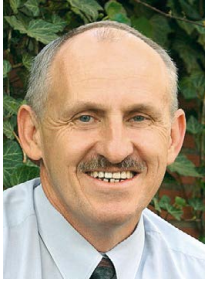


Christoph Haus



Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

Dear reader,

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...

Jesus Christ gave a very clear commission to his first disciples and his church, which is still valid for us today. We are asking ourselves what is necessary in order to accomplish this commission powerfully and effectively. The New Testament accounts about Paul, Lydia, Barnabas and many others, give us some important leads: The lifeblood of missions is obedience to the commission, love towards men, and the awareness that it can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. What is also a must have are encounters with the unfamiliar: Doing missions has always meant reaching out to unknown people. Missions cannot happen without relationships. Unless we live relationships, people will not open up to our message.

May the Lord grant us all of this, so we may take the gospel to other people with love and passion, so we may encourage others not to miss out on the chance to save people in distress and misery.

Yours sincerely,

Christoph Haus

Carlos Waldow

Matthias Dichristin



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Pre-school children in Madhapur

Preparation Weeks for 22 Volunteers

“Two weeks – whew! Two weeks” – That’s what Sebastian thought as he was putting his last, clean T-shirt in the cupboard. One hour before, he had arrived at Elstal, together with his 21 co-volunteers. Like all the others, Sebastian had a dull feeling in his stomach and a thousand questions on his mind. “What is awaiting me? At the end of the two weeks, will I feel prepared for my assignment in South Africa? Or will I just have more questions? Will I get along well with the group?”

Now, we are half-way through – one week is already behind us. One week, which intensified our anticipation beyond expectation, but also triggered phases of frustration and self-doubt. We have been encouraged to concentrate on ourselves. Through various questions and exercises, we have been reflecting on our strengths and weaknesses and shared our thoughts. So far, we have dealt with a great deal of topics and have come to think that two weeks will never be long enough!

We have been given practical information on questions such as these: “How do I settle finances with EBM? How often do I have to write reports for “weltwärts’ ”, but we were also challenged to think about specific situations: “What would I do if ...; Who would I turn to in case of ... How will I handle a crisis situation?”



The volunteers 2012/13 in preparation

and many more. Between devotions and bible studies there has been enough time to pray together, to get to know one another, to share and to encourage one another. We haven’t missed out on the fun either – be it the volleyball sessions, the rounds of SET! or praise . Everyone’s expectations have been met so far. Another important unit were the two days spent in Berlin, when we had time to rest the mind and to catch our breath. An outstanding activity was the “Exploring a district of the city” adventure when we were to watch and get to know the people of a part of Berlin in groups of two (on a budget of 1,60 € for 2 people on this one day ...); we will remember this as a particularly impressive and impacting experience. We

have learned that 30 Cent is a lot of money, that food you have worked hard for tastes the best and that people are at a loss when you want to give them something instead of begging for things.

We all feel confident that the time spent together in Elstal is not only preparing us for our assignments in Malawi, Cameroon, Argentina, Cuba, Mozambique, Brazil or South Africa, but that it is also giving us the right food for thought on how to develop further, and that we have also found people here who are at our side helping us in an important and thrilling phase of our lives. Sebastian agrees with this!

Luisa Neubauer

Coupon for Bible School sponsorships in Ijuí, Brazil

Yes, I would like to sponsor a Bible School student. Please send me the photo and profile of a Bible School student attending the Theological Seminary.

I am willing to pay _____ EUR per month per year until further notice.

Name

Street

Code

City

Date

Signature

Please send this slip to EBM MASA, G.-W.-Lehmann-Str. 4, D-14641 Wustermark
Fax: 0049 33234 74 145, email: gneubauer@ebm-international.org



Union of the Evangelical Baptist Churches in Spain (UEBE)

The first Baptist churches were founded in 1870. The EL ECO magazine has been published since 1893 and is still published by the Baptists today.

The Spanish Union has been in existence since 1923. In 1922 already, the Baptist Theological Seminary was opened in Barcelona, with seven students attending. In September 2011, we got legal accreditation, meaning we are acknowledged as the Protestant Theological Faculty UEBE. At present it is among the most distinguished Baptist institutions in Protestant Christianity in our country. In 1955, UEBE founded their first old people's home, located in Vilafranca del Penedés. Today, several social establishments are integrated in our work, such as rehabilitation centres. In 1961, we launched a children's and youth ministry on a camping site; besides various meetings, retreats, family activities etc. take place here. There is also a school including a kindergarten on the premises, "Alfa & Omega".

