





Christoph Haus



Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

Dear Reader,

“I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)

Every day, we are swamped with news full of suffering, disasters, wars, famines and other pictures of darkness in our world. No doubt, great “darkness” dominates in many people’s every-day lives. And we, God’s people, have been called by Jesus to carry the light into the darkness of this world. *“You are the light of the world... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matth. 5:14-16). It is our mission to take the gospel to the people. This may be on our doorstep, but also very far away. Isn’t it simply wonderful that we can commit ourselves to this mission, e.g. by praying, by joining in hands-on activities, and also by donating. If everyone does his share, quite a lot can be achieved. This is inspiring! We wish you’ll enjoy reading this heartening news from the mission field. Thank you for every support, every prayer, and every donation!

Yours,

Christoph Haus

Carlos Waldow

Matthias Dichristin



Contact details

President: Arild Harvik (N)
Vice-President: David Boydell (F)

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: Antonina Penner

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
IBAN: CH95 0900 0000 8000 0234 7

Switzerland:
EBM-Schweizer Zweig, Postscheckamt Zürich
IBAN: AT69 2015 1006 5316 5100

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:
Quechua girl
in the Peruvian Andes

We are bringing world missions to you!

Dear readers, dear sisters and brothers in our churches,

Our world mission must have a face in your churches. We have understood that you can only support something that is close to you, when mission projects are tangible and when you are able to relate personally.

We are convinced that with our reports, we can offer you something special, something which distinguishes us from other mission

societies. Today, the EBM INTERNATIONAL's member unions are not simply beneficiaries and guests, but full-fledged members of the Mission. We understand mission to be based on partnership, to be holistic and worldwide. And we discover that some unions in Latin America, Africa, and India are far ahead of us when it comes to evangelization, church-planting, and church-based social ministries. The relevance of these churches in the southern

hemisphere is something many churches here in Germany dream of. To us, mission means learning from and with one another. This is what you will be reading about in this magazine, and what we will be happy to talk about in your churches. This is why we are willing to come to you. So, please, do not hesitate to invite us!

Pastor Christoph Haus

Mission Council May 2015 in Dorfweil

Please do not be surprised if this report on the Mission Council will be somewhat different from those of former years. This is because at the time when it took place, I had been working with EBM INTERNATIONAL for no more than three months; being, so to speak, a newcomer, I certainly had a somewhat different perspective on this event. I had had no idea of what was awaiting me, but I was highly motivated to meet the many international guests coming from so different backgrounds. And so, I got a thrilling picture of what EBM INTERNATIONAL stands for, which was much to my joy and amazement.

A big worldwide family, connected from Germany to many other countries in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and India. EBM INTERNATIONAL never sees its mission as detached from the basic needs and afflictions of people but always tries to combine both: Jesus' love and message of salvation and hands-on assistance of many kinds, thus serving to alleviate and eliminate the immense hardships of many people. This concern fascinates me, and I could sense this

thrill also among the roughly 150 delegates and one-day guests from the 26 countries.

As in a real family, everyone is quite different from everyone else; you have to close ranks, to listen to and to respect one another, while never losing sight of the common goal. There were many reasons for joy and gratitude – there was really a lot of laughter, and the humour was also there. But there were also intense and painful elements. In this context, I was especially moved by a contribution made by Daniel González from Cuba: He pointed out how much he appreciated that we in Germany, and thus also within EBM INTERNATIONAL, have democratic structures; in this way, he said, nothing could be swept under the table. There was no corruption nor any fear of clear-cut statements here, as he knew them in his country. Being able to deal with one another in an



Dr. Duro Ayanrinola and Pastor Christoph Haus

open and authentic way was a big gift and a great blessing for which we may thank God, he said.

Conclusion: We are looking forward to our "family reunion" next year in Arnhem, Netherlands.

Kerstin Funk

Christians get things moving

Of 3.5 million Christians, only 100,000 have remained...

Adana has close to 2 million inhabitants; in addition, there are about 200,000 Syrian refugees. Here, we find the Turkish Baptist Church which was founded by Pastor Sükrü and which has 20 baptized members now, with 40 people attending. It is the only Turkish Protestant church in Adana.

