

## **17,500 km. Münster – Vladivostok. A bicycle journey for children in need.**

**Afghanistan, April 2004:** Breathing heavily, Ammanu, an Afghan boy, is taken to the local hospital in Dashte Qala on a donkey by his grandfather.

Ammanu has a severe heart failure, a hole in the interventricular septum. However, nobody in Afghanistan is able to help him. He needs expensive heart surgery.

**Germany, July 2004:** Help for Ammanu in Germany. Thanks to the relief organisation “Association Little Prince – International Aid for Children in Need” from Warendorf, working on an honorary basis, the life-saving surgery is made possible at the university hospital in Münster. The association pays the costs and makes transport to Germany possible. Many obstacles are overcome by the association and volunteers in order to give Ammanu a future. The decisive contact with “Association Little Prince” was made by Klaus Benning, who had been working as a male nurse in Afghanistan at that time.

### **2009/10: Visiting Ammanu by bicycle**

**ammanu.de** – this is the motto under which KB and JF are going to start a bicycle journey from Münster to Vladivostok. The journey, starting in April 2009, will take them approximately ten months. 17,500 km by bicycle. A journey by which both men fulfil a dream for themselves, and at the centre of which they put the now 14-year-old Afghan boy and the “Association Little Prince”.

They want to meet Ammanu and find out how he is now in order to report to “Association Little Prince” and everybody who followed the little boy’s fate in 2004. After his return to his native country, contact could not be kept up due to the state of war there and the seclusion of his home village.

As of today, the situation in Afghanistan is still dangerous, so that a meeting with Ammanu can only take place in one of its neighbouring countries.

The bicycle journey is supposed to promote the work of “Association Little Prince” and to appeal for donations.

### **Which way do they travel?**

KB and JF are going to travel by bicycle from Münster/Osnabrück via Ukraine into a neighbouring country of Afghanistan, where they will meet Ammanu again. After that their route will take them along the ancient Silk Road through China to Russia (Vladivostok). There they are taking the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow. They are going to cycle the last part again back to Münster/Osnabrück.

### **Who are these people travelling around half the globe?**

Klaus Benning (32) and Jörn Fischer (30). Both men are qualified male nurses and live in Münster, have worked abroad several times and gone on longer bicycle trips. Klaus Benning, originally from Saerbeck in North Rhine-Westphalia, is being exempt from his job as a social education worker for his journey. Jörn Fischer from Glane (near Bad Iburg in Lower Saxony) is also being given time off from his master studies in the field of “Management in the health system”.

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