UEBE is integrated in the European Baptist Federation and at the same time a member of the Baptist World Alliance. Currently, we have more than 150 worship rooms in Spain; there are about 11,000 baptized members. Last year, baptisms numbered about 500. The Lord is in our midst transforming lives. UEBE is divided into departments which coordinate and advance the work of the churches in the various fields. The Union's responsibility is supporting and helping the churches to fulfil their mission. The churches also make special efforts to achieve common goals that are beyond their local context.

To us, as a Union of churches, doing missions is of crucial and utmost importance. It is our common main axis. With the project ESPERANZA 1.8 e.g., UEBE is developing missionary activities. As churches, we want to be led by the Holy Spirit and we are determined to carry out a strategy of expansion until 2018. Our vision is launching 50 new

evangelism projects, thus raising present UEBE membership by 50 per cent.

But we also understand our mission as the Lord's call to reach out "to the end of the world". Cooperating with EBM INTERNATIONAL, we have endeavoured to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the remotest parts for more than twenty years. We, the Spanish Baptists, are involved in Equatorial Guinea in a special way. Together with EBM INTERNATIONAL, we support our missionaries Sara Marcos, Julio Cháfer and Dámaris Juárez there, as well as our volunteers in an honorary capacity, the Ramiro Gómez couple and Esther Bouret, Marta Nombela, Elisabeth Herrera and Elvira Jardines. We live in a time of big challenges and profound transformations in our society; this also affects the way we do missions. Let us face this time with confidence so that, with God's help and united as his people; we might transform this serious crisis into a time of sowing and harvesting for God's Kingdom.

May the Lord bless you.

*Jorge Manuel Pérez
Zúñiga*



Mission – a global learning experience



EBM INTERNATIONAL
Mission Council 2012

In mission work, issues of ecology and justice must not be ignored. This was brought to mind by Christoph Haus during this year's Mission Council. Every day, many children die from malnutrition, and in India, thousands of farmers commit suicide, because they could no longer pay their debts to seed and fertilizer suppliers. Christoph Haus asked the 120 delegates from 21 countries how the Christians affected by this development might feel when they hear the Bible verse "But seek first His kingdom and



His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matth. 6:33). God does not want injustice to reign, he continued, but wants everyone to have what they need.

In her Bible study, Linda Koroma (Sierra Leone) dealt with the role of women in missions. As she pointed out, the gospel would not have been spread as widely in New Testament times without the women. The Holy Spirit was finding ever new ways, till today, she said. African societies, too, were changing with respect to the role of women. Cultural barriers were slowly being overcome. The churches should take the lead in this development.

In Cuba, a spiritual revival is taking place at the moment, of which Daniel Gonzales, our missionary in Havana, gave an account. Over the past 20 years, the percentage of Evangelicals in the population had increased from 1% to 20%. Time and again, people became Christians – with no explanation as

to how they had heard about the Christian faith. Whereas the Communist regime was propagating witchcraft as a contribution to art, ever more people were looking for spiritual fulfilment in Christian churches, he said. Esther and Matthias Dichristin were given a farewell after their more than five-year ministries as missionaries to South Africa. Simultaneously, Matthias Dichristin was inducted into his new task as Mission Secretary for Africa Promotion, succeeding Rev. Volker Bohle. Matthias Dichristin reported on another spiritual revival, in North Cameroon and Malawi, where hundreds of churches have been planted in recent years. It was hardly possible, he said, to train enough leaders for these new churches.

The situation of Christians in Turkey was different, as Ertan Cevik (Baptist pastor working in Izmir) said. Under pressure from their families, more and more converted Muslims turned away from their churches. All the same, the Izmir church has founded an affiliate church in Torbali.

The mission organization's financial situation is strained. The past year closed with a deficit amounting to more than 320,000 Euros, due mainly to decreasing income from German churches earmarked for the Africa sector. The reserves are now completely depleted. If this setback were to persist, the Mission's very existence would be endangered, they said. The new budget amounting to 3.9 million Euros was adopted. If necessary, it could be reduced in the course of 2012.

With unanimity, the Mission Council voted to call Anna and Johannes Meyer into their ministry in a vocational training centre in South Africa. A cook and car mechanic and a controller, they will be able to support the BCSA in setting up this training centre.