It is Thursday afternoon. The small Baptist Church in Adana in south-eastern Turkey is inaugurating its new church rooms. Two plainclothes security guards inspect the former office rooms on the first floor of an office building. Then only are people allowed in. The American Consul comes, as well as the deputy governor, the deputy mayor as well as some delegates of the ruling and the opposition parties. About 50 people attend the event. In his welcome address, Ertan Cevik, President of the Turkish Baptist Union, which consists of four small churches, said: "This church, which is only 50 kilometers from Tarsus, the birthplace of the apostle Paul, is a beacon of hope, because it is going to be a home to Christians." The



Pastor Sükrü with a family of refugees



Pastor Ertan Cevik with 18 Iranian people to be baptized

very same evening, a positive article appears online, and on TV there is also a report on the event. Pastor Sükrü says: "We want everyone to know what we are doing here: building a Christian church in a country from which Christians have been expelled. We want to demonstrate that we are beneficial to society."

After the celebration, Pastor Sükrü takes those interested to the Syrian refugees and explains how they assist the refugees. They visit refugees who live on the outskirts in paltry tents which are full of holes. They go from one tent to the next and try to find out where the need is greatest and what the families are lacking. With aid money from EBM INTERNATIONAL and the German Baptist Union, they purchase specified clothing, food and medicine. The tents are then numbered and a fish is painted on them – which stands for support from the Baptist Church.

They have journalists report on their activities and have now become known in the city. On the next day, there is a baptismal service in the Izmir Baptist Church. 18 Iranian refugees have found a new home in this Baptist church in the course of the past year and a half. They belong to a group of 70 Iranians who gather in the church



Inauguration of the church rooms in Adana

several times every week. Many of them attended a three-month faith course, which they completed with a proper examination. It turns out to be a wonderful baptismal service, including the personal testimonials and the professions of faith by those about to be baptized, followed by a Turkish-Iranian festivity.

Pastor Christoph Haus



Syrian refugees in Adana

MANNA – Children experience life in intact families

During the day, destitute children from socially deprived families live in „substitute“ families who belong to churches. Here, they are provided meals, health care and help with their schooling. The caring families share God’s love with them, and thus the MANNA children and their families are given new prospects in life.

In the MANNA families in Mendoza and its surroundings, 60 children already benefit from the programme, which has been organized and is coordinated by eight churches. The carer families as well as the honorary teams are involved with a great willingness to make sacrifices and a great deal of love. Their aim is always helping the children and their families in their needs and to take them to Jesus. There is great joy when some of them are baptized, as e.g. Hilda (13). She lives in the city of Córdoba.



Hilda’s Baptism

Very committed brothers and sisters care for her spiritual and material needs. She has learning difficulties; this is why the assistance provided by MANNA is so very important also in the field of education.

Often, the children and their families also suffer from health problems. Leonardo may serve as an example. He also lives in Córdoba and had to have eye surgery. Like him, ten children from the city of Los Campamentos got eye treatment. Their families live in such great poverty that they would never had access to these treatments without the support provided. Miriam Pizzi, our MANNA Coordinator, often visits the MANNA families and the churches involved. Although poverty and the difficult situation the children have to go through often sadden Miriam, it is wonderful for her to see how God is at work in the families and is transforming them. They do not drink any more, start working and are willing to put their trust in Jesus. They fight to improve their spiritual, social and economic situation.



Leonardo

A mother who lives in one of the poorest districts of San Rafael, called “Poor Devil”, tells us: I am so grateful that for years, my child has been able to be cared for in a MANNA family. Now, I do not want any further financial support, so that the money can benefit another child, who is in greater need of this help. This is really incredible! – This woman has not become any richer, but she has become a believer and has matured. Now, she is even supporting other mothers in finding ways how to get out of their plight, as she did, and to grow spiritually.

The MANNA teams are very motivated and dedicated. They meet for prayer, asking for wisdom in their work. – We will be most happy to give them support!

Based on reports by Miriam Pizzi

2AR – 2 People travelling by motorbike across

Mirko and Claudia Nagler are travelling across Latin America and are visiting some EBM MASA Projects. By doing so, they intend to raise money in order to support some MASA children's projects. Please read their latest news here:

In northern Peru, in Ancash Province, we could accompany the missionary couple Hugo and Carlota Mondoñedo on their visits to the surrounding churches. Hugo is in charge of six mission projects, which cannot be reached without a long and cumbersome car ride. Jimbe is a nice little village; it is the province's capital. The standard of living here is considerably below anything we know. Most of the people live on what they sow on their own land. If they need anything special, there is no way around going to Chimbote, some 80 kms away. With our motorbikes, we attracted attention there. But even if we were often at the centre of the attraction, we noticed time and again that Pastor Hugo is a highly appreciated person in this area. Wherever he and Carlota appeared, they filled the room with respectful, friendly and open interaction.

