





Christoph Haus



Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

Dear reader,

Recently, former EBM missionary Edgar Lüllau has shared an impressive example of the impact our missionary work has had. *"I saw the first school classes, people learning to write the alphabet and then to write their names in the sand. As I also wanted to learn this, I took part in these classes and heard the gospel there", that is what Pastor Matthieu Kovou said as he was talking about EBM's mission work, which started in early 1958 in Dagai (North Cameroon). On June 10, 1958, the first reading and writing lessons started under a big tree with students writing in the sand, using a small stick. This way, Matthieu learned to read and write. His first reading were the four gospels in the Ful language. He was converted and was baptized in Dagai on October 23, 1960, and the first church in North Cameroon was born. Matthieu Kovou was ordained pastor in 1977.*

This is just one example and stands for thousands of people who have got access to education and the gospel in this little village school in Dagai. God writes history with his people, and we are privileged to take part in it.

Sincerely yours,

Christoph Haus

Carlos Waldow

Matthias Dichristin



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Cover photo: child from a bible club in Havana (Cuba)

Reliability: a principle in missions

Our mission work in Africa started in 1889, when a Cameroonian prince in Berlin was converted and was baptized by Eduard Scheve. INDIENHILFE was launched in 1960, when a collection was organized by Hans Herter, who at that time was a church leader in Stuttgart. Missionary Activities in South America (MASA) were born in Latin America in the late sixties following Rev. Horst Borkowski's missionary travels. All these missionary ministries were supported in prayer and financially, and thus made possible by our churches.

Today, we consider it an honour and a privilege that all these ministries are part of EBM INTERNATIONAL. And as EBM, we feel committed to this legacy, and we are

convinced that faithfulness and reliability in dealing with the people in these countries is our duty today.

Concerning our commitment, the member of an Executive Committee in Africa once remarked: *"You touched untouched land, you started planting churches in our country and building schools and hospitals. We still need you and still want you. It is a privilege for us to build God's Kingdom with you at our side."*

And as we are fulfilling this mission, we in our churches will in turn get back a great deal of what we have invested there over all these decades.

Christoph Haus

Turkey

News from our mission work in Izmir/Turkey

For quite some time, we have noticed that people in multicultural Izmir find it increasingly difficult to accept one another. So we had the idea of organizing a dinner in the court in front of our church during Ramadan, in late July. We invited many people, and many came: Representatives, the mayor of Buca, Jewish fellow citizens and brothers and sisters from the Catholic church and many Muslims. We had invited 50 to 60 people; towards the end of the evening, the guests numbered 100, and we were short of seats and of food as well. It was really a successful evening with a lot of talks and encounters. Of course, several press agencies were present and reported about this event the next day in a positive way, though some also in a negative way.

We are happy that after this dinner, three persons came to believe in Christ Jesus. We have now started studying the Alpha Course with them.

Thank you for all the prayers for Torbali Church. After its inauguration in early June, the situation had somewhat calmed down. But then, a few weeks later, we realized that the brothers and sisters in Torbali wished

to be on their own and to become independent. Our brother Ihsan (church leader in Torbali) informed us of their separation a few days later (in late July); he now cooperates with Brother Jared, from an Independent Church in Virginia (U.S.), whom we sent to Torbali along with him to assist him. This brother now secures the finances of the church.

For weeks, we had been praying for a solution. We had been so very happy about this new church plant. Following some discussions involving a brother from *EBF (European Baptist Federation)*, the brothers and sisters from Torbali and ourselves, we have now blessed them and couldn't but let them go. Good to know that Jesus knows about everything.

Ertan Cevik

Quechua Mission Conference

During their official trip to Peru – in June this year –, Carlos Waldow and Arturo Köbernick had the opportunity to attend two mission conferences of Quechua churches. The first one took place in *Canchas near Jimbe*, the second one in *Concacha Baja*.

These conferences, “convenciones” in their language, are a kind of substitute festival, which the people belonging to the churches and mission stations in this region organize every year with all the village people. The Quechua celebrate the “festivals of the gods”, which are typical of this region and which last four days. Our EBM MASA missionary Adrián Campero wanted to put something different in place. Instead of occult practices and immoderate alcohol consumption, there are sports competitions such as the Bible race; starting from 4,000 m above sea level, the destination of this race is on a still higher mountain. The prize for those ranking at the top is a Bible, and you can hardly imagine their exuberant joy! There are different competitions for men, women and various age groups. In addition, there are three to four worships every day, with lots of music and preaching. During these events,



Hugo and Carlota Mondonedo

many accept Christ, there are baptisms, weddings, blessings of children and a lot more. Food is prepared for everyone, which requires good coordination. Shared meals are very important to them.

