





Christoph Haus



Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

## Dear reader,

The watchword for 2013 nicely fits into with missions: It expresses an underlying feeling that many of our co-workers know well: This place is not really our home. We long for more, for eternity, for God's Kingdom. Whatever we experience in this world with God, it remains incomplete knowledge and but a foretaste of things to come. What strikes us when we think of our people is the determination they must stand this balancing act, as it makes the foundation of their lives shaky: Even if everything here is only a foretaste, they want to see large parts of God's Kingdom established in this world. As much as possible of his justice, of his love and mercy for the people in this world, because it brings about hope and transforms our lives – in Germany, Europe and to the ends of the world.

May the Lord bless you in everything you do for the city where you live. You are needed. Let the people feel eternity in their hearts – freely adapted from a song by Samuel Harfst.

With warm greetings from the Mission Office

Yours,

Christoph Haus

Carlos Waldow

Matthias Dichristin



## Contact details

**President:** Arild Harvik (N)

**Vice-President:** Dr John Sussenbach (NL)

### Mission Office:

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

### Content responsibility:

Christoph Haus (India, Europe)  
 Matthias Dichristin (Africa)  
 Carlos Waldow (Latin America)  
**Editorial assistance:** Carola Streubel

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

**Print:** Grafische Werkstatt von 1980 GmbH D-34123 Kassel

**Cover photo:** © Matthias Steinbach

### MISSION ACCOUNTS

#### Germany:

Abteilung Weltmission des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden

#### EBM INTERNATIONAL

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

#### EBM AFRICA

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

#### EBM MASA (Latin America)

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

#### EBM INDIA

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

#### Austria:

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

#### Switzerland:

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

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



Worship in South Africa

# Learning from one another

World mission is no one-way road. The short report by our missionary Ertan Cevik, further down this page, shows how relevant the small Baptist Church in Izmir is for their environment and how much people are aware of them. At the meeting of the 15 partners, with whom we cooperate in India, we, the partners from Europe, were very impressed to see how much is achieved by their social mission ministries. The same is true of our mission work in Africa and Latin America, as we read in those reports. It is the focus on the people in the cities and villages where this mission work takes place. Many churches in our partner unions see their duty foremost in turning to the people in their mental and physical needs, rather than in safeguarding their existence or taking care of their congregations. It is our privilege to support them in their outreach work in

prayer and by donations. At the same time, it is also a chance for us to learn from them: They show us how to speak openly and clearly about Jesus, how to witness to Jesus in word and deed. And how then people come to believe in God, how people get help and how churches grow.

This is our vision, the vision of EBM INTERNATIONAL: Encouraging missions worldwide, support in prayer and by donations. And getting something in return, so that our churches in Europe may gain as much relevance and have as much impact on the people in our cities and towns.

*Christoph Haus*

## DATES

Mission Council in  
Skien/Norway  
May 2-4, 2013

Gathering of  
EBM friends in  
Kassel-Möncheberg  
May 8, 2013

*From our mission work in Izmir/Turkey*

## Christmas in Izmir

As in Muslim Turkey, the Christian holidays are no legal holidays, many of the church members there have to work or go to school. This is why Christmas was celebrated at an earlier date, at the weekend 22/23 December. On Saturday, there was a festivity with dinner and gifts for the church members, and on Sunday a service intended for guests, interested people and friends of the church. Before Christmas, Ertan Cevik had received an invitation from his son's R.E. teacher to come to the Muslim school. There, he was to explain to the pupils what Christianity is about. Many of the teachers were very peeved, but the pupils were very receptive.

On December 31, our Baptist Church was unexpectedly visited by the board of the local AKP, the party presently governing Turkey. The first chairman and the board of the party in Izmir wanted to obtain some information on our church.

One week later, Ertan was invited to a reception with the Turkish Foreign Minister. Among the many guests were the German General Consul in Izmir. Ertan had a chance to talk briefly to both of these.



Christmas celebration at the Izmir Church

Through this public relations work, our church has become quite well-known in Izmir. Many visitors and interested people come to us, which is a big challenge for the small church. Our greatest joy is that the church has again grown, with two members joining us.

*Ertan Cevik*

# Gathering of friends enjoying candlelit dinner

Saturday, November 17, had come. 80 friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL from almost every Baptist church in Switzerland followed our invitation and came to Bülach.

The idea had come up in spring, the date was fixed, and during the general assembly in June, the event was presented to the churches: A candlelit dinner for the friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL. In October, the ideas for the five-course trip around the world's cuisines were concocted, and after the rehearsal dinner, the fine delicacies from Africa, India and South America were adapted to Swiss taste.

During the starter course already,



Festive decoration on the tables

there was great excitement among the arriving guests. Esther Fröhlich, President of EBM Switzerland, greeted every guest in person. The beautifully presented shop "Worldwide" was literally overrun. The programme had also promised close contact with former missionaries, and we could welcome Esther Binder, Ursula Greuter, Leni Altorfer and Mirjam Teutschmann-Fröhlich. Max and Susy Stäubli had to cancel at short notice. Many candles were burning, and there was a snug atmosphere at the beautifully decorated tables in the room.

