





Christoph Haus



Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

Dear reader,

But as for me, it is good to be near God.

Reading Psalm 73, whose last verse is this year's watchword, you might get the collywobbles – at least when your belly has been well-fed and you suffer no pain as long as you live (cf. verse 4). No, it is by no means our intention to make anyone appear as a godless person – quite the contrary. Praying for and supporting world missions, we are closely hooked up in God's mission, all of us. But it is also necessary to listen to the prophetic call from the ends of the world, where the church is growing, in the midst of suffering. Such calls can be found in this MAGAZINE: When people and their lives witness to the experience that being near God brings about deepest satisfaction - often so in the very moments when stomachs remain empty. So this year's watchword is a fit occasion to make, time and again, decisions like the psalmist's, i.e. to stay near God and be guided by Him, to be personally in close touch with His Mission for this world and for every individual. May this magazine bring such moments of nearness and of deepest fulfilment to you! Yours in Christ,

Christoph Haus

Carlos Waldow

Matthias Dichristin



Contact details

President: Arild Harvik (N)

Vice-President: Dr John Sussenbach (NL)

Mission Office:

Christoph Haus, General Secretary
Matthias Dichristin, Mission Secretary
Africa Promotion
Carlos Waldow, Mission Secretary
Latin America Promotion
Gottfried-Wilhelm-Lehmann-Str. 4
D-14641 Wustermark
Phone: 0049 33234 74-150
Fax: 004933234 74-145
E-Mail: info@ebm-international.org
Website: www.ebm-international.org

Content responsibility:

Christoph Haus (India, Europe)
Matthias Dichristin (Africa)
Carlos Waldow (Latin America)

Editorial assistance: Carola Streubel

Layout/typesetting: J. G. Oncken Nachf.
GmbH, D-34123 Kassel, www.oncken.de

Print: Grafische Werkstatt von 1980 GmbH
D-34123 Kassel

MISSION ACCOUNTS

Germany:

Abteilung Weltmission des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden

EBM INTERNATIONAL

Spar- und Kreditbank EFG, Bad Homburg
Account No. 46868, BLZ 500 921 00
IBAN: DE69 5009 2100 0000 0468 68
BIC: GENODE51BH2

EBM AFRICA

Spar- und Kreditbank EFG, Bad Homburg
Account No. 33 316, BLZ 500 921 00
IBAN: DE89 5009 2100 0000 0333 16
BIC: GENODE51BH2

EBM MASA (Latin America)

Spar- und Kreditbank EFG, Bad Homburg
Account No. 133 906, BLZ 500 921 00
IBAN: DE62 5009 2100 0000 1339 06
BIC: GENODE51BH2

EBM INDIA

Spar- und Kreditbank EFG, Bad Homburg
Account No. 343 609, BLZ 500 921 00
IBAN: DE68 5009 2100 0000 3436 09
BIC: GENODE51BH2

Austria:

Bund der Baptistengemeinden
Bank Austria
Account No. 00 653 165 100, BLZ 20 151

Switzerland:

EBM-Schweizer Zweig, Postscheckamt Zürich
Account No. 80-234-7

Please specify the purpose for your donation. End-of-year donation receipts are sent out automatically. This is why we always ask for your full name and address and – if known – for your donor ID number. Should there be more donations than needed for any specific project, the excess money will be used for a similar project. One-off receipts are available on request only. Thank you for your understanding.



Cover photo by
Moritz Arndt
Playing girl in
Mozambique

Thank you!

In 2013, our churches as well as many individual donors linked to the German Baptist Union did not support EBM INTERNATIONAL by praying only but also by donating the amount of 3,153,200 euros (in 2012: 3,314,900 euros). For this, we say thank you on behalf of our missionaries, the many children in the children's homes, the over 15,000 students at schools and vocational centres, the over 200,000 people who got treatment at our hospitals, the over 130 future pastors in our institutions for theological education, and on behalf of the countless churches which have been planted by the evangelists we are supporting. As our German Union with its over 800 churches has more members than all the other European EBM Member Unions combined, the donations from Germany account for a good three-quarters of our total income.

We, and above all our project managers in Africa, Latin America and India, had to fight hard to cope with the decrease in donations by more than 160,000 euros. In several places, this was possible only through painful budget cuts and by giving up planned investments. Theological education and schools in Africa were particularly affected

as our partners could not disburse their full salaries to the teachers.

God loves me dearly

This means more than the message we carry into the world with our mission work. When in November, I was invited to give a sermon in one of the many Baptist Churches in Douala, the congregation sang this wonderful old hymn, "God loves me dearly", and they sang it in German (although it was difficult to understand, but they had practiced it in German) and then in the Douala language. And they asked me to sing this hymn also with our churches in German and in Douala, as a symbol of the fellowship which leads the churches in the South to pray for our churches. The missionaries from our churches who were sent to Cameroon in the 1950s and 1960s – and subsequently to many other countries – laid the foundation for this fellowship. To us as EBM INTERNATIONAL, faithfulness and reliability are a major principle in world missions. This is why we sincerely ask you to help us remain reliable and faithful in our mission work.

