

Newsletter 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

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

Newsletter

Elstal, in January 2014

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

„Jesus Christ says: whoever comes to me I will never drive away.“ – John 6:37

Helping people in material, personal and spiritual need in a sustainable way is a big challenge in missions: helping them to get access to Jesus also by sharing God's love, the Gospel in word and deed. As to our ministry, the principle is that of shared responsibility for Jesus' mission, shared with Christians in Africa, Latin America, India and Europe. We do not do this on our own behalf but in the name and on behalf of Jesus.

Here follow some short up-dates from the mission fields:



Thank you for your donations and prayers! As we keep asking our churches, friends and supporters to donate for our work, they are entitled to be informed on our financial situation. We are thankful that we again received more than 3 million euro donations from donors in and linked to the German Baptist Union. We do not take this for granted in any way. This is why we would like to say thank you in the name of thousands of people who have been provided support, education, good health, a chance of life in dignity and access to God's Word through these gifts.

At the same time, we are concerned about a decline in donations of appr. 160,000 euro in 2013, compared to 2012. We had already lowered our expectations as we do not want to arouse hopes that we then cannot fulfil. And yet we would like to remain reliable in dealing with our missionaries, partners and project managers in *Africa, Latin America, India, and Turkey*. For faithfulness and reliability are principles of our mission work.

We would like to ask you to help us remain faithful and reliable. For whatever we do is not in our honour but to God's glory, serving to build his Kingdom. Please do not hesitate to ask us at any time where donations are most needed – we will gladly answer your questions.

Wanted: churches supporting missionaries

We are pleased because the number of people from our churches who have a call to go into world mission is increasing again. We have received several applications which will be processed by the Executive Committee this spring. For these missionaries, we are looking for churches to pray for them, to keep in touch and to support them financially. And it is our promise that these churches will get something in return: firsthand information on people who have accepted Jesus, who have been helped physically and spiritually. Mission will be linked to faces for those churches who team up with missionaries.

TURKEY – Christmas in *Izmir*. *Ertan and Marlene Cevik* write: In December, we started preparing Christmas, and especially our new believers, who celebrated Christmas for the first time, were absolutely thrilled. If only decorations were not so expensive... In the church, we had put various nativity figures, gifts you gave us, all over the place, most of them on the altar. A great many visitors were particularly touched and moved, which was an opportunity to have many talks. Thus, the Holy Family remained in place until the end of January. Our Christmas celebration for guests was a blessing also this year. We are glad that during the Christmas season, three students were converted. If you happen to have good materials for Easter, which you would like to share with us, we would be very grateful to you for sending it to our email or church address.



The situation in the **Central African Republic** has been escalating and we hope for the international community to intervene in an appropriate way. *Markus and Annabeth Maag* have ended their missionary service and are visiting their supporting churches till June.

A new church leadership has been elected in **Cameroon**. *Ekoule Maka* is the new President, succeeding *Emmanuel Mbenda*, who was leading the church for more than a quarter century. *Raphael Ziloua* is the new General Secretary, which means that a new director for the Vocational Centre at *Garoua* will have to be found.

In **South Africa**, *Regina Claas* took up her ministry in January. *The Meyers* will be on home furlough from April. Right now, they are trying to decentralize some of their vocational training sessions

Thanks to the gift from a foundation, we could finance a new operating table for the Baptist Eye Hospital in *Lunsar/Sierra Leone*. This hospital performs over 1,000 eye surgeries per year.

While *Julio Cháfer and Damaris Suarez* are on home furlough, *Marta Nombela* is supporting our missionary *Sara Marcos* in **Equatorial Guinea**. Julio has to undergo treatment. *Marta* stayed in the country before, doing volunteer service. From *Evinayong*, *Sara* reports that she is increasingly investing in new leaders for church ministries.

In March, *Matthias Dichristin* will travel to **Mozambique**, visiting also Pastor *Afonso Muendane*. After another eye surgery, there is hope that his sight will be restored to some degree. The schedule also includes a visit to the *Macia* Social Centre.

Over the past weeks, *Klaus and Rachel Fiedler (Malawi, Mzuzu)* have mentored another 18 dissertations, and the 10th book has been published by Mzuni Press, their publishers. The pastor couple *Mafuluka* from *Zomba* are preparing for their WITHOUT BORDERS assignment in *Heidelberg*, to start in April.



Pedro Boretzky, in *Esquel, Argentina* had his knees operated on. He and *Noemi* are thankful for every prayer. The mission work at the six sites near the main church at *Esquel* is facing challenges, time and again, but nonetheless, there is good progress.

In *Gan Gan*, with *Gabriel and Miriam Llangquihuen* working as missionaries there, a large group of young people are being reached – youths who terrified the place before. Isn't it simply wonderful to see how the gospel radically transforms people's lives.

Edith Landenberger, director of the Children's Home in *Cotia (Brazil)*, shares about huge challenges. There is a good team, solidly united, who at this time are experiencing heavy spiritual attacks and thus in need of a great deal of prayers. *Carol* is a 13-year-old girl, who has recently been placed in the Children's Home by the Juvenile Court. Her background is pathetic; she was already addicted to heavy drugs. Now there is great hope that love and affection will make her ready to embrace a new perspective on life and that she will come to believe in Jesus. But *Edith* also shares about positive experiences the children in the Children's Home and at the Social Centre have. These experiences in *Cotia* may also stand for what happens at the Children's Home and the Social Centre in *Ijuí* and at the Social Centre in *Diadema*.

A couple of days ago, we, the Latin America Team, stayed in **Cuba**. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness and enthusiasm as we see what God achieves through the projects supported by EBM MASA in Cuba. Many people are becoming believers, new churches are being planted, children and youths are being reached through Bible Clubs and a missionary sports project, hundreds of staff and church-planters are being trained. Five years ago, a Bible Club was launched, among others, in *La Perla*, a poor community in *Havana*, which over time did not only reach the children but their families as well. Several house churches came into being, which then resulted in a church-planting project. On January 25, a church with some 50 members was founded here. *Yosvani Padrón*, a very competent and passionate missionary, is taking on responsibility for the new church and will be one of two new EBM MASA missionaries in *Cuba* from March. Such stories are written only by God!



For the fifth time since 2009, representatives of all the 15 Indian partners of EBM met for their annual conference in *Pithapuram*/Southeast **India**. In India, EBM's partner is not a single Baptist union (as in the African and Latin American countries), but it cooperates with 10 Baptist partners and another five Christian partners, such as the Salvation Army or the YMCA.

This year, the Conference was hosted by the Baptist hospital in *Pithapuram*, which was founded by Canadian missionaries in 1904. Today, it has gained a reputation in poor people's health care and stands out as a remarkable Christian witness in a thoroughly Hindu environment.

During the three-day gathering, led by EBM INDIA Regional Representative *Dr. P. Judson*, all the partners had the opportunity to give a short annual report on their work. Reporting, missions and financial dependency, budgeting and finances were other items on the agenda.

Before and after the Conference, EBM General Secretary *Christoph Haus* visited another 12 projects with a small delegation from Germany accompanying him. Very touching were the visits to four villages, where the local Baptist churches dispense a glass of milk daily and an egg three times a week to Yanadi children (a casteless tribe), as a measure against malnutrition. 900 poor children and young mothers in 15 villages benefit from this "Milk & Egg Project". As guests, the German delegation also attended the inauguration of two new church centres and the annex to a children's home.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,

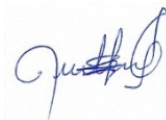
Yours sincerely,



Pastor Christoph Haus

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

Pastor Carlos Waldow

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

Matthias Dichristin

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