





Christoph Haus



Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

Dear reader,

„See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious“ (Zechariah 9:9)

The watchword for the first Sunday of Advent heralds what will really happen at the first Christmas: God sends His Son. Jesus is a very special king. He does not wait for his people to come to Him. He comes Himself – bringing righteousness and help.

It is our wish that this King may find room in your lives and that from Him, you may get the help you need. And may the many people this magazine tells about experience righteousness and help. This is what we understand to be the core of missions: Sharing the righteousness and help that God brings. EBM INTERNATIONAL's projects, which are managed by churches in Latin America, Africa, India and Turkey, help people get to know this King. Thus, they will experience salvation and redemption.

May God grant us all His blessings during the Advent Season,

Yours,

Christoph Haus

Carlos Waldow

Matthias Dichristin



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Cover photo: Two girls in Nellore ("Milk and Egg Programme" run by ALMA)

War, Terror, Flight and Persecution

... these topics and fates have been in the headlines this year and left their marks. And these themes and fates are also present in the story of the Nativity, with just other terms being used. For Mary and Joseph already were fleeing with the newborn Saviour of the World. And, being believing Jews, they belonged to a people whose history was marked by expulsion, flight and new beginnings.

If there is One who can empathize and have something to say in what's currently happening, then it is Jesus Himself. For first and foremost, He felt sent to the weary and the burdened. And just as He had been sent by His Father, He sends us. This is the mission we are committed to

as EBM INTERNATIONAL.

For at innumerable places, our Baptist friends and co-workers go on fighting for God's righteousness. At our schools in North Cameroon, children and young people are educated to become mature people who will hopefully advocate true freedom of religion in their area later on. All of this is done few kilometres only from BOKO HARAM's heartland. In the Central African Republic, reconciliation work between the adversaries of the Civil War is being done, and at the Bible Schools, the training of pastors is being continued. In Sierra Leone, many churches are involved in helping people affected by the Ebola epidemic. Despite a shattered economy, month

after month people are being baptized in the churches. Our four churches in Turkey help many refugees and are amazed at people asking to be baptized. In the numerous humanitarian crises the world over, our countless social and medical institutions carry on their faithful and permanent ministries. They can do so because churches and individuals support them by donating and praying.

Please help us in this endeavor, join us in prayer and donate. We will ensure that your donations will serve their purpose.

Pastor Christoph Haus

Türkey

Refugees, IS, and the Christians in Turkey

Our four Baptist churches in Izmir, Adana, Samsun, and Istanbul are similarly committed and concerned. With great dedication, they are involved in helping the Syrian and Iranian refugees marooned in Turkey. They hand out relief items – mostly among those refugees that have not been registered. These relief activities do not simply shed a positive light on our small churches („enjoying the favour of all the people” - Acts 2:46), but time and again, there are refugees who show up in the churches.

We are very concerned that along with the countless refugees, supporters of “IS” (Islamic State) also seep into Turkey. The Christians in Turkey are in a difficult situation, for they make up a mere 0.2 per cent of the population; 99.6 per cent are Muslims. They are afraid that IS attacks might be directed mainly against Christian churches.

Also encouraging is the fact that the Church in Samsun on the Black Sea has now planted a satellite church in Ordu – appr. 100 km east of Samsun. They are endeavouring to get the abandoned church building of the former Orthodox church, which has been vacant for many years and is occasionally used as a theatre. Besides the activities related to refugee aid, preparations for the next baptisms are going on in Adana. The new church members will be facing the most important and most difficult time after their baptism: After converting to the Christian faith, it is unbelievably hard to withstand the pressure coming from society, from one's employer and even one's own family. Often, turning to Christianity is considered a “betrayal”. *Therefore, let us especially pray for courage, steadfastness in faith and acceptance for the members of our four small churches.*



Refugee aid in Izmir (Turkey)

When Children have to work in the fields

Many children in India help their parents with the heavy physical work in the fields. The financial means needed for schooling or training are lacking. The children's future remains bleak.

