

Angolans teach Germans about Angolan culture and food

Claus Dubisz
June 11, 2016



The seminar house Neumühle was full to the bursting point -- about a hundred and fifty Angolans from all over Germany, members of the Family Federation and the representatives of UPF chapters in Frankfurt, Bonn, Stuttgart and Giessen -- had gathered for a family-style get together, inspiration, food and international exchange, co-sponsored by UPF. Altogether, a hundred and ninety people were on hand that day, Saturday, June 11.

The Angolan consul-general in Frankfurt, Manuel Domingos, was the host. He wanted to introduce Germans to the multifaceted culture of his country, while at the same time offering spiritual (and physical) nourishment to his people. Both aspects were a great success!

The program opened in an official manner with the singing of the German "Das Deutschlandlied" and Angolan, "Angola Avante" national anthems. In his brief introduction, the consul-general asked the audience members whom they considered most deserving of thanks for this gathering. God was the answer. Most Angolans are religious and many are members of Pentecostal communities in Stuttgart and Bonn.

Their Pastor Lucas offered the opening prayer, and then introduced the European representative of the Portuguese Pentecostal community, whose members mostly come from Angola, Brazil or Portugal.

We saw and heard about the history and culture of Angola, about reconciliation after the civil war, about their economic boom in recent years, and then we were spirited into the world of typical Angolan dance with the Kizumba.



The spirited conclusion

As a finishing touch, the moderator Teodoro Cunha, from Bonn, led us into the more spiritual aspect. His family had participated in an Easter workshop in Neumühle, and the basic principles and values of the Family Federation had impressed them. Claus Dubisz (Frankfurt) explained the three blessings, the fundamental role of the family in human society, and the necessity for a responsible attitude toward sexuality; that is, celibacy before marriage and fidelity in marriage. He ended by introducing the Blessing Ceremony as a worthy

goal for the maintenance of intact families and an intact modern society and invited the couples to participate in a Blessing Ceremony on October 3, in Neumühle. Norma Haubold translated everything into Portuguese, while no-doubt deepening the message with her Brazilian temperament.

The program continued with the Stuttgart Gospel Choir, which rendered two soulful songs about the love of Jesus Christ. In the end, the children had the opportunity to present a dance they had prepared, and a young Angolan sang for us. The moderator was just about to round off the program in the hall with an

invitation to a bountiful buffet of Angolan specialties, when Manuel spoke again. Of his passionate speech, the moderator was only able to translate the essential points.



He pleaded with his fellow Angolans, "Parents, take care of your children and youth! Give them spiritual guidance. Show them the value of a healthy family. Don't let them fall into licentious sex." He called Pastor Lucas, as well as Hubert Arnoldi (Stuttgart), Gregor Sattler (Bonn), and Claus Dubisz (Frankfurt) to the front and challenged them to demonstrate in workshops and seminars what a valuable, God-centered life looks like. "It is not a matter of an emotional experience; it is about guiding the hearts and mind-sets of young people in the right direction." This was greeted by resounding applause.

Then the event came to a culinary end. "This place is a piece of paradise," enthused one guest, to evident general agreement. Truly, such events ought to take place here more often.