The really encouraging fact is that this “substitute festival” has now become more popular with the population than the “festivals of the gods”. The “festival of the Spirit” in Canchas was attended by about 200 people. In Concacha Baja, there had been some 1,000. In some regions, more than 2,000 people flock in sometimes.

For Carlos Waldow and Arturo Köbernick (MASA Regional Representative), this was a wonderful experience. They had the privilege of preaching repeatedly, and at the end had a meeting with the missionaries and pastors in these regions. In 2014, when the first study trip to Peru will take place, the party is scheduled to take part in a similar

gathering of some 2,000 people. Planning is already under way.

Seeing how God pours out his blessing on the mission work among the Quechua fills us with joy. Many come to believe in Jesus, are baptized and are committed church members. EBM MASA missionary Adrián Campero and his team are very often away from home, training missionaries and co-workers. New churches are being planted. Hugo Mondonedo, our missionary in the Jimbe region, shared the following: When he was visiting the most remote and highest mission area in *Rayan* (4,000 m above sea level), he was approached by a young man from *Kilkay*, the farthest and highest village in the region, who said to him: “Please, come to our village and talk about the Bible: we would like to learn from it.” New churches are being planted.

Such things are encouraging and fill our missionaries with joy and power for their challenging work. Thank you for supporting this work in your prayers.



Adrián Campero

left: Worship during the mission conference in Concacha Baja; bottom left: Mission conference in Concacha Baja; bottom right: Mission Conference in Canchas



Together, we accomplish more

As reported in our latest magazine, our partner unions in Brazil (CBP “Pioneira” – regional Baptist association in Southern Brazil) and in Mozambique have set up a concept for a mission partnership under the guidance of EBM MASA. Some students from the Theological Seminary in Ijuí, Brazil, did a first assignment in Mozambique, visiting mission projects there. Here are two testimonials:

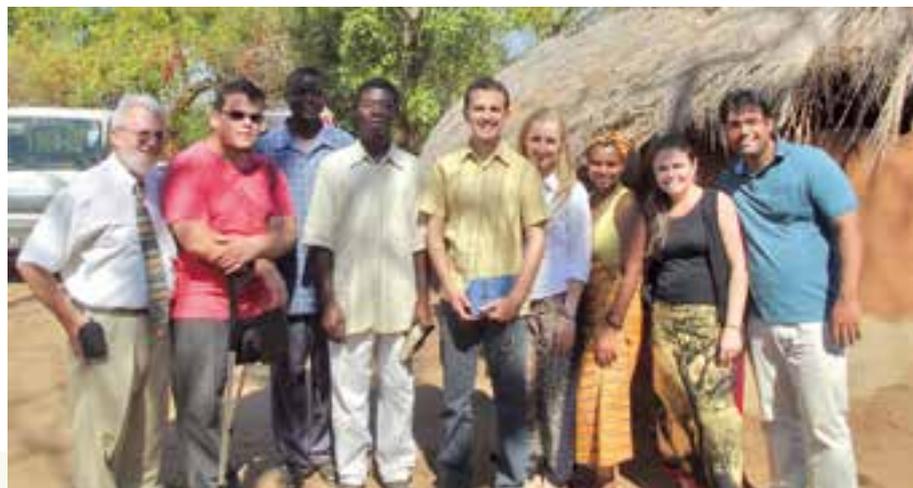
Camila Assumpção reports: “During these weeks in Mozambique, my six team members and I worked in the PEPE pre-school project, organized a holiday bible school and talked about Jesus with countless people. In our last week, we went to a mission project in Nharonchonga. There, we slept in a mud hut, had our baths in a straw hut and ate in candle-light. The efforts of our four-hour marches in the bush were forgotten when we found a small house and then could tell the people living there about God’s love. The inhabitants are very hospitable. Before I went to Africa, I imagined that this was the “Continent of opportunities”, and I have found it to be true. I would not like to be a spectator only when God is at work, for serving him fills me with utmost joy.”