In order to bring about change, the Vocational Centre of Bridge of Hope (BoH) in Gotlam, a small city in the State of Andhra Pradesh, provides training in sewing, computer skills, and electrotechnology to young people. Ramalaxmi is one of these young students; she is being trained to be a seamstress in the Vocational Centre. This is her story:

"My name is Ramalaxmi, and I come from a small town called Gunkalaam. My father is a farmer, and my mother died when I was still a little girl. My two older sisters work in the fields, together with my father. They supported my schooling, so I could get my O-levels. We did not have the money for me to get training or to go to university, so I came to terms with having to work as a farmer in the fields, too. Yet when I heard that some girls from my town could get training at the Vocational Centre in Gotlam, I immediately went there, hoping to get a place to be trained as a seamstress, too. I am so very thankful for having been admitted. By now, I have already learned to sew clothing, and I am looking forward to earning myself money for my family and myself in the near future. I have made very many friends here, and I have also grown fond of the BoH team. In the small chapel on the

BoH Campus, I have also been converted to Christ Jesus. It is HE who gives me the strength to live and who is with me in every situation."

Besides the Vocational Centre with its current 148 training places, there are also a children's home (hosting 50 children), a church with about 300 members, and a



Ramalaxmi

hospital on the campus, the Shalom Medical Centre (SMC). The latter was opened in 2008. It is mostly destitute people from the surrounding rural communities that are provided free medical assistance here. Before, there was no possibility for them to get medical treatment.

Besides general medicine, the SMC has now also started to provide emergency medical aid, vaccinations, chemotherapy and pediatric care, especially for newborns. Moreover, they have their own eye ward, which is very well accepted. In 2014 alone, 3,623 eye patients were examined and 947 cataract surgeries were performed. The SMC has employed three doctors, who are also members of the nearby Baptist Church.

In the picture, you may see Ellamma and a couple of other ladies, who have been operated at the SMC after being diagnosed with cataract. After this intervention, they can again see clearly and manage their every-day lives without being dependent on others.

Given the immense need of medical care in and around Gotlam, an extension building to the SMC was erected with the support of EBM INTERNATIONAL in 2014.

Susanne Geyermann, Assistant to the General Secretary and to EBM INDIA

Patients
after cataract surgery



Kakinada / India: David Sudhir shares the following:

Baptism over the roofs of India

It is Saturday afternoon, and I am meeting Mrs. Mangamani. She is going to be baptized today.

When her husband had died, Mrs Mangamani fell into a deep hole of loneliness, grief and despair. We attended to her and took care of her. We spoke a lot about God's love and His word. Our Bible Women regularly met at her home for prayer. There were many and profound talks. Mrs. Mangamani grew in her faith in God and decided to go on living as a Christian. During this time, it has been really touching and wonderful to see her increasingly putting her life into God's hands. Today is her great day, and I may baptize her in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus.

David Sudhir
Director of BWWEW*



Prayer preceding baptism



Mrs. Mangamani being baptized

BAPTIST WOMEN WELFARE

*BWWEW = Baptist Women Welfare and Evangelistic Works. Working with BWWEW, David Sudhir and his 16 Bible Women accomplish an excellent ministry by travelling to various villages in order to proclaim the gospel, have talks with people and accompany them in prayer. In addition, BWWEW also runs a project to reduce hunger, where about 90 children are provided eggs and milk three times a week. Moreover, they assist HIV/AIDS patients by driving to their villages and taking food to them.



David Sudhir with the Bible Women

The House of Hope for Children

The Children's Home „House of Hope“ is run by the Salvation Army; it is situated in Pune, in the Federal State of Maharashtra (Western India). There, boys aged 6 to 16

some Sundays, we have also held services in the Home. From time to time, some students drop in. They then encourage the children, give them hope and are role models to them.