Bruno Fröhlich presented the programme, which featured photos, films and reports by EBM INTERNATIONAL, with the courses served in between. There was a quiz where we could admire pictures from long ago showing missionaries and mission stations, and pictures from the various countries, and we could talk about them. Finally, a dessert buffet was opened and the specialities from all the continents were savoured. This great evening was closed with a blessing adapted from Psalm 21.



Five-course trip around the world's cuisines

In the end, the offering for EBM INTERNATIONAL projects amounted to the impressive sum of CHF 4,200. A big thank you goes to the team who prepared this evening and to those working so hard in the kitchen. We may definitely say: It was a successful evening, and many of us are looking forward to the next time!

*Brigitte and Kaspar Gloor*

Mozambique

## An era is ending

For 14 years, Isabel and Eduardo Melo have worked for EBM INTERNATIONAL in Mozambique. In December 2012, Isabel was already seen off and went back to Portugal. In April, Eduardo will follow her. Countless pastors have been trained through their common work. Many native multipliers now train church planters in the remote corners of the country, thanks to the Melos' initiative. This means that God's good news for this world reaches more people. We are truly grateful to Isabel and Eduardo for all the good they have done the people in

Mozambique. For everything they have invested and sacrificed. After all these years in mission service, we wish you, Isabel and



Eduardo and Isabel Melo

Eduardo, all the best for your well deserved retirement. We are also aware of what the challenges linked to this new start in Portugal are. We will pray that God will bless you and may you continue to be a blessing to others. May HE reward you for what you have done for people in Africa over decades.

A heartfelt thank you from the Mission Office in Elstal!

*Matthias Dichristin*

## Using a songbook for mission

Szilvia Papp from Hungary was an EBM missionary in Mozambique for four years. She is a trained musician and had an extraordinary task: She was to identify and index traditional church songs which are sung in the more than 700 churches of the Mozambican Baptist Union, songs that had been passed on orally only. On her countless visits to churches, Szilvia recorded songs, transcribed them and wrote down the texts; she then compiled a new Christian songbook containing 570 songs.

A wonderful example of partnering in world missions: The Christians in Mozambique sing inspiring songs, and an EBM missionary contributes her skills to put them down on paper, thus recording them. As a matter of fact, Szilvia's assignment already ended in January 2012. But



The Melo couple with Szilvia Papp

as the songbook was not ready yet, she completed it at home, with painstaking attention to detail. On December 6, she went back to Mozambique, and the songbook could be handed over and presented in a solemn worship service in Maputo: For the time being, the Hungarian Baptist Union and EBM INTERNATIONAL have been able to fund 2,600 copies. At the handover ceremony, the President of the



Szilvia Papp presenting her songbook

Mozambican Baptist Union pointed out how important the songbook was for the Christians: "With these songs, we can adore God and praise him. And we can do so when we do not find words of our own. For us, the book will be a tool to proclaim the gospel."

To Szilvia Papp, it felt like coming home. She had missed her sisters and brothers from Mozambique. She was most impressed by the fact "that church members there care and are there for one another, much more so than here in Europe." And she explains where our churches in Europe can learn from churches in Mozambique: "They have a very distinct and natural relationship with God. God comes first, in every circumstance. And they do not speak about God in such bashful and veiled terms as we do in Europe, but rather in open, simple and clear language."

Szilvia would like us to pray for the churches in Mozambique, asking especially for more and well trained pastors, as churches outnumber pastors by far, and for unity within the Union leadership.

Telling why she is committed to the mission work of EBM

INTERNATIONAL, she gives an example: "In my church, I got to know an underprivileged boy – Lorenzo, aged twelve at that time. An orphan, he was living with his grandparents. They did not have the possibility to support him or to invest in his education. I helped him with reading and writing. And as his achievements at school were improving, people from my church all of a sudden started doing the same, helping other disadvantaged children."

Today, Lorenzo comes to church, and he is very self-assured at school. He may serve as an example how people gain hope through the commitment of EBM INTERNATIONAL.

*Christoph Haus*

# The inconceivable becomes a reality

In Bangui, we heard that there had again been attacks in the northern part of the country for the first time in mid-December. These reports did not really perturb anyone. In past years, we had got used to that. But this time, the rebellion was not confined to the northeast. It overran one city after another. The rebels always followed the same pattern. They made sure their impending arrival was duly announced. This led those in charge to abandon their posts. They withdrew into the nearest safe town. The people bundled their belongings and fled onto their fields. Then, the military also abandoned their posts, and access for the attackers was easy. The telephone lines were cut, stocks were pillaged, and the city was secured in order to forge ahead. Everything

went so smoothly that a second frontline could soon be opened in the north. At first, they only had motorbikes, but with every attack, their mobility improved and they craved for more. Even the dreaded Tchadian military, on whom the President had set hopes, abandoned their posts and fled towards Bangui. Ceasefires announced for the Christmas holidays remained empty words; all of a sudden the cry was: On to Bangui, do away with the government. The President's calls for help were turned down by the Americans and French alike. So the President called on the unemployed young people to see to law and order themselves. This was adding fuel to the fire. There were protest marches against the institutions of foreigners. The Americans were the first to leave the country. The French stopped their flights to Bangui and whoever had a chance to do so, left the country by car, heading for Cameroon. Many inhabitants of the city fled across the boundary river and sought refuge in Congo. There were roadblocks everywhere in order to track so-called rebels down. And woe to any white person who was spotted in a car – such people were attacked without hesitating.