CBM Bethel Hospital in Vuyyuru – Social Fund

Mrs. Meduri Pavani is 24 years old and lives with her husband in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh). Her parents are living in Vuyyuru and are very poor. She has 2 older siblings. She came to her mother's house for delivery (as is the custom in India). The parents were wondering how they'll be able to manage the delivery of her as they are not affording the treatment. Meduri Pavani had to be in agony. Her parents were very helpless. Someone mentioned to them about the help they can get at the CBM Bethel Hospital in Vuyyuru. Meduri Pavani had an Antenatal checkup in this hospital. She came with premature rupture of membranes and had to be in labor with many pain in 9th month. She underwent a Caesarean section on January 14, 2012. She got a healthy male baby.

Mr. and Mrs. Pavani paid a low sum for medicine and surgery. The CBM Bethel Hospital took care of the rest from the Bill from the Social Fund. They are grateful to God for the help they got. One year ago, Meduri's



CBM Bethel Hospital VUYYYURU – Mrs. Meduri Pavani

husband came to know the Lord and he hopes that one day the whole family will come to know the love of Jesus-Christ and thus live for Him.

CMC Hospital in LUDHIANA – Human interest story



CMC Hospital LUDHIANA – Mrs Nandini

This picture shows Mrs. Nandini and her two and a half year child. This little girl suffers from the wilms-tumor on the left kidney. This is a malignant tumor which forms over and over again.

Mrs. Nandini could not understand the crying of her Baby. She brought her to the Christian Medical College & Hospital

in Ludhiana. The girl has a lot of abdominal pain mess in left renal. Investigation and Biopsy were done and she was diagnosed as case of wilms-tumor of the left kidney. The pediatric surgery team operated her and began the chemotherapy. A half year later she was re-admitted due to abdominal pain. After the biopsy they found the recurrence of the tumor. As per the plans, she

was readmitted for surgery. Now she is being treated with chemotherapy.

Mrs. Nandini's girl is the youngest among siblings. Her husband is a Junk Dealer and she is housewife. The monthly income of the family is Rs. 4,500 (ca. EUR 70). The Department of Social Welfare enrolled the patient for the financial assistance.

The Department of Social Welfare provided financial assistance as well as counseling, emotional support for which Nandini's family is very grateful from the core of their hearts and is thankful to the donor.

Report of the CMC in Pithapuram

The Christian Medical Centre in Pithapuram was established in the year 1904 by the Canadian Missionary Dr. E. G. Smith with a mission to provide medical services to the

poor, needy and marginalized irrespective of caste, color and religion.

Over these years, the Hospital developed several rural community

people through its services and brought healing both physical and also Spiritual.

Eye work in the CMC, Pithapuram

In 1980, Eye Services were started with support from Indienhilfe through Christophel Blinden Mission (CBM), Germany, with an idea to reach rural communities who are deprived of medical care. CBM has generously donated money for construction of Eye OPD Block Eye ward to accommodate In patients and an Operation theatre was built in the initial years and supplied most of the equipment in kind. Now the dept is well equipped and is running well. Since 1981 Eye work started on full pledged basis. Conducting camps and screening patients for cataract surgery, School Screening camps and bring the

students to the base hospital for refractive errors. Conducting the operations weekly thrice those who are coming through camps from the rural Surgery is done free of cost and providing free food and send them back in Hospital vehicle free cost. In the earlier years eye services run with almost 80-90 percent subsidy. Gradually we have changing the scenario by reducing subsidy. Now it is running on 50 percent subsidy. Trying to generate income those who can afford to pay.

Over these we have covered more than 300 villages twice or even more and covered entire district i.e. East Godavari. For the past 25 years 10,000 to 15,000 out patients are benefited every year and performed 1,200 to 1,800 IOL surgeries and got good vision. Through this services base hospital is also benefited and got good reputation.



Cataract surgery at CMC, Pithapuram

We request the EBM to continue the support for Eye services at Pithapuram. Through the eye services we were able to provide sight to many people who are deserved to get the Eye care services.

*DR. M. Serene
Medical Director*



Patients of the eye clinic



Entrance to the eye clinic

It is worth running and is essential to continue the Eye services at Pithapuram and to support this project. Most of the beneficiaries are from rural community, elderly people, some of them are neglected by their children in their old age, some of them are under privileged not able to go to corporate set ups and even private hospitals. Their visions are restored and able to survive on their own in the society.



CREAM: a service for the poorest under the poor

Rev. D. Vasantha Rao is founder and director of CREAM (Care Rehabilitation and Evangelistic Associates for Minorities).

CREAM campaigns for the poor and underprivileged people by education, evangelism- and church work. The CREAM-campus in Tallarevu comprises a children's home, a kindergarten, an elementary and secondary school and a vocational training center.