Educator with boys in Pune, West India

are given a home, irrespective of their caste, their faith or their religion. They boys come from poor and various socially deprived backgrounds. Some of them were abandoned by their families and their lives were dominated by begging in the streets. Others only lived with one parent, who was not able to care for his/her child. In our Home, they get what they most need: loving upbringing and prospects for their lives. Currently, we care for 48 children in our Home. They regularly go to a school within walking distance. We are very happy that our children matter to the teachers and that they did well in their final exams. Two of our boys successfully graduated after grade 10. An important stage in their schooling has ended, and they will now go on to Junior College and then, hopefully, to university.

Every Sunday, the children attend the nearby church of the Salvation Army, but on

Balu's story

Balu Kolhapure was admitted to the Children's Home three years ago. He is a very cheerful and intelligent boy. Balu's father is totally blind and lives in one of the slums of Ambamath. He used to work as a seller of cutlery on the local trains in Mumbai, now he is employed by a private firm as a data entry operator. Balu is his only child. Two years before Balu came to the home the mother abandoned the family. Balu's father is very grateful to us for having admitted his son. From time to time he calls us to inquire about Balu. Again and again, he expresses his joy because Balu is well cared for. And we thank God that we are in a position to provide a home to our many children thanks to EBM INTERNATIONAL's support.



Balu and his father

*Suresh Pawar,
Lieutenant Colonel of the Salvation Army (India Western Territory)*



Children living at the Home in Pune

Christmas Carols, Birayani and Sweets

Pastor Rufus Kamalakar, director of our partner organization ALMA in India, writes how he, his family and the many children living in the Chittatoor Children's Home celebrate Christmas together:

Christmas is a time of rejoicing and of proclaiming Christ Jesus. As soon as December has come, we go to the surrounding villages and towns with the children in order to share the Good News about God with the people. Every year again, this is the most wonderful time of year for the children. We walk through the streets proclaiming the story of Christ's birth. In every village many people usually gather, and we sing carols and perform sketches for them. Before every event, the children are very nervous, and then are very happy talking to the people about Jesus, singing and performing plays. In addition, we prepare many sweets which we then distribute to non-Christians, especially to the children.



Children carolling and getting sweets



Preparing the Birayani

PRAYING AND DONATING

Bridge of Hope in GOTLAM – general gifts

Project number: MAG 81300

Financial need: € 30000

Salvation Army – Children's Home in PUNE

Project number: MAG 81021

Financial need: € 10000

Information available at:

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Donation account EBM INDIA:

IBAN: DE68 5009 2100 0000 3436 09

BIC: GENODE 51BH2

SKB Bad Homburg

For Christmas dinner, we have the so-called "Birayani", a typical, traditional Indian meal made with chicken and lamb. There is also carol singing in the Children's Home, to which we invite our students' teachers and their friends. We do not only sing, but we also play games, celebrate and have a meal together. A big highlight for the children is always getting their presents.

In the Advent season, the focus is on establishing relationships, having fellowship and strengthening our friendship with all our brothers and sisters the world over, through the love of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus.

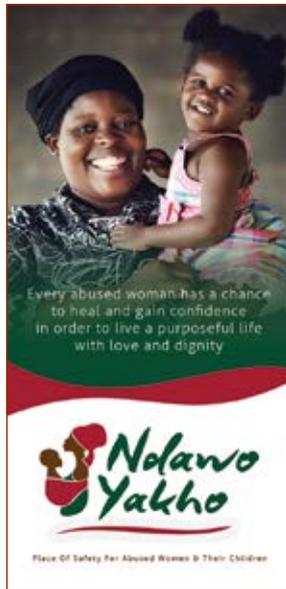
May the Lord bless you,

Pastor Rufus Kamalakar

Ndawo Yakho – a safe place for women

It seems that there are only few safe places for South African girls and women. According to official statistics, every second woman is victim to violence. Unfortunately, oppression and sexual abuse of women still seem to be the normal thing. Ideally, abused women and their children can take refuge in a women's shelter, but the reality is that there are only few such shelters. Against this backdrop, the women's shelter Ndawo Yakho seems to be only a drop in the ocean. In 2006, women belonging to BCSA

Ndawo Yakho – A women's project for women



churches launched a ministry "from women for women". With the help of donations they bought a house in Johannesburg and called it Ndawo Yakho (the Zulu translates as: a safe

place). Yet, the house had to be temporarily closed.