Christoph Haus



You are welcome to order the new project booklet free of charge. Just send an email to info@ebm-international.org

From our mission work in Izmir/Turkey

Security situation tense again

From a letter by Ertan and Marlene Cevik, written in January 2014:

"Around Christmas and also at the beginning of the year, we felt some pressure and heaviness weighing on us. We also noticed that between the church and our flat, a greater number of police cars were passing. Then, Ertan was summoned to the chief police officer, who said that the President of Turkey had received an anonymous letter which recommended providing a body guard to Ertan, as his life was being

threatened. At first, Ertan refused. Then, in the morning and in the evening, the police came and requested him to sign a statement saying that he had refused a body-guard. Now we are getting personal protection as a family from a distance."

“Mission means investing in people”

On Monday mornings, the students gather in front of their classrooms of the Vocational Centre at Garoua (CTG). There is a devotion so as to start into the week with God. In an orderly fashion, clad in their uniforms, they listen attentively. Besides training, the Good News has priority here. After that, they have their lessons covering a wide variety of subjects – theoretical and practical ones. Across the thin walls I hear the sounds of sawing, welding, and hammering. Here, new life is breathed into cars that would be scrapped in Germany. Together with another seven people, I work in the “bloc administratif” and am happy about an exemplary working atmosphere. I install software on “second-hand” computers, and the server



Albert, a volunteer in Cameroon

of a vocational school which is being built next door. These projects are supported by EBM INTERNATIONAL, in cooperation with UEBC

(Union des Églises Baptistes du Cameroun). When I talked to Markus Maag, a missionary who used to work in the Central African Republic, in Douala two months ago, he shared this with me: “Mission means investing in people. It is the only thing that endures.” This is precisely what EBM INTERNATIONAL does here, on location: investing in people. They get training and thus have a future. The CTG changes their lives. As to me, a volunteer, I am impressed by the work here, and am contributing to it.

Albert Kiefel, Garoua

Equatorial Guinea

Sara Marcos invites us to pray!

In the church at Evinayong, the local leaders shall take on more responsibility. The missionary, Sara Marcos, is the pastor and church leader and has invested a great deal in the team over the past weeks. She encourages us to pray for the following people:

Carmelo Mansogo lost his daughter who had cancer, which has left strong marks on him. He loves Jesus and is a person who reaches the hearts of others. We pray that he may continue to go his way and that God will give him a good job.



Carmelo Mansogo

Honorata Minang is a woman of

faith and sensitive to God's voice. She contributes to the ministry of the church by preaching, and often, she welcomes people at the door already. The mother of three children, she is in a difficult financial situation.



Honorata Minang

Juan Mosuny likes serving the church as a youth leader. His fiancée Pastora has been converted recently, and has shown extraordinary growth in faith. We pray for the future of these two.



Juan Mosuny

Ambrosio Mitogo and Margarita Nsa, a married couple, serve God together. Ambrosio is the church leader and often preaches, and Margarita coordinates the evangelism ministry. We pray for Ambrosio, who will increasingly take up the pastor's duties in future.



Margarita Nsa



The happy and grateful families

Christmas joy in Cameroon

Help that makes a difference

A gift-giving campaign of the Baptist Church in Kassel-Oberzwehren brought a lot of joy to the families at the Mokong Bible School. Here is what Dirk Pusch wrote to the brothers and sisters in Kassel:

"Your pictures and greetings were passed around on the day of our Christmas celebration. And then, parents and children were all smiles, looking at the new suits with beaming eyes. Yes, you did bring Christmas joy!"

But let me start briefly from the beginning. When the idea came up to give a Christmas present to the Bible School families, we thought that the best help would be for children to get new clothing for Christmas. For most of the time, children are neglected. So the head of the Bible School and his wife chose a beautiful cloth. Two women from the village then took all the children's measurements and started sewing clothing for the children. In doing so, each of the two tried to do better than the other to make beautiful clothes. Shortly before Christmas, the leaders of the school gave the clothes to the parents to make sure they fitted. On December 21, we all

gathered to celebrate worship in our chapel. The women sang, the Bible School students did so, too, we had readings and I gave a devotion on Isaiah 9:1.5-6. This was the text all the students had had to work on in a preaching exercise during the Advent season, and we had evaluated their first attempts at preaching together. Now, I had no chance of dodging; I had to take the same text and to give a devotion. The students were very attentive to find out if I got it right. After the service, we went to the buildings where the students' families live. The women had prepared a good meal. There was a short programme with psalms and Bible verses in several languages. There was also a psalm in German. It was very amusing, and we had a lot of fun together. Then, we shared and enjoyed the delicious meal, and the children got candies. Right after the Christmas celebration, the families left for their work experiences. By our standards, it is