The roads are in a catastrophic condition and hazardous. Owing to the heavy rains in this area, there are big landslides every year; then, the roads are totally impassable. Our small 4WD was groaning across the beautiful landscape of the Andes until we stopped at a small hut

at about 4,000 m altitude, which was idyllically situated; there, we were to visit some staff of the mission projects. If from up here they walk down to Jimbe, it takes a full day. Which would be unimaginable to many in order to attend a Bible study or a service. Hugo and Carlota offer the only possibility for these people to get access to the Good News. They visit the villages every week.

The little adobe hut of these Christians is situated on a plateau and offers a wonderful view on the surrounding landscape. How peaceful it was – the sun was shining, a few calves were lazing around on the meadow, and the children were swinging on a swing. The father was just getting firewood, and the mother was down in the valley doing their laundry. She was not expected back before the next day, as she had to walk a distance similar to ours – which was 2 hours by car. Water has to be carried up here from the village, an arduous job. There is no electric current. Most of the time, donkeys are of help, sometimes a car. We fell silent and got some insight into how hard life is up here.



Claudia visiting a Quechua family

Our ride led us on to another village. It is unbelievable that at this altitude, there are any people who live here at all, the more so since nobody seems to have a car. We visited the school. As soon as the children recognized Hugo and Carlota from afar, their eyes were beaming.

We also visited the small Baptist church in Colcap. The people gathering here at least once a week already number 15. All of them are extremely happy and proud of the building which they have got with the support of EBM INTERNATIONAL and which they now use as a church room. There is no plaster, there are no window panes, benches, chairs, books nor a pulpit – just a simple room. They know they still have a long way to go till they can celebrate their worships sitting on chairs or benches, but they also know that their confidence in God who is at work will help them live through this time. An attitude which touches us profoundly and opens our hearts to what really matters.

A very moving service was the one we celebrated sitting on the soil in front of a house. A few sheep skins were handed out, Hugo grabbed his drum and then, during sunset, we were singing and praying. Again and again, it was simply so very impressive with what dedication and love Hugo makes the people around him familiar with God's Word. Many of them cannot read, i.e. follow him in the Bible, but they hang on his lips. Songs are sung by heart, and



Welcoming us in the villages

Latin America

it seems that they can quote the Bible by heart at the push of a button. Never in my life have I experienced such great enthusiasm for God's Word as here in Peru. We were very impressed. We had not yet witnessed anything like it.

In Abancay, we met missionary Adrián Campero, an important person in this area. Here, there are already close to 60 mission stations. The co-workers and pastors meet four times a year in order to talk about current items and to be trained, mentored and coached in their mission work by Adrián. These churches are spread over a huge area in the Apurímac Area, and often very difficult to reach. Adrián and his team visit the small Andean villages and sow hope, encouraging the people to trust in God's Word. We were privileged to witness what being a missionary in the Andes of



Visiting churches with Hugo and Carlota



Worship and sharing a meal



Road across the Andes

Peru means and how hard but at the same time how great this life is.

It took four and a half hours to get to Cahuanate, 150 km away. On the last kilometres, we had to use dirt tracks. The ride seemed hazardous, yet, thank God, we arrived safe. At the time of our arrival, many of the 35 people belonging to the church were busy harvesting potatoes, so we could celebrate a service with around 12 people. We met near the house of some brothers and sisters; but to get there, we had to climb up the mountain for some one and a half hours, which is really not easy at 4,000 m altitude. Despite the altitude, it was very warm, and we were rather exhausted after the climbing. On our way, I had been watching Adrián, full of respect for dashing past me, on light feet and

encouraging us every time. – We sang and prayed together. Everyone had his own Bible. Although the people were tired after their day's work, they absorbed the spiritual food. They radiated deep gratitude for receiving the food they so much needed. They were laughing and their eyes beaming. Far from being a burden, going to church is a joy, an honour. The people here know that no material goods are needed to worship, for whenever one of the missionaries enters the room, this means worship. And whenever there is a room, a book or a pulpit, it is a gift they treat with esteem and respect.