When I met the chairwoman of the board at a conference in 2013, she talked to me about Ndawo Yakho and her ardent desire to reopen the house. I was very moved and wondered how I could support her in doing so. She told me about administrative and organizational difficulties – which was just my cue! Enthusiastically,

I told her that administration is my very field. I now support the board in sustainably implementing their goals.

During a meeting in the Ndawo Yakho House, I saw a bit of the sky through the ceiling, and by then, if not before, it was clear to me that the house not only needed administrative restructuring but also a restoration of the building. Thanks to donations from EBM INTERNATIONAL, the renovation was completed in September. As soon as a house mother has been found, the House will be able to open its doors and provide abused women and their children a life in dignity. GOD IS GOOD!

Anna Meyer



Learning from one another

For one year now, I have been teaching car mechanics on site in the BCSA churches. It has been my mission to be very close to the people and to teach them helpful tricks through short and hands-on workshops in car mechanics.

The course in Meadowlands, Soweto, started in early August. The first day was full of suspense

for me, as I did not exactly know how many would come and what age they would be. At 9:00 a.m. the course was to start, and so, being typically German, I was there at 8:45 so as not to be late. And at first I was standing there, in front of the church, all by myself. But by degrees, more and more people came till we were a group of 15 women and men. I was very surprised at the

big number and the high average age (about 60). Because of the major age difference between me and my new students, I felt quite uneasy at the beginning. In South African culture, special respect for older people is essential. After a couple of lessons, I realized that the age difference was enriching, and now we laugh a lot and learn a lot from one another. We are now half-way through the course. At the beginning, the numbers of those attending varied a great deal, but after some lessons, the number of students levelled off at ten. Now, only those are coming who want to learn more about car mechanics.

Besides theoretical lessons, we repair the cars of church members. I am very happy that since the beginning of the course, the students have become increasingly self-reliant and have been able to repair many a defect on their own.

Johannes Meyer



Workshop with Johannes: Happily learning together

Magloire Kadjio introducing himself

I am Magloire Kadjio and am married to Delphine. We have got four children: Danielle, Pierrette, Grace and Prince Emmanuel.

I have been thrilled to see how God called me and empowered me to serve in His kingdom. He has led me this far in my work as a pastor and evangelist. I got my first experience as an evangelist in Nkondjock from 1995 to 1999. That was a big challenge.

Before, in 1994, I had got intense preparation training by Rainer Chrupala, and then I worked very closely with Markus Frank in Nkondjock. Markus also was an EBM missionary and contributed a great deal to forming my capacities of pastoral leadership and establishing relationships with expatriate missionaries. Today, I understand that this was a wonderful time of preparation. God is great!

From 2005, after finishing my theological studies, I worked for 9 years (till 2014) as a church planter in Soa/Yaoundé. I had never thought about working as a church planter before. But the Lord, Who has called me, has equipped me for this wonderful,

challenging and fulfilling task. With God's help, the support of EBM INTERNATIONAL, and the cooperation with Dirk Pusch, I was able to be successful during that time. Praise the Lord!

In July 2011, I was appointed to be the director of evangelism by the leaders of the Cameroonian Baptist Union (UEBC). I accepted this as a calling from God and considered it to be a step ahead. Even though the task demanded a lot of effort, as at the same time I was serving as a full-time pastor in Soa, it has been an important milestone on my journey with God. These four years, 2011 to 2015, have widened my horizon to see church-planting work beyond Soa.