We, too, were victimized twice and lost a windowpane. It was a difficult time full of sleepless nights, escape plans, security issues related to our mission station and a time of many prayers. The men's groups of the church came to the station and joined our three watchmen, sharing their duties.

When the small detachment of French soldiers could secure the airport, the Moroccan airline ventured to fly to Bangui again. It seemed like a miracle to us – they had two free seats for us on December 29, and off we were flying to Switzerland!

## Current situation

International intervention led to negotiations in Gabon between rebels, the opposition and the government. An opposition politician was mandated to set up an interim government. The rebels committed not to attack the capital (yet). For the time being, many are waiting and hoping for a good resolution of this conflict.

Markus Maag



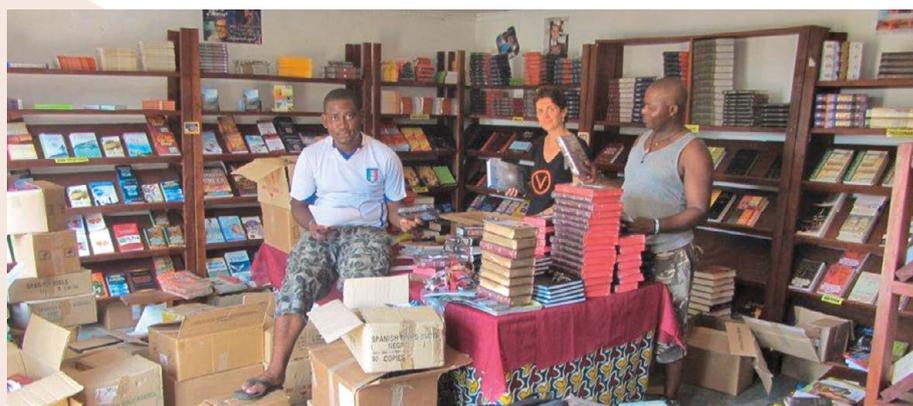
The military on the national holiday

Equatorial Guinea

# Sara Marcos Velert writes from Bata:

"We are sending you pictures of the bookshop, where you can again see how many books fill the house now. A real blessing for us. Your material has arrived safely, and we thank those in charge for their expedient work and the good stuff they have sent. The pastors here in Equatorial Guinea feel honoured and realize how much you care."

Sara Marcos Velert



The bookshop receiving a new delivery

# Country of contrasts and ...

... the Rainbow Nation...that's the name under which South Africa is known, and that's the way we experience it. October 2012 marked the beginning of our ministry as missionaries, cooperating with the Baptist Convention of South Africa (BCSA) in Johannesburg. We have lived through the past months quite in line with the 2013 watchword: "For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come." (Heb. 13:14) We have recovered from the good-byes and are getting settled down in our new task. The Thusong Skills Training Centre is situated in a very rural area. The topic of many months' discussions has now become a reality. We are given a very warm welcome by the manager, Mbuso, and his co-workers. He leads us through the many rooms. There are computer rooms, a kitchen, rooms for training



Life in hazardous conditions

and a nicely furnished guesthouse. At present, no students are here. The year 2012 was not a good year. Seeing the many empty rooms is a somewhat dreary sight. For in Sesotho, Thusong means "a place where people get help". All of a sudden, it starts bucketing down and we have to flee into the guesthouse. After the thunderstorm, a beautiful rainbow appears. Signalling a new beginning for Thusong? It fills us with hope. Mbuso takes us to the Squatter camp on the outskirts of Soweto and leads us to a corrugated-iron hut. Here, he grew up with four siblings. Blank wires are spanned from one tree to the next – quite hazardous, considering they carry 220 v. He and his family could pull out from these surroundings and start a different life. He has given up his job with a bank for the sake of Thusong, because he has heard God's call to go there.

names to foreigners means accepting them. During the general meeting we are introduced and blessed for our ministries – a very moving moment. Now, we are known as the new missionaries, Ntsiki and Jabu. Although people are very open-minded when we meet, we still feel the legacy of apartheid. Increasingly, we realize that we are not only "the Germans", but also "white people".

Every two years, we, the missionaries to various countries, have the opportunity to meet and to share. This year, the retreat took place in Mozambique. It did us good to share our experiences so far with our seasoned colleagues. It is fascinating to see God calling different people into different ministries in order to do good in the world.

