

Newsletter to the
Liaison persons,
Church leaders and pastors
In churches linked with
EBM INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

Elstal, in February, 2012

Dear brothers and sisters in our churches, dear liaison persons, dear friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL,

We warmly greet you with Jesus' words from John 6:37: "**Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.**"

Along with our partners in Africa, Latin America, India and Europe, we know about the big challenge to help people in material, personal, and spiritual need sustainably. Thank you so very much for sharing this responsibility with us.

In the following, please find some topical and important information from our mission:



Writing this first newsletter in 2012, we would like to inform you about the financial situation of EBM INTERNATIONAL:

We say a heartfelt thank you to the members, churches and friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL for donations amounting to 3,477,000 Euro, which we received for our ministry to the far-away neighbours in India, Africa, Latin America and in Turkey. To us, this means evidence of trust in our worldwide mission work on the one hand. In comparison to the previous year, on the other hand, there was a decline in donations amounting to more than 450,000 Euro. As we released practically all our reserves, particularly in the Africa section, and still closed the books with a deficit of 50,000 Euro, we now find ourselves in a severe financial plight.

We would like to ask for your support, thus enabling us in 2012 as well, to fund the ministries of our European missionaries in Africa and those of our native missionaries in Africa, Latin America, India, and Turkey. We would also like to make you more aware that although EBM INTERNATIONAL is a European mission organization, it does not receive any financial means from the European Baptist Federation.

Our worldwide mission work is funded exclusively through the donations from our member unions. Our auditor has voiced the seriousness of the situation in a written note: "If EBM has such a bad overall result for one more year, survival of EBM as a whole will be at risk."

On January 1st, **Matthias Dichristin** (EBM missionary to *South Africa* till the end of 2011) took over his ministry as mission secretary for Africa promotion. Please continue to pray for a good start and for very good reintegration of his family in Germany.

Izmir

On February 24-26, the Executive Committee of EBM INTERNATIONAL will meet in *Izmir* in order to get to know the ministry of **Ertan and Marlene Cevik**. Please pray for fruitful discussions and encounters.



Laurence and Hervé Turquais have recently returned to *Cameroon*. At present, they are organizing a retreat for all the missionaries working in West and Central Africa, to be held on March 23-25 in *Douala*. Preceding this retreat, there will be important strategic talks between Christoph Haus and the leaders of the Baptist Union in Cameroon. These talks will be key to setting the course for future work in Cameroon.

In 2012 again, many of our missionaries will be on home furlough. The balancing act between appointments and rest remains a challenge for them. In addition, they have to ensure continuity for their work in their respective countries of assignment. From Cameroon, **Dirk and Hanna Pusch** as well as **Martin and Christel Pusch** will be in Germany. **Markus and Annabeth Maag**, as well as **Hans-Willem and Aisha Oosterloo** have also planned their home furloughs for this year.

Missionaries are our greatest asset in *Africa*. In February, the Executive Committee of EBM INTERNATIONAL will meet new candidates for *South Africa*. Please join us in prayer for the appointment process and the preparation phase of this young German couple. We are very happy if you give us the chance of sending out young missionaries by donating. It is only possible to send out missionaries if people are encouraged to give. The assignment of a missionary couple working in *Africa* costs about 50,000 Euro a year.

In the *Central African Republic*, **Annabeth and Markus Maag** increasingly travel to hold training courses in the so far neglected northern region of the country. Their first experiences have been very positive ones, and their work is much needed and really welcome there. Many pastors and committed church leaders are being strengthened for church development work in these rural areas.



In *Cotia, Brazil*, a small social centre has been established on the premises of the children's home. We are very happy that more than 30 children are lovingly being cared for here. They come from nearby, all from very poor families. These children would be left to themselves and live in the streets if it were not for the Centre.

The church planting work in *Yanaoca, Peru*, is making very good progress. Now, an additional plot has been acquired, and construction of the church building can be started this year. In future, staff training courses will also be held here. For this simple structure, quite a good number of blocks made from clay, sand and straw have already been made by the people themselves. This kind of building has no heating, which is typical of life in this region. At present, there are again very heavy rains in the *Peruvian Andes*. The mission stations higher up in the mountains are inaccessible. We pray for the people there that there will be no landslides wreaking havoc as in years past.

After 20 years of fruitful ministry in the *Impenetrable (Argentina)*, **Margarito Soraire** would like to take a sabbatical. We hope and pray for him that this will be a time of empowering and edifying, preparing him for the next phase of his life.

In *Eastern Cuba*, staff trainings are still in full swing. At 150 venues, more than 150 church planters are being prepared for service. The sports ministry of **Daniel Gonzalez'** church in *Havana* still bears wonderful fruit. Time and again, teenagers and youths are converted, and their lives change radically. Their families also are reached by the Gospel.



On February 3-5, the third meeting of all the partners of EBM INDIA took place at *Serango Christian Hospital, (State of Orissa)*. Our new regional representative for India, **Dr P. Judson**, had organized the meeting and was welcomed to his new ministry very warmly by all the representatives present.

The General Secretary of EBM INTERNATIONAL, Rev. Christoph Haus, was not the only one who visited this project in the remote uplands for the first time. Most of the representatives of the Indian partners of EBM INTERNATIONAL also admitted they had never been there.

The national pattern of religious distribution (4-5% Christians vs. 82% Hindus and about 10% Muslims) contrasts sharply with the one in the region of the *Saura* tribe (simple mountain people), where 90% of the population is Christian. The local "*Saura Baptist Convention*" numbers 824 small village churches, totalling about 120,000 members. The Hospital itself has a very good reputation and is self-supporting to a high degree thanks to revenue from patients in higher income groups. EBM INTERNATIONAL supports the Hospital by granting about 8,000 Euro a year.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,
Yours,



Rev
Carlos Waldow



Rev
Christoph Haus



Matthias Dichristin