My experience with EBM INTERNATIONAL:

In 2004, 2006, and 2007, I was able to participate in the International Bible School of the Gemeindejugendwerk (German youth department). In 2009, I had the opportunity of collaborating in some churches in southern Germany for three months on the "Without Borders" project, which is run by EBM

INTERNATIONAL. Looking back today, I realize how much these experiences of the past have laid the foundation for my work as the new Regional Representative of EBM IN-



Magloire Kadjio

INTERNATIONAL. Will this now be the last step? Only God knows.

My vision:

I believe that God has called me as the new Regional Representative for Central Africa and Sierra Leone in order to love and to encourage missionaries. And I believe that all the churches in all the countries are similarly challenged to be involved in spreading God's Kingdom.

Magloire Kadjio



The Kadjio family: Magloire, Pierrette, Danielle, Prince, Delphine, and Grace

We aren't there yet!

How do you greet people in Sierra Leone after Ebola? This was one of my biggest concerns when in September I travelled to Freetown on short notice, together with our President, Arild Harvik. It was obvious to me that the epidemic must have brought about change in the country. But I did not know what this would feel like, especially in a country where big hugs, long shaking of hands, and closeness actually belong to every-day life.

A few days later, when a project staff worker saw me off from a distance, he offered the following explanation: "We aren't there yet." Even if there are (hardly) any new infections and as I got to see only empty Ebola centres, this sentence expresses the whole and bitter truth: The people and, as a matter of fact, the whole country, still aren't there yet again. And it is by no means clear when grief and fear will have subsided, and when the economy and educational facilities will run more or less normally again. Yet in spite of all the uncertainties, in the midst of sadness and seeming hopelessness, hope and passion are still there. There is e. g. the laughter of Philip Kamara, who has been planting churches for many years in the Tonko Limba area. With the backing of the Norwegian Baptists, EBM INTERNATIONAL will be able to go on supporting him. This is an incredible example of our great network: As a mission, we have our offices in Germany and may serve as a link between Baptists in Norway and church-planting work in



Philip Kamara is a church planter in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone. By the way, Pastor Philip Kamara also provided emergency relief by securing food in the heart of this area, which was worst affected by Ebola. A great example of holistic and partnership-oriented mission.

In Petifubroun village with its population numbering several hundred and its Baptist Church in the centre, many gathered in order to thank us. In Petifubroun, 15 church members have died. Thanks to many donations, our partners could assist in farming, hand out seeds and tools, organize trainings and hand over a couple of goats – hopefully the beginning of goat livestock farming on a small scale. Now, the villagers have expressly asked to take their thanks back to Europe, and I am happy to comply with their wish.

So this time too, I have come back richly rewarded – and also a little proud. The Baptists in Sierra Leone are able to help – in the midst of suffering. And we, here in Europe, have our share in it, because structures do link, because structures are needed for partnership to grow stronger.

Matthias Dichristin



Petifubroun village was heavily affected by Ebola.

Reflection and a new start

After a little more than one year, we, i.e. former volunteers, gathered in Elstal for the evaluation course. We all were very happy to find out, after such a long time, about how the other volunteers had been during their year abroad. This meant that on the first day, the focus was on sharing experiences. Late in the afternoon, we met the new contact person for the volunteer programme, Kathy Gareis. Many of us had already been in intensive email contact with her.

On the second day, Matze Dichristin prepared us for the new phase in our lives by sharing the parable of the mustard seed. It was important to him that we should have a positive attitude and tackle new tasks without putting ourselves under pressure. In the evening, we were to think about the way living our faith had changed during our assignment. For each one of us in the small groups, it was thrilling to realize how the different spiritual experiences had impacted our faith. Even though our expectations were not always met, we discovered quite a different way of dealing with God. A highlight in the afternoon was the presentation of the various places of assignment, which he had been curious to learn about. It was very interesting to see the many pictures from the various countries, and we all agreed that it is impossible to talk about such an experience in 15 minutes. We did get a fair impression of what some situations must have been like, even though it was "only" a small insight. Especially fascinating were the differences between the African countries of Malawi, Cameroon and South Africa, making us realize the vastness and diversity of just this one continent. But



Very happy to see one another again

the reports from India and Argentina also presented very different cultures, which fascinated us.