*Unkulunkulu aku busise* (Zulu for: May God bless you).

*Anna und Johannes Meyer*

The annual Assembly of the BCSA in December was a good opportunity for us to get to know many members of the Convention. And our newly acquired African names proved to be ice-breakers. Johannes is now called Jabu (Zulu for joy), and Anna's name is Ntsiki (Xhosa for blessing). Names are very important in African culture. They are to remind of some particular event or to describe the characteristics of a person. They say that giving African



Thusong – a place where people get help

## PRAYING AND DONATING

### Theological Education in Mozambique

Project Number: MAG 53400  
Financial need: € 8000

### Thusong Skills Training Centre/ South Africa

Project Number: MAG 55251  
Financial need: € 5600

### Further information at:

[www.ebm-international.org](http://www.ebm-international.org)

### Donation account EBM AFRICA:

33316, BLZ 500 921 00, SKB Bad Homburg  
IBAN: DE89 5009 2100 0000 0333 16  
BIC: GENODE51BH2

# An example of God's love

Our Children's Home is situated very close to the city of Porto. In this city, there is a great deal of misery, which in past times increased because of immigrants and refugees from the former Portuguese colonies. Out of love for distressed children, Pastor Joaquim Machado founded the Children's Home more than 50 years ago. His daughters, Isabel and Magdalena, devoted their entire lives to the children living in



Children living in the Children's Home in Porto

the home. From 1977, EBM MASA shared responsibility. The principle of strengthening and encouraging churches and partners in jointly supported projects, which guides us in every project in Latin America, was also applied here, and was applied successfully. So the financial resources could increasingly be raised locally. Now, we need to pay for only about six per cent of the costs. We are very grateful to God and our partner for the goals we have been able to achieve.

For three years, Pastor João Emanuel Carneiro has been in charge. He and his team do a very good job. They are motivated, work with new concepts and ideas – in everything driven by great love for the children.

Here, a warm thank you goes to all those who have supported the children in this home or still do so. This provides the children with a chance

for a dignified and fulfilled life, for sound relationships, for vocational training and for good prospects in future.

About 45 children and young people are taken care of comprehensively. This is shown in the testimonial by Nuno, formerly a child raised in the home: "I was very happy to be allowed to stay at the home till the end of my last year of education. This helped me to graduate with a good degree in my management studies. I am so very thankful for this!" Nuno has also surrendered his life to Jesus, and attends his church faithfully.



Nuno Miguel

Brazil/ Pomeranian descendants

## "Pomeranians for Jesus"

– is the name of the mission project among Pomeranian descendants in the State of Espírito Santo; it is intended to increase support to evangelism and church planting in this region, with the assistance of EBM MASA. The "Pioneira", our partner union in Brazil, and the existing local churches bear the responsibility for it. Valério and Sandra Kurth, themselves Christians as a fruit of this ministry, have been appointed to be the missionaries. In this vast region with its roughly 120,000 Pomeranian descendants, four new churches and six mission stations/affiliate churches have arisen thanks to mission work. We set high hopes on this project. Its essential tools are sound recording media (CDs) and films (DVDs): worship services in Pomeranian

dialect in various places are recorded and distributed to many people in the valleys and on the mountains. Thus, people who would never attend a church, may hear the gospel. In addition, these people

are then visited, and pastoral care, prayers and Bible studies are offered in their own homes. When they become believers, they are integrated into the churches.



Valério and Sandra Kurth



São João do Garrafão – here also, a church is being planted

# The task: saving from misery!

Neglected, abandoned or abused children find shelter and a home in our *children's homes in Latin America and Portugal*. They all have to come to terms with serious deficiencies. Without our help, they would have no chances. We try to provide them with everything they need for their development, including for their emotional and spiritual needs. The most important thing we can give them is love, acceptance and the opportunity of hearing the gospel. This is a source of transformation for many children!

The structures are cost-intensive. Besides covering the normal costs of living we pay for psychologists and social workers. Each child is to receive vocational training before he or she is sent off to live on his/her own. Our children's homes are in part financed through a special sponsoring system. However, legislation for in-home child care in Brazil and Argentina has changed; children are no longer allowed to stay in a home for many years. Therefore, the option of sponsoring one of the home families with about 10 children instead of an individual child has gained importance, as have donations for the/an entire home. One fact remains: These children in distress cannot get help without your assistance. Unfortunately, there will always be children who badly need help and care provided in a home in order to be saved from their misery. We are happy about every person



Children playing at the Alem Children's Home



Happy child from Alem

who is moved by the fate of these neglected, abandoned and socially scarred children in Latin America and Portugal. It is true that the problems are huge and the figures so

daunting that any help may seem marginal, yet we at EBM MASA feel that Christ Jesus calls on us to give signs of hope to these children in the midst of their affliction. As he told his disciples in his time: "You give them something to eat", so he tells us today in view of the roughly 200 children in our children's homes. They need food, clothing, a home and lots of love. We expect the resources from God, but he might just use people like you, making you ready to sign up for a sponsorship or make a general donation, might he not. It is especially in these children where we can see help bearing fruit. This gives us great joy.