a rather unreasonable demand to leave for a placement in a church on December 21 or 22 as a whole family – the more so as many of them did not exactly know which church they were assigned to. But the Bible School students accepted it with composure, they set forth in order to celebrate Christmas in a place they did not know. But after all, this was no different for another family, way back two thousand years ago. So please accept our warmest thank you, dear brothers and sisters in Kassel-Oberzwehren! You have brought about a lot of joy and contributed to beautiful new clothes for the children of our Bible School students. May the Lord bless you for your generosity!

Dirk Pusch

Highlights of a jou

Arild Harvik, President of EBM INTERNATIONAL, and Matthias Dichristin, EBM Mission Secretary, travelled around Sierra Leone in November 2013: Discovering the country and its people, visiting projects, talking to the workers there, and knowing "what's up". These travels make us familiar with everyday life in other countries, give an insight into the lives and challenges of the people in Africa.

In Sierra Leone, the Baptist Eye Hospital Lunsar (BEHL) is a big project of the Baptist Convention (BCSL). In the picture, you see Dr Mattia, director of the Hospital. He performs up to 1,000 eye surgeries (mainly cataract) a year. In our last MAGAZIN, Jutta Krebs wrote about an evaluation she did there. Through a foundation, we have now received donations for an operating table to replace the old one shown in the picture. So this one recommendation of the evaluation has already been implemented.

In the north of Sierra Leone, in the Tonko Limba and Thambaka regions, BCSL has two church planters, who are supported by the Norwegian Baptist Union and EBM INTERNATIONAL. Thambaka is very isolated and Muslim-dominated owing to immigrants from Guinea. There had been no church here, and Mohammad Dukuri is now planting churches here. In the picture, we see Philip Kamara holding a baptism seminar. He works in Tonko Limba. In this area, there had been missionaries before, and the Muslim population is very open to the Gospel.



The old operating table in the Baptist Eye Hospital



Philip Kamara (left) holding a baptism seminar

86 people being baptized



PRAYING AND DONATING

Theological education in Africa (general)

Project Number: MAG 41400

Financial need: Any amount is welcome

Missionaries and schooling in Equatorial Guinea

Project Number: MAG 50200

Financial need: € 80000

Information available at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM AFRICA:

IBAN DE89 5009 2100 0000 0333 16

BIC GENODE 51BH2, SKB Bad Homburg

rney

During our visit, they celebrated the baptism of 86 people. Besides the Sunday services, the people meet for Bible studies and leadership trainings.

In 2012, consideration was given to how to renovate some run-down church buildings in the area. In the Baptist Church in Skien/ Norway, 20 people could soon be enlisted to volunteer as construction helpers. In co-operation with former missionary Gudleik Husby, an assignment was organized, and over six weeks, small teams renovated buildings and installed ceilings.



Church building in the Tonko Limba area – before and after

Departure for South Africa

Follower of Jesus with a mission

Is God's thinking in circles? I have asked myself this question many times. From time to time I realize that in my learning, I come back to the same points where I was earlier – yet having, in the meantime, widened my horizon of experience, having set new priorities and a different perspective.

This is what I am experiencing now again, leaving for Southern Africa again. My calling has not been changed. I am a "follower of Jesus with a mission", and in Jesus' name, I am committed to peace, justice and reconciliation. This is God's mission for me. I have already known this very specifically since my first visit to a "country of poverty", which was to Nicaragua in 1987.

My desire to work for peace, justice and reconciliation in Jesus' name was fully in line with my first stay in South Africa 1994-2003, it suited my ministry as General Secretary of the German Baptist Union over the past decade as perfectly, and EBM's pilot project now is tailored to it as well. As I see it, these changes are no ruptures in my calling but rather natural continuations. When they hear about my departure, many people say

"Well, you are really courageous!" Maybe that a little courage is needed when in the second part of your life you set out on such a long journey again; to me, it is the logical consequence of God's calling.

To me, the most important thing about this pilot project is investing in people who in turn can transform their world. It is about developing leading staff. For if these learn to spot committed people in their environment and develop ideas how to further these people with their gifts and interests, then something will change. Self-reliant, responsible and committed Jesus People are infectious and pass on their hope. Investing in such people brings about sustainable results. I am looking forward to supporting this pilot project, jointly with our brothers and sisters in South Africa and Malawi.