We have experienced so many more things, but relating them all would go beyond the scope of this space. The work of these missionaries in Peru really does matter. Obviously, they lack many things, but in reality, they are rich. They trust in God and know that He will not fail them. We were shown deep gratitude for going on this journey in order to visit them, on this journey all the way from Germany, from the country of EBM MASA, the country sending them help.

Claudia und Mirko Nagler

Cycling for Cuba



Eugène and Jesse van der Putten

Children in Cuba living in poverty, having drug problems or becoming criminal in order to get a little food – all of this touched Jesse, 14, and his father Eugène, both Carlos and Marli Waldow's neighbours very much. They decided to do something for these children and to raise some money for the EBM MASA youth sports project in Havana. The

father and his son had the brilliant idea of going on a sponsored cycling tour and to ask for donations for their sporting challenge which is coupled with social commitment. They started from Falkensee (near Berlin), the destination being the village of Heesch, 650 km from there in the Netherlands. For further information on the project, please access our website www.ebm-international.org. If you would like to sponsor this project, please specify the purpose of your donation: "Projekt Radtour 26500" – Thank you so much!

Brasilien – Peru

What do Brazilians do in Peru?

Why do 36 Brazilian theological students and pastors take it upon themselves to travel for 82 hours by coach? They have accepted this journey in order to get familiar with the mission work among the Quechua and to get involved in the projects there for one week. Their assignment was many-sided:

- Ministries to children – in schools, in the market place, in some churches and at the Mission Conference, which was again attended by hundreds of Quechua people. And they were very creative: theatre plays, pantomime, clowns, music, Bible stories, games, etc.;
- Evangelism in the streets – in the market place and by visiting people in their homes;



- Sermons, Bible studies, theatre plays and singing at the Mission Conference.

They all committed themselves with great love and passion, radiating a great deal of joy. God has greatly blessed their ministry. The Quechua brothers and sisters were very grateful and thrilled. Please read a couple of feedbacks from participants here: "A fantastic experience! Often, we think that all people are the same but forget that there are still other peoples with different cultures that also need to be reached."

"My heart is brimming with joy at the opportunity of serving the Lord here in Peru. It is an enormous privilege to know that God has used us to bring joy and His Word to this people."

"Despite all the cultural differences, God's love turned us into one single family in Christ."

"I have fallen in love with the country and, particularly, the people. We were showered with blessings, and every day, I prayed that we might be a blessing by serving them."



Handicapped children learning to walk

Harmanjot, aged seven, is the second born of triplets. Since his birth, he has suffered from cerebral palsy. He could not walk and was confined to bed, every day. Undernourishment and malnourishment contributed to aggravating his health further. His parents, poor farm hands, were not able to take care of him, and thus Harmanjot grew up without his siblings at his grandparents'. These did not have much money either, but they tried everything possible in order to improve the quality of Harmanjot's life. Thanks to Dr Santhos and his team, Harmanjot's legs could be operated on. Through several rehabilitation measures, Harmanjot learned to walk, step by step. Something we would take for granted is a big miracle to him. Now, he goes to school and can manage every-day distances on his own. He still needs walking aids, though, but after some more regular training, he may be able to do without these. Harmanjot's grandparents are overjoyed – they never gave him up after taking him in, which, unfortunately, is not the normal thing in India. Their grandson, who now is very active, is full of joie de vivre and thirst for action. This is just one of the many stories that Dr Santhos and his team experience every day.

Kalpana (photo) was born with feet which were at odd angles and crippled. She was crawling on all fours when she came to the Ludhiana CMC. After three operations and some physiotherapy, she could leave the CMC on her own feet.

The "Christan Medical College" (CMC) is the "mother of INDIENHILFE", which in 2008 became "EBM INDIA". A fund-raising campaign in Germany which benefited a social fund in the North Indian hospital was at the beginning of our involvement in India. Today, the CMC Ludhiana is one of the most prestigious hospitals in India with its unique rehabilitation



Harmanjot Singh

programme for physically handicapped children and youths. Dr Santhos is the chief physician in this ward. His aim is to operate children and youths whose parents have put up with the physical handicaps of their children, and to make them walk again through training and physiotherapy. Often they have broken limbs that were not treated after accidents and they have not been able to walk since that time. But there are also those who were born with (curable) physical handicaps or who had palsy.