If you are interested in signing up for a child sponsorship or in obtaining more information, please fill in the coupon "MASA Children's Homes – Where life learns to smile", which you will find in this magazine next to the payment forms, and send it to our Mission Office – or just call us!



In the children's home: Here, he is in good care!

## PRAYING AND DONATING

### Children's Homes in Latin America

Project Number: MAG 11880

Financial need: € 400 000

### "Pomeranians for Jesus" in Brazil

Project Number: MAG 23230

Financial need: € 15 000

### Further information at:

[www.ebm-international.org](http://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

# Marveling at God's Work!

No other heading for this report could be more appropriate. During the last two weeks of January we visited the projects supported by EBM MASA in Cuba, and again we could experience how God is build-



Baptism in Murillo

ing his kingdom also in the midst of great misery and in spite of lacking resources, how he enables his people and makes the Gospel come alive. This time I could visit the Cuban projects together with a team. I was accompanied by my wife Marli, our Regional Representative Arturo Köbernick and his wife Betty and three EBM volunteers: Stephanie Peters Waldow (our daughter), who is working in Cuba for ten months, Marvin Neubauer, student of theology in Elstal and at present a volunteer in Argentina, and Oliver Stock who previously worked as a volunteer in Brazil and who also wanted to know the projects in Cuba. Please read about some highlights of our trip:

## 15th Anniversary of the Church on the Isle of Youth

Mission work on the Isle of Youth was the only project of EBM MASA during the first 10 years in Cuba. Daniel and Ana Isabel Gonzalez

were then young missionaries who had begun this work without any help, starting from zero. The EBM MASA support made it possible for them to totally dedicate themselves to their vision. After ten years Daniel handed over the work to the first convert from the Isle of Youth, Karellescaille, who became his right-hand man in mission work there. The Gonzalez moved to Havana in order to spread their vision to all of Cuba. Today there exist as many as five congregations on the Isle of Youth, three more are to be set up within the next two years, and there exist already more than 80 house churches. 18 missionaries and many more co-workers are promoting mission work on the Isle of Youth with love and passion. They have a clear vision, their strategy is excellent, and they are using any possible or at times even impossible opportunity in order to reach people with the Gospel.

The solemn anniversary service in Nueva Gerona was a marvelous experience. More than 500 people gathered there on Sunday, full of great joy and thankfulness. The worship was accompanied by excellent music, children were blessed, 12 people were baptized and Daniel's ministry was a challenging sermon,

underlining the thankfulness to God for all he has done there over the years and conveying a deep conviction regarding missionary work in the future.

## Training for Church Planters in Eastern Cuba

Four years ago it had been envisaged to train missionaries for church planting work. God called Marcos Rivero into this ministry. But there was no money to help him and they asked for our assistance. Since then he has been an EBM MASA missionary. No one could sense what God had in mind to create:

During the first two years about 120 people were trained in Las Tunas and the Region, these set up 120 new churches. As a consequence more and more churches became interested in the project; many people heard God's call into this type of mission work, so that now it is being offered in all of Eastern Cuba. At present more than 600 people are trained by Marcos Rivero and his team for their ministry as church planters. Anyone who is already engaged in mission work may participate in the two years' training. There, biblical basics as well as practical guidance for their evangelization and church planting work are



Anniversary service on the Isle of Youth (with donated chairs)

imparted. After these two years, intensive continuation training on different levels of theology and parish ministry for one year will follow. We had the chance to participate in a graduation ceremony for 52 new "church planters". One week later the first group of 100 celebrated the end of their continuation training. During these four years more than 250 new churches have been set up. It is God's doing, a genuine revival! Many of our brothers and sisters in Cuba have understood God's calling and they commit themselves to him with much love and passion and enormous dedication. Their aim? Cuba for Christ!! We as EBM MASA – and I speak for all who pray and donate – share in the joy and the privilege to be involved.

### Zaldo – a congregation in a slum district

Meeting the children, young people, adults and old people in the slum districts deeply moved our hearts. They hardly have any chances, are exposed to extreme poverty, and quite frequently they get into contact with drugs and crime. However, praise be to Jesus Christ, because through his church he reaches these people with his love. It is wonderful to see how not only people but also their surroundings are changed through faith in Jesus.

In Zaldo we heard about the enormous problems and challenges of the congregation there, which they bring before God in many ardent prayers. But we also learnt about their God-given victories. For three years already a concrete ceiling over some old little houses has been under construction. One third is already finished, that is where the people meet for their services. We hope that during the next months we will be able to fund the remaining part of the roof. At present they also have to face hostility, but they go ahead with confidence. Rolando García is the new



Zaldo – concrete layer with a roof, the meeting place of the church

missionary in Zaldo, successor to Frank San Juan, to whom we are very grateful. Unfortunately, Frank moved to the USA for family reasons.