Regina Claas



„I know that God answers prayer“

Our children's home in Cotia is situated about 40 km west of São Paulo in southern Brazil. The town of Cotia does not remain unaffected by the problems of this city of 20 million people. The misery of uprooted families is very obvious. In their fight for survival, the children are a burden that people prefer to get rid of. The name of the children's home translates as "Home of happy children in Cotia". This reflects the goal of the Home: Children from disastrous, broken and hopeless backgrounds shall find joy again. Here, they get a chance of dignified and meaningful lives, as they learn to build healthy relationships and get vocational training. In spite of frequent and big challenges, it is encouraging, time and again, to see how God works in the lives of the children, what progress they make, what changes love and care bring about, giving them a hope for the future.



Jépherison Henrique Domingues Leite

Today, we have reason to praise God! By now, Jépherison has made lots of progress. The most important step was when he came forward some months ago after a Bible study; God's plan of salvation had been explained and the children were invited to start a personal relationship with God. After a personal pastoral talk, he confirmed his decision, and his behaviour shows that his conversion is real. His attitude keeps improving. Now, he always attends the service, as well as the Bible studies and youth meetings. Quite often, he has sought spiritual guidance when he had to make a decision, and then he always tries to find out what is God's will, and to obey it. At home, he is much more cooperative, and we are amazed at how seriously he takes his duties at school. He has now improved all his grades. Even though his shyness is a hindrance, his growing interest in working for God's Kingdom is noticeable. Jépherison now helps out in the praise group. He is also preparing to be baptized.

One of his favourite sentences is: "I know that God answers prayer". Some four years ago, when he was really longing for his mother, he talked about an experience that had deeply upset him. They were living in a humble hut, which was only covered with a tarp. He remembered rainy days when his father put him, his siblings and his mother onto the street and locked the door. As the parents had been denied child custody, he no longer had any contact with them.



Family at the Children's Home with their social mother Palmira da Silva (3rd from left)

Jépherison's story is one we would like to share with you. He is 16 years old. When he was six, he came to the Home with his two younger siblings. Jépherison is rather shy and never showed much interest in learning at school, in friendships, or homework, etc. He often had to be admonished and spurred on. In early 2013, the situation got worse when he often missed school, was often late or was simply in no mood for it. He was then offered the chance of being trained at a print office, but declined. The staff in the Home and the home parents worried about him, because this made his prospects seem rather hopeless. They prayed a lot for him.

Repeatedly, he came to the children's home crying and asked to see his mother again. The staff challenged him to pray: If God wanted this to happen, his dream might come true even though the court gave little hope. Then, one day, there was an official notice from the Juvenile court that the parents had been tracked down and that the children could see their parents under the court's supervision. Unfortunately, the parents live in very miserable conditions, and their father is an alcoholic. The Home contacted them several times and even offered the father to arrange a therapy, which, however, he refused. For this reason and to the children's disappointment, it has not

been possible for the parents to come to visit them at the Home for a long time. All the same, Jépherson sees in their reunion a sign of the love and grace of God, who has answered his prayer. Even though he cannot expect anything more from his parents, he would like to help them in future as much as he can.

In addition to the children living in the Home, another 45 destitute children have been cared for in the social centre, which is on the same compound, for two years; in this day care centre, they get help and a chance for the future.

Mission work among the Quechua in Peru

The gospel lived out transforms

Yanaoca is the poorest city in Cuzco Province in the Peruvian Andes. The small roads lead across passes at 4,500 m altitude and downhill into valleys 3,000 m below. In early January, the new, small church building was completed so far that the congregation could begin the New Year in their new chapel, which by then was roofed. The church building is also to serve as a mission centre for the mission stations of the surrounding villages; besides the assembly room, a couple of training classrooms have also been planned.

Simultaneously, another chapel was built in Curahuasi. In this building with its simple and yet very friendly architecture, the church has found a home since January. The brothers and sisters of this small congregation all pitched in. The new pastor of this church is Wilfredo Jesus Romero Velarde, who has been living there with his family since mid-January and has taken up responsibility of the mission work. Pastor Wilfredo has started his ministry in Curahuasi with great passion.

The cities of the Cuzco region keep suffering from climate variability. In several areas, there have recently been heavy hailstorms,

which devastated the crops. The people here live in bitter poverty and cannot afford the seeds for a new crop. EBM MASA has given assistance here, so that 370 families could be provided with seeds worth twelve euro per family. Those in charge in every village were also given sacks of beans, sugar and rice to be handed out to the people so these could get relief food aid.

At Christmas, more than 1,300 children and old people in Yanaoca Province were given *hot chocolate* and a sweet Christmas bread, which was a special Christmas gift.



Pastor Wilfredo Velarde with his family



The Church in Curahuasi

„God’s Time for Cuba“

We can’t but be happy and thrilled after we visited the projects supported by EBM MASA in Cuba again in January 2014. Many people are being reached with the gospel and come to believe in Jesus. Hundreds of co-workers and missionaries are being trained. New churches are being planted. The vision is very clear, and the steps to be taken in coming years in order to reach the ambitious goals have been established.