On the following day, we had the opportunity to prove ourselves as a group. Guided by Jonas, we were to cross a "dangerous swamp infested by piranhas" on so-called "slacklines". It was great fun moving from one tree to the next, supported by a long chain of people, till everyone arrived safe on the other shore, supported by two "human trees". We were astonished how much we were trusting one another despite the long period that had elapsed since our last meeting. This laid the foundation for talking about the difficult times of our volunteer service and entrusting ourselves to our fellow volunteers.

At the end, we went to a Taizé devotional in the Elstal church on Sunday. The meditative atmosphere gave us some time to think about the previous days and our volunteer service.

On the whole, it was a great time which, however short, gave us the possibility to think about our volunteer service and to embrace a new phase in life, based on the positive experiences we had in this course.

Jonas Suilmann

PRAYING AND DONATING

Missionaries in general

Project number: MAG 77000

Financial need: € 550 000

Sierra Leone general

Project number: MAG 54000

Financial need: € 130 000

Information available at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM AFRICA:

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BIC: GENODE51BH2, SKB Bad Homburg

... to the end of the world

The very north of Argentina, close to the border with Brazil, is the home of the missionary couple Oscar and Alicia Kunigk with their three daughters. They have a big heart for missions and for the people in an area where the Gospel had not arrived yet. They are happy to share their experiences with you.

We are serving in missions in Argentina, in the northern part of the Upper Uruguay River basin in the village of El Soberbio. Because of the great scenery, the place is attractive, and there is a lot of corruption here. Headlines all over the country report on the negative things happening in our town. It has now been six years since we started mission work here. The beginnings were very hard and also dangerous, there were plenty



Church building in El Soberbio

of hostility and disapproval. People tried to discredit us. They claimed that we were a new sect – no one knew Baptist churches. We started the work with a mission tent, later on we rented an assembly room. Some people and even whole families were converted to Jesus and asked to be baptized. Today, we are 27 active church members, plus some families attending the service. In faith, we purchased a lot which was to cost 130,000 pesos. We prayed that we might get it for 75,000 pesos if this was in line with God's will, as we could not afford more. And the miracle happened – its owner let us have it at this price! Through capitalized service by the church members and thanks to the support of AGA (Baptist Union in Argentina) and EBM MASA, we now already have an assembly room with a kitchen, lavatories and two rooms for the children's service, which are also nearly completed.



Baptism in El Soberbio

Two and a half years ago, we also launched a mission project with a mission tent in Bernardo de Irigoyen – 235 kms from our place. My brother Sergio moved there and leads the group there. Every two weeks I visit them and preach. Some have already been baptized, so that today, the church numbers 13 active members and several families attending the services. In Irigoyen, too, we have purchased a lot and started constructing a building. The local church group has already purchased all the important materials for a building measuring 10 by 15 m. Our thanks go to EBM MASA for their support.

God pours out his blessings on his mission the world over. May He bless all of you abundantly.

Missionaries Oscar and Alicia Kunigk

Argentina – change of leadership at the "Norberto Haase" Children's Home in Alem

Change and a new start

It is now certain: After their ministry of eight years, the home wardens Elfi and Sergio Ibarra will end their service at the Children's Home in Alem at the end of the year. From January 2016, the couple Alicia and Samuel Veloná are going to take over. It is a good thing that we could find well qualified and capable people like the Velonás, who will be able to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors.