Camila with a group of children from the PEPE pre-school project in Mozambique

Gabriel Lauter, another student from Brazil, also shares his impressions: This mission trip to Mozambique was a God-given gift, a wonderful opportunity of serving and getting confirmation of my vision for missions. The 25 days spent in Mozambique told me that God’s Kingdom is much greater, much more extensive and diverse than anything I had known before. Indeed, I have learned a great deal in Nharonchonga, but I have also reviewed many lessons I had learned but not practiced that thoroughly. I have learned that you don’t need any money in order to serve God. I have learned how to love and respect

your neighbour more than yourself. I have learned what a sacrifice without complaining is worth. I have learned that when accomplishing Jesus’ mission, you do not feel fatigue or sadness but that your heart overflows with joy. I am very happy about this first mission trip, which was organized jointly by the Baptist Union “Pionera”, the Baptist Union of Mozambique, and EBM MASA.



Braz-Moz-EBM Partnership: the mission team from Brazil with brothers and sisters from Mozambique (3rd from right: Camila Assumpção, 5th from right: Gabriel Lauter)

STAMPS FOR ORPHANS MINISTRY

You may support our children’s homes in South America by collecting stamps. Please send your used stamps or collection to the following address: Horst Liedtke, Ober-Seemer-Straße 24, D-63688 Gedern, phone (within Germany) 06045 4186.



Above the roofs of Havana

By the time I heard Frankie rapping the gospel in Herford 18 months ago, at the latest, it was clear to me: We are going to Cuba with some students from Vienna! What he told us about God's work among prostitutes, addicts and former prisoners – that was along the same lines as Daniel Gonzales's reports about the awakening on the Isle of Youth over the past fifteen years. If there is a revival, we do good to ourselves by experiencing it, learning from it and by being inspired.

Quite unexpectedly, we find ourselves in a traditional church in Santo Suarez in the Diez de Octubre district in Havana. The nearby Theological Seminary reflects American style throughout the campus. A



big church dating from times before the Revolution, marked by now fifty years of communism. And yet, there is something quite different about it: The church is going through a complete upheaval and reaches out to the people in their neighbourhood. Start-up problems cannot be ignored. It is a challenging road from rather self-conscious evangelizing to relating to people, helping, living, sharing and loving worthy of God's Kingdom – which is simply fascinating.

Daniel Gonzales, at present pastor in this church, has gathered a good team of young leaders and pastors around him and encourages a movement of cell groups, house churches and church plants to an astonishing degree. The ministry



Austrian guests in Cuba

range is from a youth ministry helping not only young people but their parents as well to an Afro-Cuban house church in a district impacted by witchcraft and superstition. It is worth having a close look and to learn from this transformation of a quite normal traditional church.

How different is the self-sustaining vitality of the young church in Saldo. Here, people who have dropped out of the System find themselves again. Their wood-plank house fronts are being renovated by members of this young church, one after the other. As they say themselves: God's presence is becoming a reality in this district. The church, who as a matter of fact meets illegally above the roofs of Saldo for their open air worship shows us what the gospel is about: People experiencing deliverance.

Prostitutes and addicts become royal priests. By the way, Frankie emigrated to the USA not long ago. The church misses him – but they realize: God builds his church and his team HIMSELF!

What a contrast was the calm on the Isle of youth – quite a different world. Here, our schedule was focused on the invitations to lunch and dinner; we were split up into the homes and flats of our brothers and sisters. In the end, this turned out to be the richest treasure of our trip – meeting in the homes according to Acts 2. For most of our Cuban brothers and sisters, it was the first

time they had hosts from abroad. How would they manage with their small tables? What should they pay attention to? In our table fellowships we realized that revival has got to do with sharing your lives. Thus inspired, we now also extend invitations to join table fellowships in our Vienna church.

What a contrast again between our 10-day study trip and our four-day evaluation stay on the dreamlike beaches! In the still communist system, limitations and weak points are easily discernible. Yet immediately, the discussion turns to the idiocies of our own system. Globalization is a fact – yet neoliberalism is destructive – the mental strain it brings about and its excessive demands are obvious. What room is there in it for God's reality? Where do we need deliverance and revival? What is the relevance of the gospel in our social situation? Where do those teams of royal priests from Acts 2 arise among us? All of these questions were dealt with during our one-week holiday on this Caribbean Island.