### Tamarindo – a new church

Tamarindo is the name of the district where we could be present during a church foundation ceremony in the open air. About 150 people had come. The joy was overwhelming. EBM MASA missionary Daniel Gonzalez and his congregation are full of enthusiasm about their vision of church planting in the big cities becoming a reality. In this district the work started with 10 house groups. Now these groups joined to form a new independent congregation, which is starting with just under 100 members, two pastors and a worship team. They do not have a building yet, but a plot that could be bought with the help of EBM MASA. In the near future a roof of corrugated metal will be erected, and then it will be a church with a "roof over its head". Soon, three more churches are to be founded in the same manner in three more places.

### "A Chair for Cuba"

This campaign was meant to cooperate in providing seats during

the services for many sisters and brothers in Cuba's newly founded churches. Most churches just don't have enough money for chairs. And here comes the announcement of a success: 1,800 chairs could be bought! The chairs are very simple, made of wood or plastic, but they are a great comfort for our brothers and sisters. It was moving to experience their joy and gratefulness. Brothers and sisters from Argentina, Brazil and also from German churches had contributed so that we could raise the approximately 15,000 Euros. At this point, a very hearty thanks on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Cuba. Soli Deo Gloria!

Carlos Waldow

## Bridge of Hope – Andhra Pradesh

Touching lives, transforming communities...since 1990.

Bridge of Hope (BOH) is a church-based voluntary organization serving the marginalized rural community in Andhra Pradesh, India. Started in the Uppada area and extended to Vizianagaram district, the services include children's homes, vocational training and hospital services alongside church work.

This write-up briefly captures the story of Bridge of Hope, from its beginnings and to present services. Talking about the beginnings of the Bridge of Hope (BOH) ministry, Benjamin Yeyela, the founder, recalls his first encounter with Dr Walter Herter from Hans-Herter-Indienhilfe (HHI), Germany. He says: "A stranger walked into our hospital in the mid-1980s and expressed his desire to help Baptist Mission Hospitals." At that time, Benjamin Yeyela was working as the administrator at a Baptist mission hospital. This en-

and exploring all the options for nearly 4 years, Benjamin Yeyela along with a small team registered Bridge of Hope in 1990 to realize this vision. For Benjamin Yeyela, working for BOH was his voluntary service in addition to his fulltime responsibility at the hospital, until his retirement.



Dr Y. Anil Benjamin with his family

The ministry of Bridge of Hope started among the fishermen community in the Uppada area through local Baptist churches. Tailoring centres were started to offer free training for young women. The evangelists were provided with bicycles and some financial support to extend their work to surrounding villages. Relief activities were organized during natural calamities like cyclones. Within few years, six new churches were built with facilities for the pastor to live on the church premises. Today, these local churches continue the evangelistic work with minimum support from Bridge of Hope. By the mid-90's, BOH work was extended to Vizianagaram district. Sensing the need for developing the infrastructure for a growing ministry, the founder's family gifted land situated in Gotlam village to BOH, on which a church was built; later on, facilities for a children's home, a vocational training centre and a hospital were developed through financial support from HHI.

The Children's Home, Asha Kiran (2000), provides education, the comfort and the security of a home for 75 underprivileged rural children. The children learn about Christ's love for them through songs and

Bible stories. "Asha Kiran" continues to shape a God-fearing and educated new generation within the rural community.

The "Vocational Training Centre and Community College" (2008) provides employable skill training to rural youth, e.g. training in welding, tailoring, computers and car mechanics.

"Shalom Medical Center" (2008), originally started as a primary health centre years back, provides the following specialty services now:

- Eye care – it provides state-of-the-art services for eye problems. Every year, 900 people receive the gift of sight through free operations.
- Child health and
- General medical services (2009).

A new block is under construction for inpatient care of children. The rehabilitation of leprosy victims continues.

The partnership of BOH with HHI has been officially transferred to EBM INTERNATIONAL in 2008, now the official partner of BOH to carry on this work.



People from the leper colony in Poolbagh

counter marks the beginning of a long association between Baptist hospitals and HHI.

In 1986, Dr. Herter shared a fresh vision to reach the rural poor with the gospel and social services, in addition to the medical work. "Personally, I was very much inspired by Dr Walter Herter's commitment," says Benjamin Yeyela. "I strongly felt that God was calling me for this ministry in addition to my responsibilities at the hospital." After much thought

## Acknowledgements

Bridge of Hope gratefully acknowledges the prayers and financial support from individuals and churches across Germany and Europe through Hans-Herter-Indienhilfe. Your vision and generosity helped us to initiate, sustain and continue the work, now with our new partner, European Baptist Mission INTERNATIONAL. Special thanks go to Dr. Walter

Herter, his family members and others, whose visits have been a great encouragement.