The children's home "Ananda Nilayam" gives half-orphans and orphans as well as children coming from very poor families (like fisher men, agricultural laborers) a home. The most of the children are very affected by hard fates like loss of parents, child labor, abuse and violence. For this reason their life is designated by hopelessness, frustration and fear.

In the children's home they get love and care and are led to know Jesus-Christ. In the kindergarten the children are lovingly cared by excellent kindergarten teacher. Through the together, they learn a lot of joy, fun and above all, they are not alone.

In the elementary and secondary school the children get the possibility of an education with the result that a lot of them escape the child labor. After graduation they have the possibility to finish a training in sewing, computer and electro-technics. In the sewing schools, f. ex., the students learn the sewing and tailoring within one year. After graduation they get a sewing machine (25 percent of the costs have to be taken by the students). With this machine they can earn money and help the elderly people with sewing their clothes. In the surrounding churches there are still five sewing schools. In the computer schools the students learn the handling with the computer. After graduation they have the possibility to find a job in public authorities or in private sectors like architects or doctors. The result is that the students get perspectives for their future especially in view of self-supply, independence and self-fulfillment. But our main concern is to reach the children and students with the love of Jesus-Christ with prayer and conversation so that they can get new



CREAM – Sewing school in Tallarevu

vitality. This is also the objective in our evangelism- and church work. The poor has to be reached with the word and love of Jesus-Christ. By establishments of churches and our bible woman who visit the poor, we want to spread the Gospel and to help the poor to take heart and power from Jesus-Christ.

We are very thankful to all donors for their kind support and their prayers and we ask them to continue with prayers and the support for our work.

Rev. Vasantha Rao



CREAM – Children of the Children's Home in Tallarevu

PRAYING AND DONATING

Sewing school of the Church in Tallarevu – Training of 15 women as tailors over one year

Project number: MAG 81403

Financial need: € 3,500

Social Fund of Bethel Hospital in Vuyuru for the destitute – Treatment for the poorest of the poor

Project number: MAG 81701

Financial need: € 5,000

Further information at

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM INDIA:

No. 343609, BLZ 500 921 00,
SKB Bad Homburg

New missionaries introducing themselves...

Anna: I was born in the multi-cultural country of Kazakhstan. When I was twelve, my parents decided to move to the Bavarian Alps. At 18, I was looking for the meaning of life and discovered it in Jesus. I was curious and anything having to do with faith found my interest. I attended a discipleship training school of "Youth with a Mission" (JMEM in Germany). As a team, we then travelled to Namibia and Botswana to serve the people there and tell them about God. The numerous wonderful experiences encouraged me also to attend the JMEM Bible School. Then, I studied business administration. It had always been my wish to combine economics and missions.

Johannes: The son of a pastor, I got around quite a lot in the southern part of Germany. I was often faced with the challenge of adapting and finding myself anew. Maybe this is the reason for my longing for the far-away, time and again. As a youth I learned what I could do best: cooking. Later on, I was also trained as a car mechanic. That was a challenging time, as my life was being rearranged. The time spent at the Elstal Bible School strengthened my faith and re-oriented my life. Here, I discovered my personal relationship



Anna and Johannes Meyer

with God, and my notion of God was remolded. I cannot really explain what car mechanics has got to do with cooking, but they are both trades where I feel confident and confirmed. And God would like to use both of them.

Anna: I have become a missionary because it has always been my wish to live a "different" kind of life. I believe that God puts wishes in our hearts so that we can cross the threshold when the door opens. I would like to be where God's action is pulsating and to see how he releases potential and blesses people. My parents came to Germany so that their children might get a good education. Now, I have the opportunity to help people in Africa get a good education!

Johannes: I have become a missionary because I would like to commit my vitality and my skills to God. I have been asking the Lord for such an opportunity, and doors have opened for missionary service in South Africa.

Johannes: I think the biggest challenge for me is to become less and to let God become great, to yield control and, in South Africa, to find out how my help can reach the people there.

Anna: Being a well structured person, I take it that cultural differences will be a challenge. Of course, we are sad that we will not be able to see our families and friends so soon again.

Anna and Johannes: What makes us most happy is that we can make use of our skills together and that we are meeting so many people who will support us in prayer. We are thankful for every hug and every blessing. And we are looking forward to new experiences with God.