Walter Klimt (Student ministry Vienna and "Projekt-Gemeinde" Vienna)

Cotia, Brazil

In October, a group of twelve from Switzerland and Germany set out for Brazil and Argentina, in order to visit and get to know some MASA projects. Here follows an excerpt from the travel diary, recording their visit to the Cotia children's home.

2012/10/06: I had no idea that Brazilians are so hard-working: For the day of laying the foundation stone for a new day-care centre in the Cotia children's home, they were preparing a festival and many days in advance, there was already a lot of cleaning, building, shopping,



The study tour party with the Home Parents.

planning and rehearsing. Quite a number of guests and people from the nearby slum were invited. The stands offering games and food were prepared with devotion and, once the day came, they were very popular with children and adults alike. The barbecue grill was being used continuously supplying sausages and Brazilian barbecue. The children living at the home were bustling about everywhere and looked very happy. What a festival! The fun and games were followed by a solemn part. The Cotia Home's



Children from the Cotia Home.

director, Manfredo Landenberger, opened the festival service. There was much singing before and after the sermon. Needless to say that we, the guests from abroad, were introduced to the congregation. And then, there was the great moment of unveiling and presenting the model of the planned multi-purpose hall. The assembly then went to the opposite plot where the building will be erected. Here, we formed a big circle, and Rev. Elimar Brandt (D), said prayers of dedication and blessings. The end of a fulfilling day.

Heidrun und Gabi

Obituary: Robert Schmidt

Farewell to Pastor Robert Schmidt

On August 23, 2012, Rev. Robert Schmidt passed away after prolonged illness, aged 73. Many who have known EBM MASA work for

several years, know his name as well.

Short biography:

Together with his wife Ursula, Robert Schmidt emigrated to Brazil in 1964. He had mission work and church ministries on his heart and from the beginning had close ties to Rev. Horst Borkowski, the founder of MASA.

During his 20 years as MASA Coordinator in Brazil, Robert Schmidt was in charge of many church planting projects; yet it was the children's homes, particularly the Cotia Home, which were most important to him. To these, he committed himself with passion; for these, he lived.

We are thankful to God for the life of our brother Robert Schmidt. And we hope and pray that time and again there will be people willing to be called into God's mission, too, so it will go on.



Robert Schmidt

PRAYING AND DONATING

Cotia Children's Home, Brazil

Project number: MAG 23120

Financial need: € 51 000

Theological Seminary Ijuí, Brazil

Project number: MAG 23220

Financial need: € 21 000

Further information at:

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM MASA:

133906, BLZ 500 921 00, SKB Bad Homburg, IBAN: DE62 5009 2100 0000 1339 06, BIC: GENODE51BH2

CBM Bethel Hospital in Vuyyuru

CBM Bethel Hospital is a general hospital with an eye ward catering to the people living in and around Vuyyuru – irrespective of caste, creed and nationality. The hospital was founded in 1906 by Canadian Baptist missionaries as a dispensary. Five years later, the “old” hospital was built on the roadside; it was affectionately called “Missamma” by the public. The “Canadian Baptist Mission Hospital” primarily catered to women and children. The foundation stone for the present hospital was laid in March 1923. Dr Hulet, Mrs Lockheart and Pastor Godron and his wife gave it the name “Bethel” (House of God,) trusting “the assurance of a gracious presence that should never be withdrawn as long as the need exists”. The “old” hospital was moved to the present building in 1927-1928.

“Bethel Hospital” for women and children became a general hospital in 1955.

The great need for a new out-patient department was met when the new OP Building was dedicated in 1965; the building also accommodated a new business office. Eye work was launched as out-patient work in 1979, with an in-patient department being added in 1984. In 1992, the building accommodating the out-patient work, the eye ward and an operating theatre was erected. Since 1998, the eye project has been supported by INDIENHILFE (EBM INDIA since 2010) from Germany. In 2002, INDIENHILFE



Staff of CBM Bethel Hospital

also set up a Social Fund, so that nobody has to be denied treatment because of lacking means. In 2010, EBM INTERNATIONAL took over the eye work.

OUR AIM: Sharing the Love of Jesus Christ through service to the poor and needy elderly people – irrespective of caste, creed or religion, ultimately spreading the good news of the gospel and expanding God’s Kingdom.

Helping people in remote villages by conducting camps: This means the needy are taken to the base hospital for surgery and taken back on the second day following it. This has become possible because EBM INDIA has provided a minibus.