Our thanks and great appreciation go to Elfi and Sergio. For eight years, they have dedicated themselves to the children with great love and much care. Whenever new neglected children were taken to the Home and Elfi, she was very moved and upset. Every time, her own story

became vivid again. Let us give you a short review:

What began with the tragic accident when Bernhard and Hilda Haase lost their only son ended up being a blessing for many impoverished and orphaned children. In the midst



Elfi and Sergio Ibarra with their children

of their grief, the Haases opened their house to them in 1978. Today, a children's village consisting of six family homes stands at this location. It is named after Norberto, whose

death triggered all of this. The first orphan they took in was Elfi, a neglected eight-year-old girl with injuries – no other than the qualified social worker Elfi, who took over leadership of the Home a good eight years ago. Now, Elfi and Sergio are looking for new tasks. It was their own decision to hand over responsibility for the children and the Home.

Alicia Veloná has been employed as the director of the nearby Christian Canclini School, which is attended by the children of the Home. Therefore, she knows most of the children

and is aware of the difficulties but also of the importance of the task she is getting involved with. Samuel, her husband, also knows the Children's Home, he has been on its board for many years. Both of them know that God has called them into these new tasks. They are giving up their house and moving onto the campus of the Children's Home, knowing they will have no well-ordered life. Alicia will be leading the home, and Samuel will be in charge of the administration, finances, the house and the campus. Let us pray for them and their new phase in life. And let us thank God for having



Alicia and Samuel Veloná

good plans for the children and staff in Alem.

Mission work in Cuba – Human interest stories

Touching us time and again...

Our EBM MASA missionary Daniel González writes from Cuba: The Christian free churches in Cuba have been continually growing for 20 years. It is wonderful to be there when it happens and to reap the fruit. The very government who used to scorn the church and even predicted that it would disappear from everywhere in the island now has recognized that it is indispensable in order to solve quite a number of societal problems. It is simply wonderful to see how God has arranged for this, allowing us to benefit from this freedom in our church work, trying out new ways. What touches us most, again and again, are the stories of people whose lives are being transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit as soon as they get in touch with the message of the gospel. In the following, we are going to write about just a few out of the hundreds of testimonials that God lets us witness.

Oshin lived in abject poverty, like many other girls in Perla, one of Havana's districts. She suffered from hunger and hardly owned the bare necessities to live. In this area, prostitution, violence, drugs and gambling are commonplace. Some years ago, Oshin got to know Christ through a Bible Club, and her life gradually changed. She was baptized, grew in faith and was also involved in a Bible club in order to tell other children about the gospel. Oshin was a pearl, shining in the midst of darkness. Intense spiritual battles have left their marks on her and made her mature so that now she would like to become a missionary. With this in view she is now being trained at the Theological Seminary.



Oshin

Adalberto was known as the "Russian" after he could no longer move his legs owing to an accident in

Russia. Because of his positive attitude towards life he did have many friends but always felt inferior. One day, he got to know Christ Jesus, who gave him whatever he was lacking. Full of enthusiasm, Adalberto now shares the gospel all over his area. As a family, they have converted their house into a meeting place. Every week, a house church and a Bible club gather there, and several discipleship courses for young people and adults are held. Even though Adalberto cannot walk, God has given him an incredibly

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Adalberto with his family

great passion, which is contagious and leads others to walk the path of faith, too.

Ossiel has decided to live with God after listening to a sermon by Adalberto, "the Russian". His wife, however, did not believe his conversion was authentic because Ossiel was still irascible and bullheaded. His marriage was at risk of breaking up. It was only during a discipleship training that, by degrees, the Holy Spirit completely turned him into a different person. We were surprised to see that because of this his wife also came along to attend church events. In the meantime, his two children have submitted their lives to Jesus, and it is Ossiel's great wish that his wife would also experience this breakthrough and accept Jesus as her Lord. Today, Ossiel is a truly spiritual leader in his family and on the mission team for the church-planting work in the Jesús del Monte district.

Yoemis, 37, has two children. As she grew up, she never heard anything about God. When in 2007, her second child, a son, was



born with a serious illness, her husband prayed to God to heal the boy. The prayer was answered. After this, the couple started going to church. Two years later, their son lost his life in a tragic accident, when a car raced against the house where the boy was playing. Yoemis was broken and did not go to church any longer. Then, she got pregnant again and had a daughter. At age 2, the girl drank an acid which ruined her digestive system. Thank God, the child is better today.