*Dr. Y. Anil Benjamin*

Children at the Children's Home of BOH



*Children's Home „Asha Kiran (Ray of Joy)” in Gotlam*

## The hard fate of a small boy

Anil's mother, Vijaya Lakshmi, was sold to a street hawker by her father when still a young girl, who at that time had just turned eleven. This hawker took her with him to Boyakonda, where she had to work in a big temple. When she was twelve, she met Sanjeevi, whom she married. Six years later, Anil was born. Soon afterwards, Vijaya was pregnant again. During this time, she had the opportunity of getting to know her parents, who had sold her to get money some years before. Although she knew,

she badly wanted to meet her parents and to see them in their home. Her parents talked her into staying with them and into terminating her pregnancy, and she had an abortion. One night, however, she fled from her parents' home and went back to her husband, Sanjeevi. Sanjeevi did not know anything about the terminated pregnancy. One year later, Vijaya got pregnant again and gave birth to a healthy girl. On request of her husband Sanjeevi, Vijaya visited her parents again, with her now one-year-old girl. Anil stayed with his father during this time. Then something terrible happened. Vijaya's father took the little girl and drowned her in the river. Dismayed, Vijaya went back home. However, she hid the truth from Sanjeevi and said the girl had been ill and died very quickly. That was the last time Vijaya saw her parents. Some time later, Vijaya got pregnant again and gave birth to another healthy girl. The relationship with her husband, however, was unbearable, the two were constantly quarrelling. The situation was hardly sufferable for Anil and his little sister. Very unexpectedly, Sanjeevi committed suicide. The real reason for this has never been known.

At Punganur hospital, Vijaya gave birth to her third child. As she had no money and was no longer able to feed her children, she sold her little girls, with a heavy heart, and handed Anil over to close relatives of her deceased husband's. Hoping to earn a little money, she went to Bangalore. Three months later, Vijaya was attacked at a bus stop and was murdered.

As Sanjeevi's close relatives were themselves poor and could not take care of Anil in the long term, they handed him over to the Children's Home "Asha Kiran (Ray of Joy)" in Gotlam. Here, the caregivers will try to heal Anil's little broken soul through loving care, love and Jesus' Word.

*Dr. Y. Anil Benjamin*



Anil – marked by hardship

## A birthday present

This year, I could celebrate my birthday in India, together with 80 children from the Children's Home and the Vocational Training Centre in Gotlam, and with the entire Benjamin family. With the dances, some singing performances and a huge gâteau, this day will remain unforgettable.

From January 5, we, i.e. Bruno and I, were travelling with Christoph Haus and Dr Detlef Taufall. During the first days, we visited various children's homes, sewing schools, social projects, eye camps, food security projects, leper colonies, and we inaugurated some chapels. We were greeted so effusively that there are hardly any words to describe it. On our arrival, they threw flowers, draped flower garlands around us, enveloped us in scarves. Christoph was offered a live cock, and they cooked Indian food for us. Their warmth is authentic and touches the heart. And they never left out any surprises. Sometimes, we had to drive for hours to reach the next project. On these rides in the midst of the chaotic Indian traffic on motorways and unpaved roads, we (i.e., our driver) skirted herds of water buffaloes, tractors with loads of sugar cane, ox carts and goat herds – all the time driving past lush green rice fields in rural India. We also attended the meeting of the EBM INDIA partners in Vuyyuru. There, I realized that those



Church members in front of their church

participating did not yet know very much about EBM INTERNATIONAL; this is why these talks were very important. I am impressed by all the resources these partners contribute in order to help the poor. Many churches, including their members, of course, commit themselves to these "neighbours", and, to be sure, day in day out. Most of the projects are managed by the churches themselves. We also visited some churches with very rapid growth. The Christians experience so much deliverance and are so inspired that you can really see it! I was especially moved by the testimonials (stories) of the children in

the children's homes; they told us where they came from, how they were abused, and that they did not, for the life of them, want to go back home, because they are so much better cared for in the home. This really got under my skin. These children's homes are not luxurious. The differences between them are enormous. In one home, the children sleep on the floor, all the boys in one room and the girls in one other room. Every child has just one box for his or her belongings. In other homes, the children have dormitories with beds, which six of them share. It also struck me that the girls wear very pretty dresses.



The children telling their stories



For many children, the children's home is the better place

The Indian wedding in Ongole, to which we were invited, was a high-light. The ceremony, held in Telugu, in one of the oldest Baptist churches in Andhra Pradesh, lasted almost three hours. After the service, there was a meal for about 3,000 people. There were more than one sittings in a huge tent. The bright

and rich colours of the sarees are indescribable. Concerning myself, my trip started already at home by altering the blouses of the sarees I had received as gifts, for the blouse has to fit tightly if you do not want the saree to slip. Our trip lasted from December 30,

2012, till January 16, 2013. All my experiences were so intense that even now, I still dream about India every night and am almost disappointed when I wake up in my own bed in the morning.