The health care scenario in India is exciting and alarming at the same

time. World class medical care is available at state-of-the-art hospitals – however, it is very expensive and thus inaccessible to the great majority.

We try to help the poor and needy by providing the eye treatment they need in our hospital. This has become possible thanks to the generosity of people through EBM INTERNATIONAL. We thank the Lord for strengthening us so we can continue the work he has called us to do. We thank the partners whose generosity makes this possible.

Dr Esther Anandakshi
(medical director)



Preparing for surgery



Minibus used for the eye camps



Eye tests for school children in the nearby villages

Food security project in Vuyyuru



Gajjala Gangabhavani from Thadanki village in her kitchen garden



Thommandru Ravindar from Peddagorikalapadu village in front of his turmeric field



Saila Manoharam from Nagannaguden, a little village, in front of her paddy

With his wife and two children, Mahesh* (38) had been farming on his two acre land for the past 20 years. He used to get some money for seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Due to monsoon failure, as well as poor quality of seeds and the rising costs of farm labour, he did not get good yields. All the same, he was expected to pay back the loans he got from private money lenders, at high interest rates. This he could not do, and over the years, his debts accumulated. Thinking of his helpless wife and the children, he consumed pesticide and died. Mahesh, who was supposed to be the bread winner of the family, is no more!

Mahesh's suicide is not a stray case. In the first two months of this year, 157 farmers committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, a plan to contribute to ensuring food security was conceived (food security meaning that everybody is to have access to nutritious food at all times): The plan provides for better training of the farmers on how to produce more and more diverse food, namely by using compost and other bio fertilizers, conservation of soil moisture by mulching, by planting nitrogen fixing crops, diversification of crops, producing seeds and usage of organic pesticides and fertilizers.

In addition to this it is also planned to increase the livestock to generate milk and compost.

The programme was a delight to the farmers in and around Vuyyuru, where a Baptist hospital (CBM Bethel Hospital) has been serving the poor for over a century. This hospital is supported by the European Baptist Mission with some medical equipment and a social fund to extend medical facilities to the

poorest of the poor. This hospital had identified the pressing need of the community, i.e. increasing crop productivity with a view to reducing hunger, and they approached us asking whether we could establish a partnership. Seeing the urgency and this being a noble cause EBM INTERNATIONAL spontaneously agreed.

Now there are 540 farmers from 30 villages actively engaged in this programme. A few of them are land owners, but many are landless farmers and rent the land. Initially, training was given to the staff and the farmers on Conservation Agricultural Practices, with government Agricultural Officers serving as resource persons. Good quality seed was collected and was sown. Now paddy rice is being grown on 538 acres; vegetables are grown on 1 acres, and turmeric on 1 acre – all organically.

All the farmers have planted kitchen gardens to produce vegetables. We are now sure that these families will have more diversified foods.

All these farmers have formed sanghams** in their villages, and they have opened a bank account. There are 30 farmer sanghams now. Each farmer saves Rs. 50 per month. This money can be given as a loan to the needy farmers so they can meet farm expenditure. We are now organizing them to form a Cooperative for concerted action. Once these groups have gained experience in saving and using their money, some money can be given to the Cooperative to be loaned to farmers.

Dr Judson Pothuraju

*) name changed

**) village associations

YMCA Children's home for Adivasi boys, SALUR

The photo shows a boy by the name of M. Gowri, who comes from the little and very poor village of Mugadavalasa. When Gowri was still very small, his parents died. At first, he lived with his grandmother. As the latter also comes from a very poor background and did not have any money to send him to school, she handed him over to the children's home. Here, Gowri now had the chance of graduating successfully from his school.

At present, he is studying civil engineering in Paderu, a tribal area in Visakhapatnam

District, where the Government opened an engineering school in order to provide technical training to tribal children such as Gowri.

After completing this three-year course, young people have good chances of getting an adequately paid job. This allows them to integrate into society and especially to provide for themselves and their families. Gowri is overjoyed with getting this opportunity and is looking forward to leading a dignified life after all.



M. Gowri

Obituary : Gerhard Körner

A dynamic fellow shaper of INDIENHILFE: Gerhard Körner has passed away

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)

On September 24, the day preceding his 92nd birthday, Gerhard Körner was called home by God.