As the CMC's rehabilitation programme is so very unique, we would like to equip this fund better, so that destitute families can have their children treated there. These children are not only given back their dignity. They gain new self-assurance and the hope of managing their future, standing and walking on their own feet.

Dr Santhos sees his work as God's calling. And in a country, where Christians only make up 2.5 per cent of the population, he would like to demonstrate to people, the society, and politicians that the Christians do the people in India good – on God's behalf.

Pastor Christoph Haus



Kalpana Giri

German services as seen by an Indian



Dr. P. Judson

In May, 2015, I was in Germany in order to attend the Executive Committee meetings of EBM INTERNATIONAL, the Mission Council and the General Assembly of the German Baptist Union. I also attended some churches. All of this was an enriching experience. I liked the way the Mission Council in Dorfweil was organized very much. Everything was orderly and had been carefully planned. The concept of moderators was new to me. But all those involved did their job aptly and responsibly.

The German Baptist Churches are very systematic in planning their worship service. The selection of the songs, the music and the scripture reading always suited the occasion and the message. I noticed that the musicians are highly skilled and committed. The fellowship and unity within the church are also very strong, of which the conversations during coffee time were a very good example. And during the service, people seem to be very time-conscious. I got the impression that they longed to participate in the worship service.

In my country, India, the worship services take up very much time. Time does not matter here. Quite the contrary, we integrate many

elements in a programme if it is appropriate.

In Germany, people are highly focused on youth and children. They are not lost in recent technologies. I also noticed that families are closely knit and family bonds very strong. The Germans are hard-working, and this is the reason why their country is highly developed. They also seem to be very careful with money – never did I see them squandering it. This is something people in India also have to learn.

Dr. P. Judson

Eye screenings in school camps

A ray of hope for children

Poverty is the most common cause for blindness and handicaps. At the root of this, there are natural disasters, malnutrition, lack of clean water, bad sanitary conditions, and insufficient health care. Through this vicious cycle of poverty and

handicaps, the people are ostracized and hampered in their further development.

This affects also a great number of children and youths. They do not have cataracts yet, which is the most common eye disease, but

they suffer from eye infections, poor sight with its implications such as headaches, vertigo and imbalance problems.

Besides its general eye department, the CMC Pithapuram also organizes eye camps, e.g. in schools. Recently, the eye team were visiting two schools in Nellore District. They examined 350 pupils altogether. 20 pupils were diagnosed with partly severe eye infections. They were treated on the spot and provided medicine. During the routine check-up, ten pupils were tested HIV-positive. Unfortunately, this is



Both photos: Eye exams in school camps

not uncommon. Those affected and also their fellow students were educated on the disease. In a nearby hospital, they get the necessary medical treatment, in order to be able to manage their every-day lives as usual. We are very thankful to God and the

many donors for giving us the possibility of giving children a ray of hope in their lives.

Dr Leela Serene, Director of the Christian Medical Centre in Pithapuram



Examining the eyes

Impressions by the director of „Jesus Loves Ministries“ (JLM)

... and yet one in Christ Jesus

Participating in the Mission Council of EBM INTERNATIONAL in Dorfweil was a wonderful experience. I am very happy I got a chance to know the work of EBM in India, Latin America (MASA) and Africa. It made me extremely happy to meet people from the world over here – who are so very different as to appearance, language, dress codes and many other things – and all the same one in Jesus. I was very much moved and felt challenged by the experiences of missionaries from Africa and Latin America, who all have great potential. It was also moving to hear about the EBM's ministry in response to the EBOLA crisis in Sierra Leone. This, to me, is a shining example of how God's people respond to the world's distress. Interesting also were various mission projects presented there. All of this made me reflect on cross-border



Prasanna Kumar Samarpana Kumar

preaching and various methods in church-planting. As an evangelist, I felt called to go to areas with great needs. I am grateful for the opportunity we had of sharing about God's Word and missions in India, particularly JLM's projects in India. I have already been preaching the gospel in areas still unreached. All the same, this Conference has encouraged me to set and reach new goals in my ministry (church planting).

We also enjoyed the German Assembly in Kassel very much. I think the zeal of German Baptist churches in church planting is impressive. The churches in India must still be won over to support mission work; they also must advocate, time and again, the abolition of the many laws hampering the freedom of religion.