Our missionaries and the many brothers and sisters who share their responsibility for the mission work in Eastern and Western Cuba very often have to face enormous challenges, experience heavy spiritual attacks, suffer from a lack of resources and yet, they cannot be stopped. To them, this is God’s time in Cuba – and they don’t want to miss out on it. Over the past years, I have learned some important things from my brothers and sisters in Cuba. For one thing, the love of God’s Word and prayer. They invest a great deal of time and do not feel above meeting at five or six a.m. for prayer, and they do so once or twice a week. And second, their conviction that “there is no victory without battle!” When they have a clear call from God, they go ahead, do their work whether it be with or without resources, with or without support, with or without battle.

Before sharing the details from two projects, let me quote some short statements by our Regional Representatives, Arturo Köbernick and Airton Nickel, who accompanied me on this trip.

Arturo: “At the moment, our biggest missionary impulses and challenges in Latin America are in Cuba. Every year, we visit the projects and can notice a very positive development. We also notice the way our missionaries develop and grow in vision and strategy. We are pleased to partake in this process. Every project has its very own character and different impacts, but there is a very strong shared philosophy of work, a spirit of unity and of working together. Pastor Daniel Gonzalez, our missionary and coordinator of the projects in Cuba, said: “The EBM MASA projects in Cuba each have their own identity, they have grown more mature and become sustainable. Their missionary dynamic, present in the projects from the beginning, has become stronger and has generated new activities and projects. The prospects for the future are convincing.” This applies to all the projects in Cuba. It is difficult to explain, but being there and witnessing on site what is happening keeps amazing us and makes us grateful to the Lord. This is the reason why we say that this is God’s time for the Gospel in Cuba.”

Airton: “This was the first time I was in Cuba, getting to know the projects supported by EBM MASA. For me, it was an impressive, refreshing and inspiring experience. Never before have I seen churches so vibrant, with so much missionary zeal and love to Jesus which translates into practical work. I thank God for EBM MASA’s vision for Cuba, which is to expand the projects, thus allowing still many more people to be reached with the gospel.”

Isle of Youth: Just over 17 years ago, Daniel Gonzalez started mission work here, from scratch. During the second year, EBM MASA got involved supporting it. Daniel had a very clear vision for church-planting work on the Isle of Youth, which is still effective: winning people over to the gospel, gathering them in house churches, creating a mission network. “The Bible and Prayer” have been pivotal from the beginning. Today, about 2,000 believers already belong to the eight churches founded by now, to the five branches and 80 house groups. They see themselves as one big congregation, reaching out to the people on the Isle of Youth with God’s love in word and deed. The first young man on the isle of Youth who was converted through Daniel’s ministry was Karell Lescaille. When, after ten years, Daniel moved to

A group of church planters, being trained in Eastern Cuba



Havana in order to apply this vision to all of Cuba, Karell, who had already been his right-hand man, became his successor. Karell expanded the work during the last seven years, training many people as co-workers, cell group leaders and missionaries. At present, a total of 18 missionaries share in the responsibility. They, too, are in part supported financially by EBM MASA. In September 2013, Karell moved to Havana with his family in order to cooperate with Daniel in managing the many EBM MASA projects. This cooperation will be an integral part of the strategy for Cuba in the coming years. The work on the Isle of Youth will continue with this same vision, with Leyva Cabrera appointed to the charge. He is a doctor, who has specialized in paediatric surgery, and he has been trained at the seminary for this work during the past years. He had already assisted Karell and has now taken up the main responsibility. It is wonderful to see him pursue the same missionary vision and strategy as Daniel and Karrell did before. Ernesto is a friendly and best-suited team player, who is committed with passion and love. We are overjoyed at having him and his wife Sandra, who fully shares his commitment, as missionaries on the EBM MASA Team.

La Perla (the Pearl): Some five years ago, a Bible club for children was



Worship on the Isle of Youth

started in this Havana slum in a backyard. By degrees, the children's families were also reached with the gospel. Some of them have become believers. Many of them have experienced deliverance from the "slavery" of spiritualism, which is commonplace here. House groups were launched. Church-planting work was initiated. On January 25, 2014, the church was founded here, having about 50 members. It was a festive day. A group from the mother church, whose pastor Daniel is, were present, full of enthusiasm. The congregation meets on a site which could be purchased with the support from EBM MASA. An old wooden plank house serves as a worship room. Part of it has no roof. The room is to be shortly roofed, and the most needed repairs are to be done. Yosvani Padrón and his fiancée, Anabel Puentes, are the new EBM MASA missionaries for this project. They will get married on July 4, 2014. The way this project has developed inspires us: In the course of five years, a project ministering to a small group of needy children has developed into a church. Hallelujah! This is how God writes his mission history!