He had extraordinary and manifold talents, which he invested in his tasks and shaping responsibilities during his whole life. By profession, he was a director in the Brown Boveri Group; he also owned a number of patents. Besides, and especially after retiring, he was involved on an honorary basis in many ways – with mind and heart and hands-on:

For many years, he was the church leader of the Baptist Church in Schriesheim. For 12 years, he served on the board of the German Baptist Union, where he also headed the Department for World Mission, among other things. Tasks of trouble-shooting and conflict resolution were also assigned to him. Finally, he also left his marks on the retirement home in Welzheim, a joint venture by Diakoniewerk Baden-Württemberg and Diakoniewerk Bethel.

For INDIENHILFE, which was founded in 1960, he was a wise and extremely

committed promoter, having his part in shaping its way of operating. His collaboration started when he had already turned 65, a "late vintage" so to speak, and, as such, assembling the power of the sun, strength and maturity.

From 1985, when INDIENHILFE was integrated into the German Baptist Union, he served on its board until 2008.

During this same period (1985-2008), he also accomplished a great deal of work in an honorary capacity: anything concerning EDP, preparing illustrated reports for which he had responsibility, developing the by-laws, issuing donation receipts, etc. In all of this, he relentlessly brought in his experience and was at all times willing to take up responsibility for the work he did.

He took part in four field trips visiting the partners and projects in India, paying himself for the trips as was in line with his self-understanding; during this time, he literally became ingrained in the activities in India. Whenever something was "cooking" in the bustling partnerships in India, he was hooked and got actively involved. It was his particular concern that for all these



Gerhard Körner †

charitable activities the gospel should not be neglected, that all the activities should remain based on a spiritual foundation and that the ministry should thus be both – social and missionary.

INDIENHILFE owes him a great deal. My heart is moved and full of gratitude for his manifold services, his friendship and his ever committed action.

Gerhard Körner did not hide the talents God had entrusted to him, but used them with care and diligence and invested them “at the best possible interest rate”. As the servant in the parable of the entrusted bags of gold, he will be told: “Well done, good and faithful servant! ... I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

He took to his heart the poorest of the poor, who live a life in shadow; in his

deeply-grounded faith, it was his heartfelt desire to meet his Lord where He has chosen to dwell, i.e. in those at the bottom, the disadvantaged. This he implemented in many ways. Whenever he saw those in need – be it children looking for a home, the blind, the ill, the hungry, the drifting – he saw the face of Christ, the One who had commissioned him. Such serving charity was his way of putting lifelong worship into practice.

Gerhard Körner was a role model exemplifying faithfulness. All of us, the friends of INDIENHILFE (now EBM INDIA), the partners in India and with them the countless needy people in our numerous and manifold projects, will remain thankful with all our hearts for his impacting action. His seed has borne fruit; the marks of his service to the “far-away neighbour” are indelible.

Dr. Walter Herter

INDIA – FACTS AND DATA



Capital:	New Delhi
Area:	3,287,590 sq. km
Population:	1,210,193,422 (2011)
Religion:	Hinduism (80.5 %), Islam (13.4 %), Christianity (2.3 %), Sikhism (1.9 %), Buddhism (0.8 %), Jainism (0.4 %), others (0.6 %)
Languages:	23 in total. The official languages of the Union, however, are Hindi and English
Education:	74 % (2011) of the population can read and write
Government:	Federal Parliamentary Republic
Agriculture:	Rice, wheat, millet, pulse, potatoes, onions, oil-seed crops (especially peanuts, soy beans, sesame, colza, coconuts), mangos and bananas, cotton, sugar cane, tea, tobacco, coffee, jute, cashew nuts, spices (foremost chillies, pepper, cardamom, ginger, coriander, turmeric, cinnamon, garlic), and betel nuts.
Industries:	Textiles, steel, machinery, chemicals, telecommunications (hardware and software), biotechnology
Natural resources:	rich deposits of high-grade iron and manganese, coal, bauxite and chrome.
Challenge:	poverty

PRAYING AND DONATING

CBM Bethel Hospital – Food Security Programme in Vuyyuru

Project number: MAG 81704
Financial need: € 24000

YMCA Children’s Home in Salur

Project number: MAG 82201
Financial need: € 10000

Further information at:

www.ebm-international.org
Donation account EBM INDIA: 343609
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Report by Margit Froeb, volunteer

Since mid-September, I have been living on the campus of the Theological Seminary in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. Volunteering with EBM INTERNATIONAL, I teach

implementation. The Theological Seminary has existed in this way since 1994. At first, there simply was a three-year basic course in theology. Now, women and men can qualify at various academic levels, even getting a master's degree.