*Esther Fröhlich*

*BLESS Lalaguda Baptist Church Hyderabad*

## “Adarana” Children’s Home in Madhapur

Thotakura Madhav (9) and Thotakura Mahendar (6) are brothers and are the children of T. Stephan (40) and Rani (30) of Mokshagundam village, in Prakasam district. There are three more siblings. Stephan used to work as a labourer in Chennai Municipality while his wife Rani was a housewife and cared for the children. Unfortunately, Stephan was an alcoholic addict, and increasingly went off the rails. He lost his job and depressions dominated his life. His wife Rani suffered from these circumstances and committed suicide in the end. Stephan could no longer feed his children, let alone care for them, and he left all five of them in the care of his parents in

Mokshagundam village. He left the family and went back to Chennai. The children used to go into the streets to play and did not go to school. They never obeyed their old grandparents (65). Particularly Mahendar and Madhav became a big problem for their grandparents. Some day, when the warden of the children’s home was visiting the town, the grandparents requested him to take Mahendar and Madhav to the “Adarana” (meaning “assistance”) Children’s Home. They no longer felt able to take care of their grandchildren.

At the beginning, the children had a hard time. But thanks to the loving care of the caregivers, their patience and great commitment, the children’s behaviour changed

completely. They have come to like going to school. In the last examinations Madhav got 100% marks in maths of which he as well as his educators are proud. And he got equally good marks in other subjects. His brother, Mahendar, is now in first grade.

This is just one case out of many. Unfortunately, there are far too many children who live on the street and who are deprived of a child’s normal every-day life including school and, foremost, care and love. We thank God for having provided us with the opportunity to help these two boys.

*Kamalakar Anand Buthapaty,  
chairman of BLESS*

### PRAYING AND DONATING

**Bridge of Hope – Children’s Home „Asha Kiran” in Gotlam**  
Project Number: MAG 81302  
Financial need: € 14 500

**BLESS – Children’s Home “Adarana” at Madhapur**  
Project Number: MAG 81201  
Financial need: € 9 000

**Further information at:**  
[www.ebm-international.org](http://www.ebm-international.org)  
**Donation account EBM INDIA:**  
343609, BLZ 500 921 00, SKB  
Bad Homburg, IBAN: DE68 5009  
2100 0000 3436 09  
BIC: GENODE51BH2



Mahendar and Madhav showing good development in the care of the children’s home



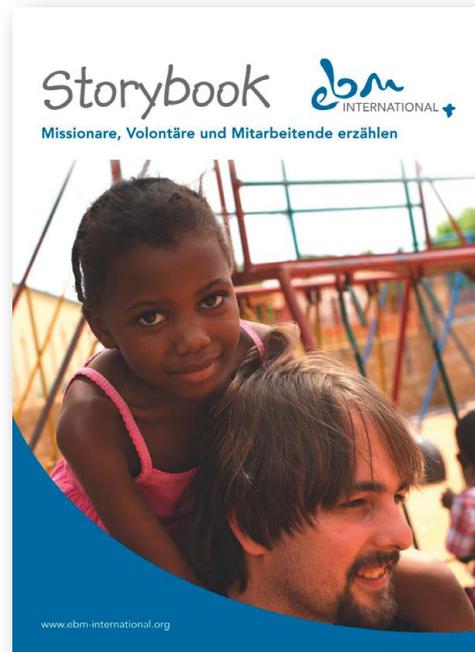
100 pages of stories and pictures from the mission fields

## Storybook – stories from Africa

Missionaries, local co-workers, and volunteers tell us about their experiences with God in missions. Astonishing insights into what God achieves through the work of EBM INTERNATIONAL. Challenging thoughts reflecting on how missions transform the lives of people and on how new perspectives open up in God's Kingdom. The reports by our co-workers invite us to get moving ourselves, time and again.

You may get the storybook free of charge from our Office. After reading, we invite you to pass the stories and the book on to some other person. This way, the stories from the mission field can spread quickly and encourage many people. Have fun and be blessed as you are reading this thrilling book

You may order the storybook by emailing to [info@ebm-international.org](mailto:info@ebm-international.org) or from Matze Dichristin, phone: (0049) 033234 74-156, or from Carola Streubel, phone (0049) 03323474-142.



Get-together of friends at Kassel-Möncheberg Baptist Church

## First-hand information



On Wednesday, May 8, 2013, from 7 p.m., we would like to invite all our friends and sponsors, donors, and people interested in the worldwide mission work of EBM INTERNATIONAL to attend our get-together of friends.

“God at work” can be experienced in the world through people’s commitment. The commitment of people who listen and tackle tasks, who plan and act together. First-hand information from our co-workers in Africa, Latin America, India and Turkey will give you insight into the various areas of EBM work.

We would be happy to welcome you!

A registration form and further information are available from our Mission Office:

[info@ebm-international.org](mailto:info@ebm-international.org),

on our website:

[www.ebm-international.org](http://www.ebm-international.org)

or from Carola Streubel, phone:

(0049) 033234 74-142