Carlos Waldow



Worship service marking the foundation of the church in La Perla



Children of the Bible Club during the service in La Perla

PRAYING AND DONATING

Mission work in Cuba

Project Number: MAG 26990

Financial need: € 25 000

Cotia Children's Home, Brazil

Project Number: MAG 23120

Financial need: € 35 000

Information available at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM MASA:

IBAN DE62 5009 2100 0000 1339 06

BIC GENODE 51BH2

SKB Bad Homburg



Meeting of EBM Partners at Christian Medical Centre in Pithapuram

Travel report by Susanne Geyermann

India – a country full of contrasts

This year, I had the wonderful opportunity of accompanying Pastor Christoph Haus as his assistant to India and to attend the annual conference of the 15 EBM INDIA partners. This allowed me to get a first-hand idea of the many projects on site and, above all, to get to know the partners I am in regular touch with. Our travelling party included seven people altogether, and for most of them, India was completely unknown territory, as it was for me.

My work for EBM INDIA had already given me a small glimpse into the valuable work of our many partners. But facing the reality was something quite different from what I would have imagined. At first, I was very shocked at the overwhelming poverty, which was simply staggering. And yet, India has its charm of warmth and love. What really astonished and fascinated me were the extremely friendly people we met, who were so cheerful despite this terrible misery. This makes me think about many things in a new light.

The annual conference this year took place at the Christian Medical Centre in Pithapuram, February 3 – 5, 2014. Nearly all of our partners were sitting at one table. Led by our EBM INDIA Regional Representative, Dr P. Judson, the partners had time to report on the development and share

news of their projects and to learn from one another's experiences. It was a very successful, informative and motivating gathering, and I am very happy I could get to know all the partners face to face.

Before and after the conference, we had the opportunity of visiting twelve projects in South East India, in the State of Andhra Pradesh (Gotlam, Tallarevu, Nellore and Bangarupalyam). We visited children's homes, schools, eye camps, hospitals, a leper colony and many churches. Very touching were the visits to four villages, where milk and eggs were dispensed to children and their mothers; the queue was always very long.

Wherever we got – we were welcomed with flower garlands, singing and drumming music. The joy and the warm welcome the people gave us were authentic and really touched me. Particularly moving, I thought, was meeting the children in the various homes. Listening to their human interest stories while they were standing in front of me, affected me deeply. When we were staying in the children's home of our Partner ALMA in Chittatoor, a boy named Joshua approached me, asking me to pray for him. Rufus Kamalakar (director of ALMA) told me that about seven years ago, the boy's father

had left the family and then, about two years ago, the mother also left the then eight-year-old boy to himself: Joshua was left completely on his own. A pastor found him in a rather desolate state at the roadside and took him to the ALMA children's home. Compared to the other children, he appeared very sad, and I knew from Rufus Kamalakar, that he misses his mother very much and suffers extremely from these circumstances. When I began to pray for Joshua, he started to weep bitterly, holding me very tight. Tears welled up in my eyes, too, and they are doing so even now as I am writing these lines. Each and every one of these children has a sad history of his own, and it fills me with gratitude that these 14 children's homes exist, where the children are given a home and experience love and affection.

On the whole, it gives me great joy to see the passion and dedication with which our partners are involved, and their awe-inspiring way of sharing God's Word with the poor and the needy. Above all, I came back home with the



Joshua misses his mother.

reassuring conviction that the gifts we forward do reach the people, that they get helped and their lives are enhanced thanks to the reliability of our partners in India.

Summarizing I can say that this journey was very intense, emotional, in part shocking and sad – yet wonderful at the same time. I am very happy I was privileged to have this

experience. In my heart, I took a piece of India back home, and the impressions are certain to be with me for quite some time.

*Susanne Geyermann
Assistant to the General Secretary of
EBM INTERNATIONAL / Secretary
of EBM INDIA*



Gotlam – a family cooking

CREAM, our partner in Tallarevu, giving a short insight into the work of the eye camps...

Light in Darkness

Before presenting the report I would like to refer to Matthew 9:27-29 and Mark 8:22-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ had it on his heart to give sight to these two helpless blind people, thus pointing to the healing of all blind people. All four gospels talk about this healing. The Lord felt compassion for these helpless blind people.

Eye treatment is very expensive in India. A poor person earns about 200 INR (roughly 2.20 EUR) a day; for a medical check-up, he has to pay 200 or 250 INR Rs. If any person goes to an eye hospital he or she has to pay 200 or 250 INR to the doctor, just for the examination, i.e. without any treatment or cataract surgery. This is why we send small medical teams to the villages in order to examine the people for free and to provide them with medical help and cataract operations. Through our services and care, these helpless, impoverished people experience God's love first-hand.