Those bearing responsibility at the Seminary are approximately in their mid-fifties; they all studied abroad. It is their heartfelt desire that Malawian students should now be trained in their own country. At the Seminary, both lay and

worship, where students and teachers preach in turns. Every student has to choose a church in Lilongwe and be involved there. There is also a special programme for the wives of the male students, who still make up the majority.

Those studying here have to pay tuition fees of € 150 per semester, including accommodation and board. For the huge majority, this is an enormous amount of money. Normally, the students are sent to the Seminary by their churches and are also supported financially, but many gifted students still cannot study here because they cannot afford it. Living conditions at the Seminary are very simple and modest. Accommodation, board and lecture rooms are minimum standard. Still, I have adjusted to life at the Seminary as best possible. The amiability and openness of the people there make up for many challenges of every-day life. And, coping with these things, I can still grow.

Margit Froeb

full-time pastors and church leaders are trained. The Seminary provides a wide range of streams and has a holistic approach: On four days of the week, there is theoretical teaching, Monday is a day of practical work. Every weekday starts with a



Seminary teaching staff with Margit Froeb

Christian counselling here for six months. Besides, I offer pastoral care here and in a Baptist church.

By now, everyone on the campus has come to know me and greets me, lecturer and cook alike. The people are very friendly and call me "Mama/Madame/Sister", or simply "Margit: how are you today?". As a matter of fact, it is not very difficult to know me, for I attract attention – simply because I look different from all the people around me; so far, I have not met any other white person here.

The students know me as Margit from Germany, 52 years old, married, and they know I have got two adult daughters. They like to look at my family photos and are interested in me and my life in Germany. Actually, living out relationships is very important in Malawi, and "mad rush" is a word they do not know. The Seminary, too, understands itself explicitly as a Christian Fellowship, with a good balance between academic learning and hands-on



Theological Seminary in Lilongwe

Theological Education in Bangui

This morning, I have prepared for lectures at our theological school in Bangui. Next Monday, we will celebrate the opening service. After that, our students, men and women alike, will be sitting on their chairs, expecting to get prepared for their future ministries in the three years ahead. I teach pastoral theology. This subject deals with practical ministry aspects of those preaching. God Himself is the role model of our ministry. His way of caring for people is to be the way our future pastors care for their churches, as shepherds. After all, the ministry is not only about maintaining churches, but just as Christ kept looking for what was lost, they, too, shall learn how to lead people to Christ and into his church.

Elie Yorgh has now completed his training and has recently been ordained as a pastor in a church on



Students of the Theological School



Markus Maag teaching pastoral theology

the outskirts. He got his first training in Italy as a gunsmith, which allowed him to make enough money to provide for his family of eleven. Because of his honesty and affability, he got a call to lead the national men's ministry in the Union. He now divides his time up between his former trade, his church, his family and the men's ministry – a balancing act familiar to many pastors in Europe as well.

Annabeth and I have been invited to his church to hold two seminars on drug abuse and on responsible sexual behaviour in November. He has given up quite a lot but at the same time gained a great deal. Today, he invests in people and builds for eternity.

There is also reason for sighing when we see the lack of students who are truly called. With high unemployment rates, we keep seeing applicants who think that this training will get them a safe job for the future. We now pray that the churches will realize that the lack of pastors is a real concern, that they will support capable people and that the Lord Himself will call those He wants to use in his service.

There are still many churches without any trained leaders. Other leaders have grown old and weary while serving and should be dismissed into well deserved retirement. The country is still in need of well trained pastors. So we would like to thank

all the donors who support this task, which is so very important.

Markus Maag



Elie Yorgh is involved in many areas

Missionary Hans-Willem Oosterloo reporting...

When we met Rev. Foday Koroma and his team of assistant pastors in the small village Mabettor on the outskirts of Lunsar, a large crowd of people had gathered there to greet us. The church building has only recently been erected with funds received from the USA. Besides the church people, a large number of



Foday and Saffie Koroma

school children received us: The area is largely dominated by Islam, and Pastor Foday promotes the establishment of Christian schools. In a neighbouring village, he has used his influence to induce a mining company to build a primary school, and Pastor Foday's firm intention is to recruit Christian teachers so that the gospel will be preached everywhere.