Services in Germany are clearly shorter than in India. I feel that the congregations are less involved. Everything seems planned out. There is no room for spontaneity – this was new to me. In India, we cannot plan our services – for some persons might not be there for some

unknown reason, and several items would have to be dropped. Therefore, there are always surprises: a Scripture reading, a special song, etc. This might be one reason for the tendency of Baptist churches in Europe (as per your own analysis) to decline, and also for the small number of young people in your services. Interestingly, the sermons were very short and packed compared to those in my church – I did not feel quite "at home". For in my church, we are relaxed, and the sermon takes us to various emotions. I am not saying that something is missing here, but the way you do it is simply different.

Worship means preaching the gospel, and that happens everywhere. I hope that we continue to reach people so that our living Lord Jesus Christ will be exalted.

Rev. Prasanna Kumar

PRAYING AND DONATING

CMC Ludhiana – Rehabilitation Programme

Project number: MAG 81902
Financial need: € 15.000

CMC Pithapuram – Medical assistance to the poorest of the poor

Project number: MAG 81800
Financial need: € 10.000

Information available at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM INDIA:

IBAN: DE68 5009 2100 0000 3436 09
BIC: GENODE 51BH2
SKB Bad Homburg



Paul Msiza new BWA President

From July 22 to 26, the Congress of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) was held in South Africa. Five members of the EBM INTERNATIONAL Executive Committee, i.e. Esther Fröhlich, Arild Harvik, Sozinho Guerra, Fletcher Kaiya and Matze Dichristin, were among those attending the meeting. The motto, "Jesus Christ, the Door", gathered about 3,000 people from nearly 100 countries. At the Congress, which is held every five years, the new leadership of the Church was installed, too. Ngwedla Paul Msiza from South Africa was elected to be the new president. He succeeded John Upton, an American. Jan Saethre from Norway became the 1st Vice-President.

Being the delegation of EBM INTERNATIONAL, we could officially congratulate Paul Msiza on his new ministry at the regional conference of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF), the meeting of all the African Baptist Unions; there, we gave him a painting on canvas. Formerly the General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of South Africa (BCSA), Paul Msiza has had a long-time intense relationship with our mission. Among other things, he chaired the Task Force, the group that concentrated on introducing the paradigm

shift in our mission. As a result of this process, we now have native regional representatives in every region where we work, as well as an executive committee which is democratically elected by all the member unions, with equal rights; on this international committee, twelve nations are represented. We are very happy that Pastor Msiza enjoys such great confidence worldwide and wish him God's blessing for this important task.

In his inaugural speech, Msiza pointed out that Jesus is the door, which is wide open and is the access to God's Kingdom for everyone. As churches, we must take care to show

this door rather than to act as doorkeepers who might hinder or even deny access. According to Msiza, many churches have become such doorkeepers, making it difficult to come to God.

This was the first time the Congress was held on the African Continent. As a mission, we support various projects in South Africa, and our missionaries Regina Claas and Anna and Johannes Meyer are involved in ministries of the BCSA, our member union.

Matthias Dichristin



Paul Msiza and some friends

Theological education continuing

News from the Central African Republic

In May, a National Forum for Reconciliation took place in our country, which has been very successful. Peace is slowly coming back. People can already register for the Presidential elections, which are to be held on October 18, 2015 – if everything goes well. Disarming the various groups in the country remains our biggest problem. The Kaga Bandoro Bible School in the north of our country had its

graduation ceremony on July 11. We are particularly happy that on the previous day, five graduates could get married, which is of great importance for pastors in Africa. This school is situated right in the centre of an area where there are still armed groups, and we are thankful that God has been protecting the School. At the Bible School in Bangui, education takes place as usual, and on July 18, we could hand over

their diplomas to nine graduates in a solemn ceremony. On the whole, 2015 has been a good year for Baptists in our country so far. Many churches could install new church leaders, and this also means that part of normal life is coming back.

Pierre Maliyombo, General Secretary of the Union Fraternelle des Églises Baptistes (UFEB)

Projects coming from the heart

Projects that arose in the dreams of some people become possible through God's intervention. Since the farm project in Evinayong was launched, a lot of things have changed. By now, 21 women have organized themselves in a team. They work individually or together, everyone at her own speed and according to her possibilities. Every woman has a small parcel of land of her own where she grows what she likes for her personal needs. She gets the seeds, tends to her area and harvests the fruits that grow. The profits are again put to use for the project. We thank God for all the food we have received, both from the mission and some enterprises and individuals who have a heart for the project. And we are thankful above all for so many women who are willing to work together in order to make their dream come true.

