

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

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Newsletter

Elstal, in October, 2013

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in our churches, dear Liaison Persons,
Dear Friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL,

„Sharing life – giving hope“- the motto of EBM INTERNATIONAL invites all of us to share: experience, knowledge, our faith, property, money. Nobody has everything, everybody has something. When during the offering in many an Indian congregation, the destitute peasants approach the Lord's table with a little rice and some vegetables, they share the little they have. And they say thank you to the churches in Germany and Europe for what people there share with them. They have people pray for them in every service. And they pray for the churches in Germany. So let us share what we have with these far-away neighbours in India, Africa, Latin America and in Turkey.



As EBM INTERNATIONAL gets 50% of all **donations** in the fourth quarter, we hope that this year, too, we'll get many gifts during the Advent and Christmas Season. Please join us in prayer for this and help us promote support and solicit gifts. We still need a considerable amount of gifts in order to keep to the budgets for the schools and for theological education in Africa, for the children's homes in India, and for the children and church-planting projects in Latin America

Turkey: Please go on praying that the political situation in Turkey might stabilize and that the Christian minority might gain greater social acceptance. **Ertan Cevik**, our missionary, reported that a long-time member of the small congregation in **Izmir**, who had worked as a caretaker, handed in his notice from one day to the next in order to go back to his native village in Anatolia. He could no longer bear the invective and insults of passers-by, or the social marginalisation of Christians.



EBM MASA missionaries **Marcos Rivero** and **Sorangel Dias Claro** are totally busy training more than 600 church-planters in **Eastern Cuba**. We started supporting this project nearly five years ago, and we are thrilled with its development and growth. In 2013 alone, some 100 new churches will have been founded by the end of the year.

There is a new project in **Cuba** that we will be supporting from 2013 for some years to come: "Urbano 2010". The project is intended to allow for many churches to be planted in the 20 biggest cities all over Cuba from 2013 till 2020.

Daniel Gonzalez is in charge of “Urbano 2020” and is developing the project: At first, strategic principles and tools are being established. To this end, far-reaching research is being done in order to understand the realities, the living conditions and the needs of the urban population. The programme will then be put into practice simultaneously in several cities (pilot projects), where it is made available to already existing churches to test it. This includes training for the staff as well as assistance and mentoring in the implementation of the project.

At present, the Social Centres in **Diadema, Cotia and Ijuí** in **Brazil** and in **Mendoza, Argentina**, take daily care of appr. 450 children and teenagers altogether. Another 300 youths and grown-ups are offered various training and “help for self-help” programmes at the Social Centre in Diadema to enhance their prospects in life. In Mendoza, there is also a daily feeding programme for some 250 destitute children. We are very glad about this. The dedication of the leaders and staff in the projects keeps inspiring us. Even in the huge challenges they are often faced with, they don’t feel above committing themselves with great love and passion. Let us not forget them in our prayers.

In the **Peruvian Andes**, the winter this year was very hard. There was snow even at lower altitudes, where it doesn’t normally snow. The great majority of the people there are very poor, live in small and simple houses and live at a minimum level. The German Baptist Union’s disaster fund and donations from some churches allowed EBM MASA to help, providing warm clothing for the children, vaccinations for farm animals and support to people in extreme need. More than 500 families have been assisted. We thank you for every support that allows us to help.



We have asked this question to our **Regional Representative in India, Dr P. Judson**: Why do so many children in India live in children’s homes, and why do you not look for foster families for these children?

“The traditional family structures in India no longer work. Looking for jobs and income, many families leave their ancestral places, or the fathers and/or mothers move to far-away places to find work. The children then are a burden to them. Also, many of these fathers or mothers do not come back to live with their families. So the children are more or less orphans, abandoned somewhere, although their fathers or mothers are still alive. 43% of all Indian children are underfed. Would you have guessed that 2/3 of Indian children are unable to read a simple story when leaving primary school? Children are not assisted in their families. While India boasts of intending to find traces of water on the moon in a joint moon mission with the USA, safe drinking water is still a far-away dream for millions of people in our country. The 14 children’s homes supported by EBM INDIA do not take any children away from their families; they rather give a home to children who have been stranded. In the children’s homes, they are provided with good food and qualified tutoring for their school work. Through our children’s homes, we want to develop the strong generation of children our country needs for its future. And none of these children would ever have had the chance of a life in dignity. Moreover, by getting familiar with the Gospel, they find orientation for their souls and get to know Christian ethics and values. Please, go on supporting these 14 children’s homes.”



There has been no change in the political situation in the **Central African Republic**. **Markus and Annabeth Maag** still have no possibility of travelling to **Bangui** in order to finalize their work there. Meanwhile, they have been active in theological education in **South Cameroon** and have held their first training courses there.

In late October, a strategic meeting will be held in **Ndiki, Cameroon**. The **UFEB** leadership, coming from **Bangui, Christoph Haus** and our Regional Representative **Bouba Mbima** will meet, and together, they will consider further support by EBM AFRICA in 2014, i.e. search for ways to continue support to the Baptists on site and to ensure the on-going support, particularly for theological education.

In **Cameroon**, a new President of the Baptist Union (UEBC) will be voted in next year. Over the past decades, our collaboration was shaped by Rev **Emmanuel Mbenda**, and we wish for the work to continue in a good way.

Moreover, we hope for **Equatorial Guinea** and **Cameroon** to develop exchange activities. The two neighbouring countries intend to train theological students from Equatorial Guinea in Cameroon, and maybe in the long term, a pastor from Cameroon could do missionary service in **Malabo**, Equatorial Guinea.

In late October, the Union leaders of **South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi** will meet in **Tete, Mozambique**. Our Regional Representative, **Fletcher Kaiya**, is organizing this meeting, and we are excited that our partners in the **Southern Africa Region** get together. We are also happy that **Regina Claas** will be a missionary to this region (**Malawi and South Africa**). She will start her ministry with EBM INTERNATIONAL in November, and her departure is scheduled for January 2014.

We hope that in 2014, we will be able to appoint new missionaries to **Sierra Leone**, with specific talks already under way. In addition, there are some people at present who have sent unsolicited applications for missionary service. We are checking with our partners in Africa, what the needs in the various countries are. Attached to this newsletter, you will already find a specific **job posting** for the **Macia Social Centre** in **Mozambique**. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone who might be interested.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,

Sincerely yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christoph Haus'.

Pastor Christoph Haus



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Waldow'.

Pastor Carlos Waldow



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthias Dichristin'.

Matthias Dichristin