We have been conducting eye camps every year in the coastal area. Most of the people who come have been totally or partially blinded by

a cataract. They did not know why they were blind; they ignored the disease. They simply thought it was their fate. Every year, we have been conducting two eye camps in each of two areas, reaching 8 to 13 villages; every year, we sent at least 60 to 80 people to the Christian Medical Centre in Pithapuram by minivan; nearly 55 to 70 then got surgery there. In this way, vision could be restored in many of these people.

Many blind people are beggars in houses, flats and in the streets. By God's grace and through the help given by many Christians like you, and thanks to your prayers and support, we are able to bring light into their darkness today. Thus, they can make their livelihood in peace and live a self-contained life. We thank all our brothers and sisters who support us in prayer and who contribute to the restoration of these destitute patients' sight.

Rev. D. Vasantharao, Cream Director



Tallarevu – people waiting for their medical examination



Examination at the eye camp in Karapa

A Home for children in need

The “Karunya Nilayam” Children’s Home was founded by the organization WATCH in Bangarupalyam in 2006. This Home primarily cares for children whose parents are AIDS-infected or who have died from the disease.

Mrs. Eswari, a kindergarten teacher, noticed the pitiable plight of two destitute children who were sleeping in front of an abandoned house at a street corner – without any blankets, without sufficient food or clothing. Later on, these children, who had neither parents nor godparents, talked to her about their hopeless and pathetic lives. They had been abandoned in the streets because their parents had died.

When I heard about this, I prayed and thought about how to help such destitute, abandoned children from the slums whose parents were AIDS-affected or who had died, and how to give them parental care. This was the beginning of a makeshift boarding home, which later on became the Karunya Children’s Home. It is now a home for 50 children, who can develop mentally, spiritually and

physically. They learn to be happy again and to smile, and they grow confidence in the future and hope for a better life. With all their heart, they remain grateful for the care they receive and for their development, which makes them an asset to the society and the nation.

The children regularly attend school, and at the weekends and during the holidays, they can play indoor or outdoor games, read and listen to music. We have a prayer time in the mornings and evenings. They do not only get good, even remarkable results at school, but have also exhibited enthusiasm in receiving Jesus’ love. The fear of the Lord, coupled with unlimited joy, has not only become the “foundation of knowledge” to them, but also the foundation on which they are building their lives. Their faith in Jesus has given a tremendous boost to the children’s confidence as they confront the challenges of life, and to their career options. This is also the result of their regular church attendance, for they got into touch with the church members, who developed great love for the children and respect for

their Bible knowledge.

On February 8, 2014, we could inaugurate our new annex, together with Rev. Christoph Haus and his German travelling party. We are very grateful to EBM INTERNATIONAL and the many donors for this wonderful support. Now the children do not only have enough room but also the opportunity to develop more freely.

Acknowledgement

“Karunya Children’s Home” is a home for children who grow up without their parents or with HIV-infected parents, and without godfathers. This is possible because benevolent and kind leaders have continually supported the Home over many years by praying and giving; thus they have furthered the growth and the development of these little children. We thank and praise God the Almighty for his constant showers of grace and guidance in our ministry to these most vulnerable children, so that they might learn to live a new life.

*P. Sree Latha, President of Watch
– Karunya Children’s Home,
Bangarupalyam*



All the children and staff of the “Karunya Nilayam” Home

Manfred Otto has passed away

On November 25, 2013, Pastor Manfred Otto (aged 86) was called home by his Lord. He was a long-time director of the German Baptist Union, for many years Chairman of the Board of "Diakoniewerk Bethel", Berlin; he served as President of the Evangelical Alliance in Germany for many years as well as in many other official and honorary functions. He always contributed his skills with full strength and great responsibility to achieving good solutions in church and social ministries. His exemplary personality and his work which had an impressive impact have already been acknowledged in moving obituaries in many places.

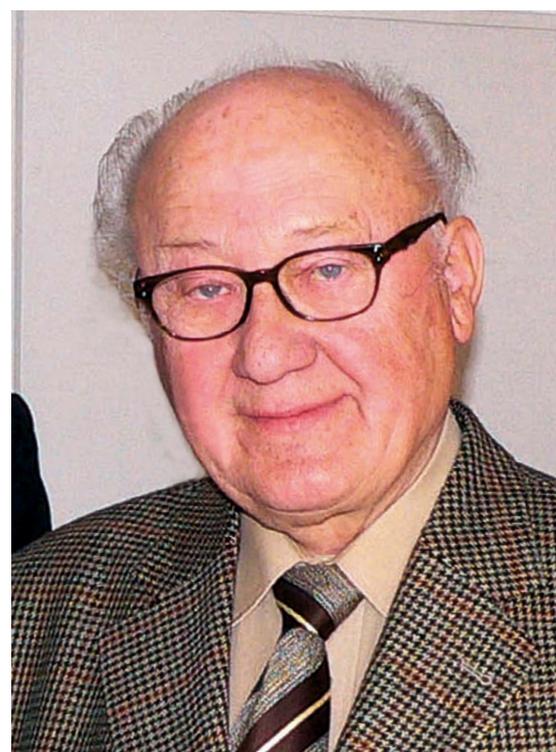
He powerfully helped to shape INDIENHILFE (now EBM INDIA), which was founded in 1960. It was he who suggested that INDIENHILFE be integrated into the German Baptist Union in 1985 and who at the same time appointed an advisory board, on which he also served for many years, until his serious illness forced him to step down.