The Strecker Family – leaving South Africa



The Strecker family

GOODBYE – After ten years, our time in South Africa is over. The last months were filled with goodbyes: to the house,, the cat, the car, etc. In early May we shipped our belongings to Europe, in late May we sold the rest. Then, there came the difficult moments of saying goodbye to the church, the cell group and to friends.

WELCOME – On June 19, there was a big welcome at Vienna Airport already. Then, we went on to our new home, where one hour later

the container arrived. We welcomed all the well-known things and the children unpacked their own toys on the very first day – it was like Christmas! Over the past weeks we have been busy furnishing and arriving. Everything is familiar and yet

Continued on next page ►

Our missionary Julio Cháfer talking ...

The school "Talita Cum" is located up-country, in Evinayong, a nice place with green countryside, red earth and a blue sky. With empty stomachs, many children have to walk far to get to school. For 350 children, classes start at 8 a.m. The youngest are sent to school at age four, and elementary school ends after sixth grade. The children receive a meal, and the gospel is part of their education so they have a chance of getting to know God. Sara Marcos, EBM missionary, has been head of the school for ten years. She is a wonderful illustration of God's ministry in this village. A new room built of concrete has considerably improved teaching facilities, and the school has been blessed with a well providing drinking water.

continued from previous page:

strange. But we feel welcome, because many people are happy that we are back home. AND NOW – Alex will be flying back and forth between Austria and South Africa in order to support the new EBM volunteers and missionaries. In early 2013 he will start his ministry in the children's and youth department of the Austrian Baptists. The children enjoy the summer holidays before going to their new schools in autumn. From September, Mirjam is working with a doctor nearby. In between, we have planned several church visits.

So what remains to be said is KE A LEOGA – THANK YOU to all those who have carried us through the past ten years!

Mirjam and Alexander Strecker



Kids at the secondary school in Malabo



Pre-school sports programme

The second school, "El Buen Pastor – The Good Shepherd", has a pre-school, a primary and a secondary school. For the almost 100 children attending pre-school, we could set up a second room and can now teach them in parallel groups. Before, we had to teach reading and writing to the children in two groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Playing with modelling clay is the favourite activity of the children – and the teachers as well: it is fantastic to see the shapes modelled from the clay as well as the laughter brought about on the children's faces.

Something very special has happened to Juan Carlos: The boy was born with a back injury and was handicapped. With the assistance of an organization, he could be

flown to Spain and have surgery there. Now, he can run – with some difficulty though, but nothing can stop him. The secondary schools are each attended by about 300 children. The primary school classes are taught in the morning, and the older children use the same rooms in the afternoon. Despite its tangible challenges, our school is renowned for its good education, because we are able to rouse the children's interest. This justifies the effort. In classes and in the services the children learn a lot about God so that they may get to know him and become disciples to serve him. These schools are ours. We are, all of

us, responsible to support this work of God's, by giving and by praying.

Julio Cháfer

PRAYING AND DONATING

The new missionary couple to South Africa: Johannes and Anna Meyer

Project number: MAG 77270

Financial need: € 30,000

Coordinating medical work in Cameroon

Project number: MAG 51155

Financial need: € 2,000

Further information at

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM AFRICA:

No. 33316, BLZ 500 921 00,
SKB Bad Homburg

Goodbye to the Lion Mountains

The last weeks in Sierra Leone just flew by. After seven semesters of intense collaboration at the tertiary school in Jui (The Evangelical College of Theology), we are ending our service in Africa – that is Lisa and Daniel Meisinger with our children Anna and Paul. The last exams are being sat, and the College is being shut down for two months during the rainy season which is already setting in; the course is set for goodbyes. In Sierra Leone, goodbyes take a lot of time: Many started saying goodbye a year ago when it became clear that this would be our last academic year. In late June, we left Jui with mixed

emotions. We have come to love the country and its people, and leaving them is not easy. But we are looking forward to new tasks. From October, we will find a new home in Saxony, where Daniel will be the youth pastor. Till then, we will visit 15 supporting churches in Germany, sharing a thankful look back at our ministry with our faithful prayer partners and donors there.

Lisa and Daniel Meisinger



Lisa and Meisinger with their children

Commissioned as a missionary – for lifelong service?



Left: Mamoudou Michel, successor to Jutta Krebs

It seems like a couple of days to me, but looking at the mirror I realize that the days have become years. Some colleagues remarked it was too early, but if you wait till everything is perfect, the right moment to leave will never come.