In this year, too, the family's house collapsed. They lost all their belongings and had to move into a shelter for homeless people in Perla. Here, Yoemis got to know a sister from the church, who invited her to a cell group in her home. Yoemis started going to church again on Sundays and has accepted Jesus into her life. In Him, she finds peace and comfort, and the whole family



Yoemis with her children

may now experience how God is transforming their lives.

We thank all of you who support our projects in Cuba by prayer or donations. May God return to you the blessings which arrive here!

Yours,

Daniel González

Ossiel with his family

No easy place

About 120,000 people of Pomeranian descent live in the Brazilian State of Espírito Santo. Their ancestors moved there in the 19th century. Even today, many of them still speak their Pomeranian dialect. Superstition, occultism and alcoholism play an important part in people's lives and leave them without any prospects or hope. About 30 years ago, EBM MASA launched a mission project here. Today, there are already several churches and mission projects. A mission network has been established in order to strengthen the church-planting work and make it more efficient. The missionaries in charge are Valerio and Sandra Kurth, who are themselves of Pomeranian descent. They are happy to share this:

Overjoyed, we thank our God who has entrusted us with this ministry and provides for us as a missionary family. We are also grateful for the partners, co-workers and supporters who love missions.

We are thrilled to see that another new church is being planted among the people of Pomeranian descent. This is one of many good results produced by the mission network "Pomeranians for Jesus" in Espírito Santo. In São João do Garrafão, a group of about 30 to 40 people regularly meet for worship now. There are also a youth ministry, prayer groups in homes, and activities with the children and for married couples.

The prayer meetings in the homes aim at strengthening and blessing the families. In these groups, we also want to reach out to neighbours and relatives. At first, many of these do not want to go to church, but they gladly accept invitations into the homes. This is an immense opportunity. This work is greatly blessed.

At our first meeting for couples, Pastor Laércio gave the sermon. He, too, is of Pomeranian descent;

he became a believer here and has accepted the call into mission work. Many families in our area suffer from huge problems, marriages break up and they do not know how to go on. In these situations, the gospel offers them new ways and opportunities. It is wonderful to see how so many people have a new beginning and are strengthened emotionally with God's help.

A young person has been converted through reading the Bible. When she was abroad, she felt very lonely and was looking for help in God's Word. Back home, she attended our services. Here, the girl found help. She already has made friends in the church and regularly attends our events. Now, she would like to be baptized. But she comes from a very traditional family, where it is not easy to accept her baptism. Their home is right opposite the church here in Garrafão. Her decision to be baptized fills us with immense joy. This is why we would ask you to pray for her, so that her family also may be won over to Jesus. Moreover, this would also make many other villagers curious and open to the gospel. We also ask for prayer for the mission work here. This is no easy place to work, but the witness of the people who come to believe



Landscape in Brazil, home of the Pomeranians



Youths in São João do Garrafão

in Jesus is very clear and convincing. There are no arguments that can overcome it. This way, people open up to the Word of God and the gospel reaches more and more people. Thank you so very much for your caring support.

Valerio and Sandra Kurth

PRAYING AND DONATING

Mission Work in Alto Uruguay, Argentina

Project number: MAG 21230

Financial need: € 34 000

Pomeranians in Brazil

Project number: MAG 23230

Financial need: € 12 000

Information available at: www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM MASA:

IBAN: DE62 5009 2100 0000 1339 06

BIC: GENODE 51BH2

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(Europäische Baptistische Mission International)

SERVE ist ein freiwilliger Dienst von Menschen

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- ... Teamfähigkeit
- ... Referenz von zwei unabhängigen Personen
- ... die meisten Einsatzplätze sind durch „weltwärts“ anerkannt und gefördert

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Bewerben: immer bis
15. November für das Folgejahr
Bewerberwochenende für Volontäre:
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