Building the kitchen at the school presented lots of problems and obstacles, but now we can see that things are progressing. The dining room and the kitchen are the last part of the school's first construction stage. This stage includes three class rooms, bathrooms and, at the end, the fitting of the kitchen. We can see how God gives everything

we need. The building project will allow us to use the building as a school and a retreat centre. This is another dream which is about to come true. We thank God for everyone who was involved in this first stage with a great deal of patience. We should not forget that realizing this project has been linked to many plans, donations of material, work assignments of people who came to Equatorial Guinea for this one purpose, with prayers and faith.

With the project "Empowering women in Guinea", a company tries to help women get resources and financial means in order to make a living. The Church in Evinayong has offered to start the project with a group of 10 women who will learn to make jewellery they will then sell in order to make a living.

Marta Nombela



Working in the field



Workmen



African women involved in the project

Farewell from mission service

This year, two missionaries have ended their service in Equatorial



Jorge Perez, Missions Director in Spain, with Sara, Elvira and Marta

Guinea. Sara Marcos and Elvira Jardines both served at various schools in this West African country, in cooperation with the Spanish Baptist Union and EBM INTERNATIONAL. Sara lived there for more than ten years and worked at the "Talita Cum" School in Evinayong. Elvira served at the "El Buen Pastor" School in Malabo for four years. Both were also largely involved in the local churches. In the country, there are three established Baptist churches and three church-planting projects. Marta Nombela was appointed to

be the new missionary to this country, where she already worked as a volunteer for two years. We are thankful for Sara's and Elvira's ministries in the past and wish them, and Marta as well, God's abundant blessings for their new tasks.

News from North Cameroon



Michel Mahmoudou (centre) with soldiers and church-goers



Handing out food, with Emmanuel Nai (3rd from left), former vice-president of UEBC and now a pastor in the Mokolo area



Distribution of certificates ceremony

18 January – Mabass

There was another terrorist attack by Boko Haram in Mabass. All the houses in the village were burnt down, including the church buildings. So the Christians still have no other possibility but to celebrate their worships in the sweltering sun, which on the outskirts of the Sahel Zone is nearly unbearable.

14 June – Meeting of the Christians

Michel Mahmoudou, the director of the Healthcare Ministry of the Baptists (UEBC) in northern Cameroon, has reported about the thanksgiving service the Mabass and Maxi villages (near the Nigerian border) celebrated together when services were resumed. The women's groups in the Mokolo area took the initiative, jointly with some staff of the Healthcare Ministry, to organize prayer meetings. "Even the soldiers in the area were thrilled that we were present in the area with them", Mahmoudou wrote.

1 July – Maroua

At the Saare Tabitha Girls' School, the school certificates could be handed over in a solemn ceremony. 67 girls finished the school year, 14 of them their third year of training. We are very happy about the Girls' School and the Vocational Training Centre in Maroua, as they provide new opportunities to many young people.

22 and 25 July, 2015 – suicide bombings

We are very concerned about the present developments. As this article is being written, three suicide bombings have already taken place in Maroua, probably by Boko Haram. This means the terror has definitely reached the capital of the Extreme North Province. All the three bombings took place just a few hundred metres from the EBM Mission Station in Maroua. In the attacks of July

22 and 25, 34 people were killed, and more than 100 were injured. Luckily, none of our local staff were affected, but concern is growing after these attacks because this is a new and dimension of terror in this area, inconceivable before now. All our missionaries and volunteers were withdrawn from the area quite some time ago. We sincerely pray for peace in this area and for protection for all the people there. May God grant peace especially between the religions.

EBM INTERNATIONAL supporting people fleeing from Boko Haram in Nigeria and North Cameroon

In the villages, food and sanitary articles have been handed out in a programme for refugees. Besides Michel Mahmoudou, Cathérine Kolyang, director of the Saare Tabitha Girls' School, and Betche Lambert, director of the Vocational Training Centre in Maroua (CTM), are involved in this programme; they all are aware of the population's needs. The German Youth Department (GJW) and EBM INTERNATIONAL jointly support these two institutions.