26 years of missionary service in North Cameroon: as a single at the beginning and then, for eleven years, married and with three children. As a midwife, a nurse and coordinator of the Baptists' Medical Work in North Cameroon, I worked

at three different mission stations: Gamboura, Zidim and Mokong. The more I think about what I could write about my departure, the more questions I have: At the moment, I find myself between two worlds. Being on my way, yet not having arrived yet... How can I write about leaving without having reflected, without stopping at the milestones and rendering an account to myself? I have just only started leaving, and I cannot put anything on paper. The process will go on till my head and heart will both have understood that my time as a missionary to North Cameroon is up. But what about my call to be a missionary... This is not dependent on any place or mission society. It is a call to be; and I have not got rid of it since leaving Cameroon.

Thus, a new phase as a missionary begins: In our farewell service the President of the Cameroonian Baptist Union, Rev. Emmanuel Mbenda, commissioned us as missionaries from Cameroon to Germany. The first year of my new missionary service will see me still working with

EBM INTERNATIONAL, doing promotion, visiting many churches and reporting on mission work. After that, we'll see.

Here are some of the milestones:

- Head of the obstetrics clinics in Gamboura and Zidim
- Coordinator of the Medical ministry of the Cameroonian Baptist Union (planning, human resources and finance administration, projects)
- Construction of the Zidim hospital
- Construction of the new eye clinic
- Construction of the "Hospital of Hope" at Djamboutou in Garoua

Jutta Krebs

Training at the Theological Seminary in Ijuí



Vera S., theological student

If you would like to sponsor a Bible School student in Ijuí, please send us the completed slip on page 3.

The callings happen regardless of origin, social background or financial situation. To the young future missionaries attending the Theological Seminary in Ijuí, it is very important that they be supported by prayers and financially so they can get their training here. Most of them come from poor churches and families who need help themselves.

Sponsors in Germany ease the burden of students by supporting them financially. There are still some costs they have to cover themselves and where their faith is challenged, but it is no longer so hard for them. Are you willing to help? We'll be pleased to arrange sponsorships. You will receive an annual report and be able to share what God is doing through and in these young people.

Vera, one of the students, expresses her thanks here:

"Dear sisters and brothers, this is my third year at the Seminary. The past year brought about a great deal of growth, battles and victories- with God being my refuge and

strength all the time. My parents were about to get divorced, which meant a lot of suffering. Being away from them just made it worse (I live at about 600 km from them). Yet, thank God, the situation has changed. Their marriage has been saved, my father committed his life to Jesus und was baptized in December.

On weekdays I go about my studies. At weekends I do a work experience in a nearby Baptist church, where I assist in the work with the teens and young people. There, I have already learned a lot and received many blessings. God provides for me daily, as I always realize. It is worth giving up one's own will and life serving God. This implies making sacrifices, but the joy and peace we find in God are greater than anything else. Serving God is a privilege. I am very thankful to him for all the experiences he has made possible for me.

Thank you very much for your prayers and your financial support. May the Lord bless you abundantly and may he continue to use you in his kingdom."

Brazil / Mozambique

Together, we can achieve more

Our partner unions from Brazil (CBP "Pioneira" – regional Baptist association in southern Brazil) and from Mozambique (CBM) do not only share the language (Portuguese), but they also have common goals in world missions. Coordinated by EBM MASA, a concept for a mission partnership

has been set up, and in July 2012, its contents were laid down in a treaty. This partnership is to work on four levels:

- The Unions share prayer requests concerning their mission work and churches and pray for each other
- Lecturers of the Theological Seminary in Ijuí, Brazil, teach at the Bible Schools in Mozambique supporting the training of missionary workers there
- Brazilian mission teams come to Mozambique for short-term assignments.
- Theological training in Ijuí will be made available to Mozambicans.

In July, the first mission team from Brazil was already in Mozambique. All the seven team members were deeply moved at the end of their stay and happy about what they had experienced and could do. In our next issue, you will find their detailed reports.

Assignment in Mozambique



My experience of Cuba

I had the really wonderful opportunity of getting to know the extraordinary work of the EBM MASA projects in Cuba and of being involved in them.

Most of the time, I lived in the church of Daniel Gonzalez, being involved in the sports project. Daily from Monday to Friday, 2-3 groups of children and youths come to play basketball, football or volleyball on the playing field behind the church building. Through this project, the church reaches out to some 50 kids every day, having a 15-minute devotion after the sports sessions. Once a month, they also invite the parents to teach them some basics about Christian education, to talk about the church (many of them have no idea about the Christian faith), and to pray for them. In this way, a great number of whole families have already surrendered their lives to Christ – it is incredible!