From here, we travelled to Fore-dugu. In this village, a somewhat larger one, many young women accepted Christ and were baptized a few weeks ago. The elderly find it difficult to embrace the new teaching of Christ, but they allow their children to go to church. In 2011 and 2012, Pastor Foday has baptized more than 500 people. His ministry has clearly touched the hearts of the people; for although Baptists and Catholics had ministered to people for many years, the area had remained solidly Muslim. Pastor Foday received his theological training in Ghana at the Baptist Theological Seminary there. While he was still studying there, news



Pastor Foday preaching and teaching

reached the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone about his progress and ministry. He was eager to return home after his studies and was employed by BCSL as a church planter. Pastor Foday is a natural evangelist, who travels round the villages on his motorbike and visits the churches he has planted every Sunday. Like Paul, he trains a Timothy in every church. His wife Saffie works as a secretary for the Baptist Eye Hospital and also supports her husband in the ministry, preaching and teaching.



A new school is being built

On the way home to Freetown, we visited the strategic town of Rogbere. Here Pastor Foday is planning the building for a secondary school, as there is only a Muslim secondary school in the town. My wife Aisha and I were overwhelmed by the great faith of our brother. Pastor Foday did not wait for the funds to start construction. His brother is a building contractor and has helped him to begin. When we were there, we met workmen mixing cement and laying blocks (made of mud). And as I am writing these lines, I am able to tell you that one building has been completed and roofed. Our brother, Pastor Foday, trusted in God, and God blessed his faith.

Evaluation Course of the 2011-2012 group

... There we were, back in Elstal, 14 months after our preparation course ...

We started on Wednesday evening, September 12, 2012, at 6 p.m. with a big barbecue. Saying hello to all our fellow volunteers and chatting ...

We had three full days to share and reflect on everything once more. Each day of the course had, of course, been carefully prepared, so that we could take "leave" from our personal year in Argentina or Africa in the best possible way. Each day had a topic of its own.

On one of the days, the topic was "transience, leaving". Rev Kathy Christina Pithan was with us on this day, as we were leaving our very personal year in our respective countries of assignment behind.

On still another day, we donned garments typical of the country we had been to, for it was the day of our personal presentations. Each volunteer group was to give a short lecture on their country and place of assignment and on characteristics there. Afterwards, every volunteer could briefly relate something positive and something negative we had personally experienced during this year. These "short" talks, however, filled a whole day, which was both very good and very important for us.

The third full day was dedicated to "reverse culture shock and reintegration". We very candidly talked with Kristina Hasenpusch about our experiences and encounters after coming back. All of us who so wished could tell how they had experienced coming back,

what difficulties and challenges they were faced with, how people at home responded to them. Moreover, we established a list of things we did to help us reintegrate. In addition, we also said good-bye to all the negative things that we consciously wanted to leave back "in our country of assignment" – and on the other hand, we very consciously took the positive things "home" with us.



Volunteers coming back – evaluation course September 2012

On Sunday, 18 September 2012, at 12 o'clock, our evaluation courses ended after a last worship together in Elstal.

So now, we are the "former ones", for after these four days in Elstal, our volunteer year in Africa or Argentina is really a thing of the past.

Although many of us may never really and totally leave this time behind, for it has left its marks on all of us, in whatever ways, and we all have had the privilege of taking something with us from this time, maybe to last forever...

THANK YOU, JESUS!

Verena Egerding

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Volunteer Programme SERVE

Project number: MAG 10800
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New films at www.ebm-international.org

At our website, two new short videos are available now:

Titled **"EBM INTERNATIONAL – God writes his mission story"**, a 13-minute video is available which briefly portrays the origins of the various areas of work of EBM INTERNATIONAL. A couple of examples are also included to show in what projects we are presently involved. Besides the mission secretaries, all the regional representatives from India, Africa and Latin America say a few words. The video is a wonderful means of informing in a somewhat more detailed way about EBM INTERNATIONAL during church events, and to give an impression of how many-faceted God's mission is.



In less than four minutes, the film **"SERVE – Serving God – Serving people"** portrays a dozen of volunteers presently volunteering in Africa and Latin America with EBM INTERNATIONAL. They talk about what is on their minds, what motivates them and what they are dreaming about when thinking of the encounters they will have in these countries.