

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

Gottfried-Wilhelm-Lehmann-Str. 4  
14641 Wustermark  
T +49 (0)33 234 – 74 150  
F +49 (0)33 234 – 74 145  
info@ebm-international.org  
www.ebm-international.org

## Newsletter

Elstal, in December, 2013

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

Spar- und Kreditbank eG  
Bad Homburg  
Konto-Nr. 46868  
BLZ: 500 921 00  
IBAN: DE 69 5009 2100 0000 0468 68  
BIC: GENODE 51BH2

**“Behold, your King comes to you! He is righteous, and having salvation”** (Zechariah 9:9; WEB).

What a wonderful promise this is: God has it at heart that people get help (TN: the German version reads: and bringing help) and justice. This is why in our partners' projects in Africa, Latin America, India and Turkey, specific hands-on help always goes hand in hand with proclaiming the good news of Christ Jesus' coming.



Thank you for all the support we have received in 2013 from churches and individual donors. To us, this is confirmation of EBM INTERNATIONAL's work. People in remote places of this earth are given the chance of living a life in dignity, and they get access to the Gospel. This year, we invite you to donate a Christmas gift supporting the numerous projects where people are provided with food. A few examples are given under the following link, in German only:

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

Our „EBM Ambassadors“ also assist us, in a special way: They visit churches, thus supporting the work of the mission secretaries and lending a face to EBM INTERNATIONAL. More than 20 people who have missions close at heart have been equipped with materials and trained in order to present EBM INTERNATIONAL, and at the mission office, we coordinate the requests from churches and the visits. – The end of the year is always quite full of suspense, for 50% of our total donations come in during the last quarter. Thus we hope and pray that there will be no drop during the Advent and Christmas seasons but that there will be sufficient gifts in order to balance the budgets of the children's homes, schools, evangelistic projects, hospitals and theological seminaries, for which money has already been spent, and to reach a positive annual result.

## TURKEY

Time and again, our church in **Izmir, Turkey** suffers from hostilities and setbacks. Although **Ertan Cevik** has baptized more than 100 people over the past years, the church has only 30 members. This is because many new converts are not able to bear the pressure from families and society. Often they find themselves faced with the choice of either becoming Muslims again or being excluded from their families. As this is the same for the other small Baptist churches in **Samsun** (on the Black Sea), **Adana** (Southeast Turkey) and **Istanbul**, these four churches will network in future, aiming in the long term at recognition as a Baptist Union in Turkey. In 2014, the Baptist World Alliance will hold their annual conference in Izmir. The Izmir Baptist church hopes for positive publicity when the world's biggest Protestant Church meets there for its annual gathering.



The situation in the **Central African Republic** has worsened. There have been violent clashes between Muslims and Christians, and first atrocities have occurred. We are thankful that **Markus and Annabeth Maag** could stay in **Bangui** for a couple of days and hand over their work just before violence really escalated. We pray that the Lord will keep our brothers and

sisters in the country safe, including the whole region in our prayers.

In **Cameroon**, the training of church-planters in the North has been very successful. **Dirk Pusch** reports that 12 people have done the “Timothy Leadership Training” and have now themselves become trainers in this programme. Altogether, 300 people have already been given certificates as “basic trainers”.

In November, several teams from **Skien, Norway** visited the church-planters in **Sierra Leone**. In the **Tonko Limba** area, some church buildings could be renovated. While EBM President **Arild Harvik** was visiting, there was a baptism service with many people getting baptized. In Sierra Leone, a total of four church-planters are being supported serving in the areas of **Tonko Limba, Thambaka, Lunsar** and **Makeni**.

Following intensive talks with the Union leaderships of **South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi** we are pleased to see that doors will be opening for new missionaries. The leaders have indicated their interest in having missionaries in the medical and theological fields.

During the first weekend of December, 19 applicants for volunteer service starting September 2014 stayed in Elstal. We hope to provide workplaces for 15 people – there have been far more than 30 applications.



We are very happy about the impact the social ministry accomplished by the **Social Centre at „12 de Mayo“** near **Mendoza, Argentina**, is having. The lack of structures and facilities is made up for by the caring commitment of many staff workers. Through 15 different projects and programmes, the current 15 employees and 60 volunteers share God's love with the children and adults living in the nearby slum. 250 destitute children are provided a daily meal, 60 children get the chance of attending pre-school in the PEPE Project, four doctors provide health check-ups to many people, and many more. In 2014, an additional building with appr. 200 m<sup>2</sup> floor space is to be erected to make more room available for these fast growing activities.

In September, **Karell Lescaille** handed over his responsibility as director of mission work on the **Isle of Youth, Cuba** to **Ernesto Cabrera**; he moved to Havana, where he is now working alongside Daniel Gonzalez. He is to co-coordinate the church-planting work as well as the various EBM MASA projects there. In January 2014, two new churches with more than 50 baptized members each will be founded in Havana and its environs: at **La Perla** and **Villa Panamericana**, they will be strategically well located. This is the result of the Bible Clubs for Children, which were launched four years ago. In both places, special donations facilitated the purchase of land, where the churches will be gathering further down the line – even though under tin roofs.

By January, construction of the church buildings in **Yanaoca and Curahuasi, Peru** will have progressed to the point where they can be used for services and staff training courses. In December 2013, **Adrián Campero** has rounded up a group of assiduous men from churches in the Apurímac area in order to speed up construction. Hiring someone to do all the work would have been too expensive. Adrián reports that the training courses of the workers and missionaries are going very well. From January 2014, **Wilfredo Velarde** will be the new missionary to **Curahuasi**. He is from Arequipa and will share responsibility for the work with Adrián.



In November, two heavy cyclones hit the Southeast of India. First, cyclone Phailin with its speeds exceeding 200 km/h, wrought havoc on the East Coast. There were many floods, destroyed homes, toppled cars and damaged power lines. A great many people got hurt or lost their livelihoods. Those affected most were the poorest of the poor – the fishing families living right near the coast. Phailin was followed by "Helene", a somewhat weaker storm. The disaster relief fund of the German Baptist Union put some funds at our disposal, which we passed on to five of our partners on site. These organized emergency relief activities to provide thousands of families with food and to fix damaged houses and hospitals in a rough and ready way.

Wishing the blessings of Advent to all of you,

With warmest regards from Elstal,



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