In addition, the children are offered music lessons. The instruments were bought by the church (with EBM MASA support) so as to lend them to the children. These may take the instruments home to practice and must learn to handle them responsibly.

The church has a really wide network of house churches all over its



district; in the evenings, I also attended many of them. Every house church tries to reach all their neighbours with the gospel. In this way they meet a great number of people in a very personal way, and many of these have already been baptized.

After that, I also stayed with Frank San Juan in the Havana slums.

Together, we visited the house churches there, and I had the oppor-



Lars Müller (theological student at Elstal) with Frank San Juan

tunity of meeting a lot of the people with whom he works – very many alcoholics and drug-addicts. I could see in what radical way the gospel has transformed their lives: Now it is they who tell the slum dwellers about Jesus. I also had the privilege of preaching in Frank's fast growing church in the Havana slums on a Sunday. Very impressive! For we have to bear in mind that it is extremely difficult in Cuba to get permission and the materials to build a church – or even just a meeting

room. Yet by the grace of God and thanks to EBM MASA donations, they were allowed to build a small platform with a corrugated iron roof stretching across the tops of some houses. They are so very grateful for this!

Later I went to the Isle of Youth with Carlos Waldow and Arturo Köbernick and had the possibility to see a lot of new church planting projects there. It was great to see the people meeting in the small backyards and to learn that they keep on growing and launching new projects. There would be a lot more to tell. I am so very impressed by the Cubans, their way of working: With so much motivation, love and passion, they are trying to reach ever more people for Christ, with all their heart. I was also impressed by the numerous new house churches and the growing projects. And most of all it is great to see how thirsty the Cubans are for the gospel. There is really a great opening in Cuba and I really think this is God's moment for Cuba.

Lars Müller

PRAYING AND DONATING

Social ministries among the Quechua in Peru

Project number: MAG 24010
Financial need: € 50,000

Social ministries in Cuba

Project number: MAG 26990
Financial need: € 80,000

Further information at

www.ebm-international.org

Donation account EBM MASA:

No. 133906, BLZ 500 921 00,
SKB Bad Homburg

Setting an example of passionate commitment to missions



Horst Borkowski

On July 12, 2012, Horst Borkowski died at the age of 90. Most of those who know the work of EBM MASA also know his name. He is the founder of Missionary Activities in South America (EBM MASA).

In the early '70s, he evangelized among people of German descent in Argentina and Southern Brazil for several months. Among other things, he got to know the "colony of orphans" living with the Liebich couple in Ijuí. The destitute, abandoned children who were cared for there so much touched his heart that he decided to solicit help for them. Back in Germany, he mobilized friends and churches to collect money for the Liebich family. This activity resulted, in 1972, in the "Missionary Activities in South America"

being founded – abbreviated "MASA". The Children's Home in Ijuí was the first project to be supported. Soon thereafter, the Toba Indians in Argentina were laid on Horst Borkowski's heart. The Gospel was taken to them, and through MASA's commitment, they got their land back.

In memory of Horst Borkowski, we gladly accept donations for the Children's Home in Ijuí. This will be according to his wishes, and we appreciate any gift. (Project number 23 113)

Argentina

Love and joy to her last breath

On July 27, Carmen Lakouski was relieved from her serious cancer. Her suffering has now come to an end and she may see what she believed. It was a miracle that she could devote herself to God's kingdom with great passion and love till the end. For ten years, Carmen Lakouski had been in charge of the Children's Home in Além, together with

Horacio, her husband. In more recent times, she worked for the Argentinian Baptist Union.

Her life as well as her way of dying set an example to be followed. We thank God for all the good things he has achieved on this earth through Carmen.



Carmen Lakouski

MANNA Project

The misery of children keeps Ursula Kampe on the move



Ursula Kampe

For 20 years, Ursula Kampe worked as an EBM MASA missionary in Argentina. Her last activity was organizing and mentoring the MANNA projects. Now, we may say farewell as she is leaving for well-earned retirement. We thank Ursula for her tireless and loving commitment to the children, who would have been left without any hope and perspectives were it not for her. For her new phase in life, we wish her God's rich blessings. She will still be on the move – she just loves children too much. She will now take time to personally care for MANNA children.

May this be the opportunity for her to say a few words: "If only you knew how much these children have been transformed by staying with the brothers and sisters caring for

them. They have learned to laugh, they have learned to go to school, to wash and not to feel discriminated because they go in rags. They have also learned that they are being loved.

Serving others so that they meet Christ, that is the only thing which gives a meaning to our lives, isn't it? If only you could see these children and learn to love them!