Church plants

EBM INTERNATIONAL supports a Bible School in Mokong and primary schools in Dagai and Gamboura. Many Baptist churches have been founded in the area, and there are now already more than 300 churches. For almost one decade, up to June of this year, the church-planting work in this area was coached by Dirk Pusch, EBM missionary.



Pupils at Saare Tabitha

Preparation Course in July 2015

Down pouring rains were awaiting us: 17 young people (and people young at heart), who had come to Elstal on July 13 in order to get prepared for our upcoming assignment abroad. We had come from all over Germany, and thus the different dialects soon made us laugh and the ice was broken. In order to get ready for our volunteering, we were assigned some tasks. Whether in climbing activities (experience-based learning!) or in quizzes linked to development aid – time and again our knowledge was given a good and proper test. The toughest day was probably the day when we set out in teams of two to Berlin and had to get through the day with just a few cent, in order to experience what poverty is. The problem was that we were not allowed to pack anything to eat or drink and, in addition, we had to buy a ticket to get to the agreed-on venue. This meant we had to be creative! From busker to quizmaster – no activity was left out in order to get some money. Our efforts paid off, and one team came back with 36 euro – instead of the original 30 cent.

Besides sports activities, such as many volleyball units, there was always enough time for talks, devotions and prayers. We also enjoyed the common worship very much.



Volunteers during the Preparation Course 2015

One of the highlights was the daily lunch in the canteen, where the food was “almost as delicious as at grandmother’s”, as some said. Group trips to Berlin, visits to the cinema, film evenings and “loogaroo” games contributed to a happy and casual atmosphere, and we got to know one another ever better. Soon friends were made, and to many of us it has become clear that we want to visit one another at our workplaces.

In our closing evening, we had a barbecue and enjoyed our fellowship once more playing “Activity” and “Who am I?” Then, another highlight was the wedding of Samuel and Sara, who will go to Malawi together in September. Together we set the dance floor on fire, and especially Erik had some reason for joy. He was the lucky one to catch Sara’s wedding bouquet.

The preparation course has helped us to learn and understand more about the backgrounds and contexts in our countries of assignment. Even though it was not always easy to be confronted with the harsh reality, it led us to rethink our ideas

which at times had still been somewhat naïve, and to be mentally better prepared for what is awaiting us.

We were enthusiastic about the frankness and openness of our speakers and we would like to say a heartfelt thankyou to all those who were involved in making this great seminar a success.

And now, we are going back home once more before soon the time has come to say: Off to Argentina, South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, and India!

Leonie Mockler

PRAYING AND DONATING

Cameroon, general donations

Project number: MAG 51000
Financial need: € 411 200

Volunteer Programme SERVE

Project number: MAG 10800
Financial need: Any amount is welcome

Information available at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM AFRICA:

IBAN: DE89 5009 2100 0000 0333 16
BIC: GENODE51BH2
SKB Bad Homburg

Pearls of Africa – a success story



This project, Pearls of Africa, has now been running for two years; it was launched and is now coordinated by Ursula and Dieter Brosch and their three adult daughters. The dream at the origin of Pearls of Africa, namely developing a project which should be a win-win, has come true. We are looking back on experiences and results which so far have been simply great.

For one thing, it is about 50 women belonging to the Emmanuel Group in Kampala/Uganda, who make this special pearl jewellery, thus getting a share to make their living. Moreover, part of the profits go to EBM INTERNATIONAL for women projects of our own. And those buying the necklaces treat themselves to a lovely piece of jewellery, at the same time supporting an important project. Ursula and her family do this comprehensive logistical work on an honorary basis, because they feel close to Africa and EBM INTERNATIONAL. They themselves served many years in Cameroon as missionaries.



More than 250 orders have already been placed, and more than 16,400 necklaces, bracelets and earrings have already been delivered. More than 170 churches have joined the campaign, many of them repeatedly. And interest has also arisen beyond Germany's borders now.

Total income so far has amounted to over 77,000 Euro, with EBM INTERNATIONAL having had a share of more than 30,000 euro. What a reason to be thankful!

A new collection with new order forms is now available – we may be curious. (See www.ebm-international.de – "News").

The articles are sold on a sale or return basis, as before; all the orders and deliveries are taken care of by Ursula Brosch. This is why we would ask you to contact her directly at: ursulabrosch@hotmail.com



Kerstin Funk



Ursula Brosch at the "Kirchentag 2015" in Stuttgart