His vision and wisdom were exemplary. Manfred Otto did not only initiate the affiliation of INDIENHILFE to the German Baptist Union, but he and the other Union directors who served simultaneously and after him also saw to it that the performance

and methods of this "foundling of the UNION" were not hampered by bureaucratic obstacles and meetings that might complicate matters, but that the autonomy and freedom to implement ideas in this ministry, which was run solely by honorary workers, could be maintained. Thus, after the affiliation to the UNION, it has, over decades, been possible to maintain the particularities and specific features in dealing with the long-time donors and friends, which were embedded in a relationship of trust; the same applies to the widely spread partners in India.

It was the very spirit and background cooperation of Manfred Otto which allowed fruitful operations in India. These include the children's homes (now 14) with their 800 vulnerable children, the four eye-saving ministries with their more than 40,000 patients and over 4,000 eye surgeries per year, the social funds in the hospitals with their 3,000 assistance payments per year, the various feeding programmes in the megacities, and they also include support for churches in their church and social ministries (within a big rural association of churches); in addition, there are many one-time projects.

INDIENHILFE and now EBM INDIA have always been aware that on the one hand, any charitable work is service to the Lord, blessed with his powerful blessings, but it also has to meet the expectations of the donors funding it and of those bearing responsibility, as Manfred Otto did - even though later on he was no longer able to be personally involved. He belonged to that strongly bonded community of friends who had the privilege of rendering fruitful service, working with God's blessings as a "team including God and donors as well as the partners and the destitute in India".



Manfred Otto

The bridge linking us with India, under the sign of the Cross of Jesus, needs stable pillars, and Manfred Otto was one of them. He will always be remembered, and he has left indelible marks here as well. All of us, the friends of EBM INDIA, the partners in India and the innumerable needy people benefiting from the manifold aid projects wholeheartedly thank him for his positive cooperation. May the work be continued also in his spirit – may the community of helpers stay together reliably and faithfully.

Dr. Walter Herter

PRAYING AND DONATING

WATCH – AIDS Orphanage "Karunya Nilayam", Bangarupalyam

Project Number: MAG 82401

Financial need: € 9 000

CREAM – Eye ministry in the Tallarevu area

Project Number: MAG 81407

Financial need: € 2 000

Information available at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM INDIA:

IBAN DE68 5009 2100 0000 3436 09

BIC GENODE 51BH2

SKB Bad Homburg



Linking with Africa – Pearls of Africa

These hand-made, brightly-coloured beads have been rolled from recycled paper, lacquered and sealed. Old magazines have thus been used to craft colourful jewellery.

By crafting these necklaces, some 50 women are able to earn a living for themselves and their families. At the same time, a portion of the sale proceeds of every necklace goes to an EBM INTERNATIONAL project empowering women. Please join in and support this doubly valuable activity, making the necklaces available at the book stand of your church, launching a promotion activity in your café, or selling them on the occasion of a women's breakfast. We will be pleased to send them to you, packed in a box, for you to sell them on commission. If you cannot sell them all, simply send back the ones that are left.

For further information, please access our website: www.ebm-international.org, or feel free to contact Carola Streubel, Tel. 0049 (0)33234-74 142. We are looking forward to your call!



Gathering of friends at Kassel-Möncheberg Baptist Church

First-hand information

We would like to invite all our friends, promoters, donors and people interested in EBM INTERNATIONAL's worldwide mission work to join us on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, for our gathering of friends.

It is one of EBM INTERNATIONAL's basic convictions that in world missions, evangelistic and social ministries go hand in hand. Thanks to our reliable member unions, partners and staff in Africa, India, Latin America and Turkey, our help reaches the people who need it. Their up-dated information will give us insight into the various areas of EBM INTERNATIONAL. We will be happy to welcome you!

For registration forms and any further information, please contact the Mission Office by sending an email to info@ebm-international.org, by accessing our website at www.ebm-international.org or by calling Carola Streubel (phone: 0049-(0)33234-74142).