I would like to say a heart-felt thankyou to all those who have carried me through all these years in their prayers. And a big thankyou to all the brothers and sisters in Germany for their love, their understanding, their generosity and their unconditional support."



Some members of the Torbali Church

Church planting work in Izmir/Turkey

An account by Ertan Cevik:

In April, we had another breakfast for businessmen, which was very well attended. We are thankful for these encounters, where an imam as well as a pastor are allowed to speak.

For several years, we have been tending the brothers and sisters of our mission station in Torbali and its surroundings (with more than 100,000 inhabitants, located halfway between Izmir and Ephesus). When the family of Ihsan Cetin moved from Izmir to Torbali last autumn, their meetings took place in their small flat. With EBM support, we could rent a salesroom in spring. This room was turned into a beautiful worship room with a great deal

of personal contributions by skilled church members. The brothers made nice benches.

Since mid-April, our sisters and brothers have been meeting in this room, and on June 9, the official opening took place. When a few days ahead, the invitation cards were distributed to official authorities, the local press set in and there were detailed reports on the inauguration of the Baptist Church. A wide public debate arose. The district administrator of Torbali tried to put off the inauguration as he feared attacks.

Two explosives experts searched the room and the street for bombs before the event, and seven policemen attended the inauguration.

20 people from the Muslim neighbourhood had intended and promised to attend, but because of public pressure, only two of them came. The local press was represented by two reporters, who featured the inauguration the next day.

Two days later, the owner of the salesroom, a building contractor, called and gave notice to Br. Ihsan, that he was not allowed to use the room any longer, immediately effective. We learned that he received threats and would not get any more orders if he did not kick the Christians out of his salesroom. The rental agreement runs for another nine months, and we are curious to see what happens. The families living above the church room also are said to have complained to the landlord saying they did not wish to live under one roof with Christians.

From Izmir and nearby, some 50-60 brothers and sisters came in the context of the Evangelical Alliance, pastors and church leaders.

We thank God for making the church in Torbali so widely known – even in such a way. For several decades there had been no Christian community there. And a church is needed there, for Torbali has the highest suicide rate in Turkey.

Ertan Cevik



Worship in the Torbali Church

A NEW IDEA – EBM AMBASSADORS

At least, we had thought it was a new idea: Then, at the first meeting, we learned that such an idea had existed before. So, that's life: What seems new need not actually be new...

Whatever its origin, "EBM AMBASSADORS" is a good idea, as we realized together with the twelve people attending our first meeting. As EBM AMBASSADORS, we want to take missions closer to the churches, tell stories from the mission fields and disseminate the vision of EBM INTERNATIONAL. These were some of the intentions voiced during the first meeting, which took place in Kassel on May 15, 2012.

We have realized that we have the common concern of motivating churches so that they should understand themselves as partaking in God's mission, supporting the various mission activities of EBM INTERNATIONAL by giving as well as praying. For this reason, we will be happy to present EBM INTERNATIONAL's work in churches. We, that is the mission secretaries in Elstal and a motley group of people who have missions at heart. The group includes people ranging from former missionaries, pastors, and mission tour guides to ordinary church members who share a common cause: They all have missions and EBM INTERNATIONAL at heart. During the first meeting, the ambassadors were provided some material: Besides flyers and short films they were also given a comprehensive presentation portraying the various projects of EBM INTERNATIONAL in Africa, Latin America, India, and Turkey.



The EBM meeting of ambassadors- and friends in Kassel, Germany

What was far more important than the material, however, was the task: The mission secretaries in Elstal encouraged them explicitly to represent EBM in churches, just as ambassadors do – conveying what they have learned in God's mission and in their lives.

Seen from this point of view, EBM AMBASSADORS are not an idea – not an old nor a new one. EBM AMBASSADORS are a network of people willing to give inspiration, people wanting to get churches excited about missions through their reports. We are especially pleased by the fact that they want to do so on behalf of EBM INTERNATIONAL. If your church is interested in having an EBM AMBASSADOR visit you, please don't hesitate to contact the Mission Office. Gabi Neubauer (gneubauer@ebm-international.org) will coordinate your requests. She is also the person to apply to if you are interested in being an ambassador yourself, because you have mis-

sions at heart and because you have stories from missions to tell. Our wish is for the group to grow; the next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2012, in Kassel. We hope that with the ambassadors' help, EBM INTERNATIONAL will become more relevant in our churches.

*Matthias Dichristin and
Carlos Waldow*