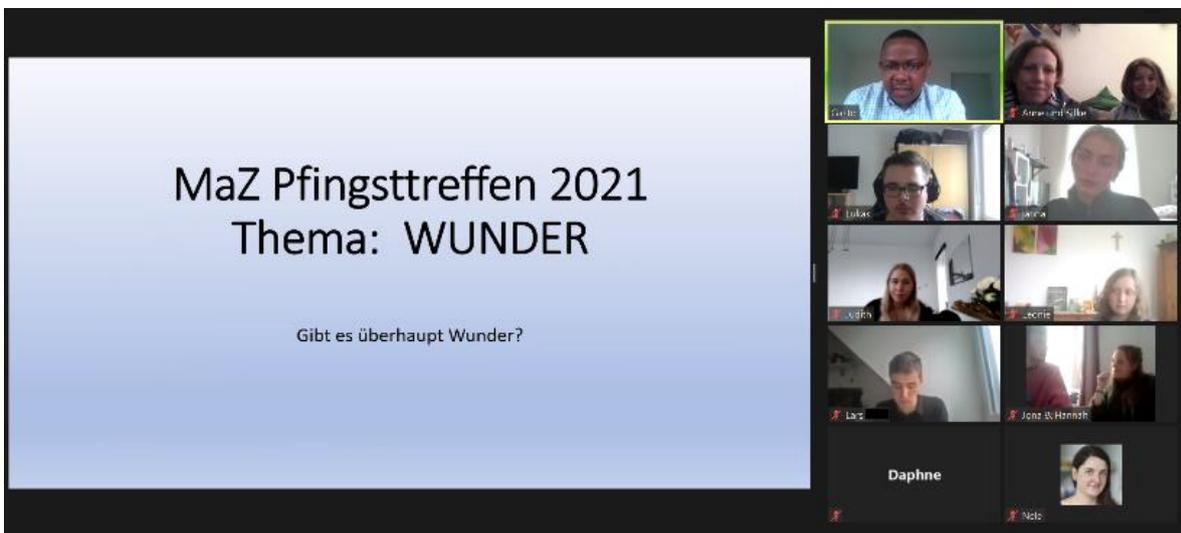
As we traditionally like to spend the Pentecost weekend as a MaZ-family and organise it as a meeting of old and young or new MaZ, we wanted to make this possible despite the still rather strict contact restrictions at the time of Pentecost. Therefore, we met online during the Pentecost weekend for various programme items. We would like to share a few impressions of particularly beautiful moments with you through the following pictures:



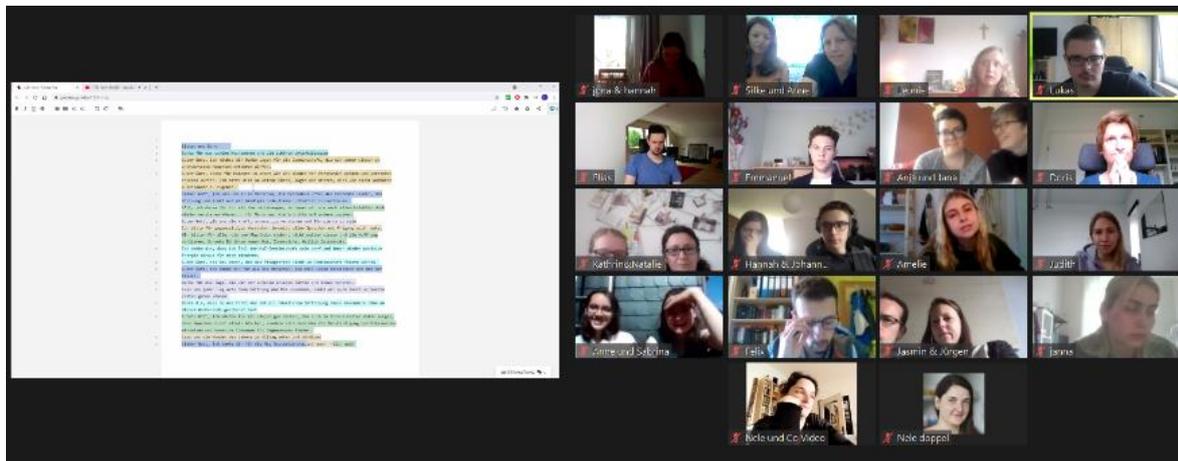
Since we all come from different regions in Germany, some of us introduced their home area to the others with a great deal of humour. We were joined by fisherman Jona from Hamburg on the sea, language trainer Emmanuel, who introduced us to his dialect, tour guide Anne, who showed us the land of 1000 mountains, and many more!



The official part of our Saturday evening ended with a reflective night prayer. Its content was based on our theme "miracles" and the associated Psalm 119:19-35.



Fr. Gasto visited us and gave us some ideas to think more carefully about the miracles of our lives!



On

Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated an interactive mass together and could hear ourselves singing together again after a pretty long time!

Since the pandemic meant that no "real" meetings, such as at Pentecost, could take place in the last two years, there will be a MaZ-summer-meeting at the end of August. All returned MaZ-volunteers and their partners and families are invited to a meeting in Knechtsteden. The anticipation of a "real" reunion is great!

"Train the Team" seminar

From 18th to 20th June 2021, the time had finally come again: the first MaZ-seminar "Train the Team" took place in presence this year. After all preparation courses and other meetings of MaZ were only possible online due to the Corona pandemic, the joy for eleven participants and four team members was all the greater.

We were guests of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood in the Mission House Neuenbeken. We even had our own seminar room in a separate building on the grounds. Of course, everything was done under strict hygiene measures, such as a minimum distance of 1.5 m, masks were compulsory, and a negative test had to be presented on arrival.

For three days, we participants received extensive professional input and concrete tools for the seminar work, so that we could accompany new volunteers in the future as team leaders in the preparation courses.



The responsible team members had put together a varied programme of important content for the weekend. We participants were able to gain knowledge on topics such as feedback or working in a team in group work as well as in exchange rounds in the plenum or in individual work. We were also able to let our thoughts run free outside in the green and use the many shady places on the monastery grounds on the warm summer days. First practical exercises such as moderating a discussion or simply visualising results were also part of the seminar programme.

Despite a lot of technical content, fun was of course not neglected. The so-called WUPs (short for "warm-up"), which were prepared by the participants, provided short breaks. There was also a colourful evening at the end of the second day of the seminar, where the motto "Spontaneous is still the best" would have fit very well. We prepared a ballet performance, or a stress talk spontaneously in randomly drawn groups. This created a good atmosphere and many laughs.

For me, this weekend was a great enrichment, both professionally and collectively. After many months of isolation, it was good to finally exchange ideas in person again. And even though the Corona pandemic was very present due to the hygiene measures that had to be observed, I was able to enjoy the weekend very much. Now I am looking forward to putting what I have learned into practice as soon as possible and to accompanying my first MaZ preparation course of future volunteers.

Silke Forstmeier, MaZ in Madagascar 2018/19



Dear partners, we really hope that through the short reports and the pictures we have been able to make you feel the MaZ-spirit, which we of course also share and live together now (or maybe even **just** now). If you want to read and see more about MaZ, you are very welcome to visit our homepage (<https://www.maz-spiritaneer.de>), which is now also available in English, French and Spanish.

We continue to keep you in our prayers and send our warmest greetings from various places in Germany!

Sophie, Silke, Judith and Anne (for the EMT and the MaZ-team)