

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

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Newsletter

Elstal, in June 2014

„Today, our Christian being can only consist in two things: prayer and righteous action among men.“
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944).

Dear Friends and Supporters of EBM World Missions,

This is what we stand for as the European Baptist Mission: Praying together and praying for one another. Plus living God's righteousness and justice, making it become a reality. Advocacy for widows, orphans, the hungry, the strangers, the sick and the blind is a barometer of man's relationship with God, not only in the Old Testament. Jesus also felt called foremost and above all to those who are weary and burdened. These are the ones we want to reach in Jesus' name by serving in Africa, Latin America, India, and Turkey. To do so, we need your support in prayer, by your donations and your encouragement.

Please spread the message how beneficial EBM INTERNATIONAL's work is for many people, how many have come to believe in Christ Jesus as their Lord and how many people may live a life in dignity and in God's presence thanks to your support.



EBM INTERNATIONAL suffers from a massive decline in donations

Somehow, the rumour has spread around our churches in Germany that EBM's financial situation is excellent again. As a consequence, many churches and individual donors must have thought: Why not give our offering for world mission to another mission organization this time. Unfortunately, the result of this was that in 2013 the donations we received dropped by 315,000 from the previous year. As we can only transfer money given us in the first place, we regrettably could not disburse the full amounts of the budgets agreed on at the beginning of the year to some of our partners, which particularly affected some schools and the theological seminaries and Bible schools. Another very big concern is the fact that over the first four months of 2014, income has declined by another 165,000 € compared to the same period of the previous year – when it was already poor. Let there be no misunderstanding: EBM INTERNATIONAL has neither expanded its mission work nor started new work. Unfortunately, we seem to be getting into a situation that we experienced in 2011, when we were faced with a huge deficit and had to release a great part of our reserves.

We would like to ask our churches and the friends and supporters of EBM's world mission work to support us by donations and special offerings. At the same time, we would like to remind you that as EBM INTERNATIONAL, we are not only aware of our Biblical responsibility to go into the whole world to preach the gospel. We feel equally obliged to our historical responsibility: We consider faithfulness and reliability important in dealing with our partners in Africa, Latin America, India, and Turkey. The brothers and sisters there, the missionaries, church-planters, heads of schools, doctors and directors of Bible schools count on us.

Please, help us to spare them disappointment. Churches and individual donors are welcome to ask us at the Mission Office for more detailed information about specific projects. No donor has ever been made poor by contributing to missions.

TURKEY – On April 4, 2014 the four small Baptist churches of Adana (16 members), Izmir (30 members), Samsun (20 members), and Istanbul (22 members) founded the first **Turkish Baptist Union**, the only one.

Out of these, the Church of Ertan and Marlene Cevik in **Izmir** is the only one to gather in a proper church building. To them, an empty church which had belonged to the Anglican Church was made available by the Turkish authorities. The Church in **Adana** meets in a shop they have hired in a shopping mall; the church in **Istanbul** meets in the church leader's flat, and the church in **Samsun** has hired a flat as an assembly room. All of these churches are given a very hard time. They keep being exposed to hostility, threats and defamation. This is also why two of the four pastors have a body guard. Threats, however, are familiar to all Christians in Turkey. The Catholic priest of Adana, a city of 2.5 million, ministers to 200 Catholics; he has reported that four years ago, the Catholic bishop of Turkey was murdered by his own driver.

The young Baptist Union in Turkey sets high hopes on the **Annual General Assembly of the Baptist World Alliance** to be held in **Izmir in July 2014**. "When Izmir is host to the world's biggest Protestant Church and TV and the media report about it, then neither the public nor the authorities can ignore this," said Rev. Ertan Cevik. They want to take advantage of this event in order to get more widely known and accepted.



The extreme North of **Cameroon** increasingly suffers from the terror spread by Boko Haram. This group, which operates in Nigeria, uses the region as a withdrawal area but also to stage assaults and kidnappings. Martin and Christel Pusch are completely confined to the city of **Maroua** in their activities. In a few days, they will arrive in Germany for their home furlough and we hope that at least some stability will return to the region during this time. Vanessa Cavelier and Nathan Minard, both from France, could be appointed as missionaries to **Garoua/North Cameroon**, where the political situation is still secure. They will work at the hospital and the Vocational Centre in that city.

Despite the Civil War, leaders from the **Central African Republic** were able to attend the Mission Council in Paris this year. We are pleased that training at the Bible schools, which we support, is continuing. All the same, many churches are severely affected and devastated. The region does need our prayers.

We are glad that we could appoint Else Miklavcic from Austria to serve as a missionary in **Macia/Mozambique**. Starting as early as July, she will be involved at the EBM MASA Children's Home in Porto in order to learn Portuguese and then, in autumn, she will leave for Mozambique.

From autumn, the Sikorski couple from Munich will work in **Sierra Leone** in the area of project coordination and staff training. We are very happy about this very clear calling. During the summer months, they will be visiting many supporting churches.

For two months, the pastoral couple Mafuleka from **Zomba/Malawi** worked in the Heidelberg Church. The church leader in Heidelberg writes: "They are people to whom God has given really extraordinary gifts, and they were willing to engage whole-heartedly in the programme and to contribute to the church ministries.

Sara Marcos and Marta Nombela report from **Evinayong/Equatorial Guinea**, that they are launching a new project with some women. On roughly 4.5 acres of land, fruit and vegetables are to be grown, which the women will then be able to sell in order to make a living.

In July, Anna and Johannes Meyer will return to **South Africa**. The focus of their work will shift to some extent; Johannes will offer courses in car mechanics in cooperation with a local church, and Anna will get more involved in setting up a women's refuge.



After 9 and a half years, Airtion Nickel, EBM Regional Representative for **Brazil**, has ended his ministry as a church pastor and will be leading the church-planting work in **Ijuí/Southern Brazil**. This ministry also serves as the "spiritual home" to a project for deaf children, a children's home and a social centre. We are thankful for Simone Almeida, director of the **Diadema** Social Centre, as well as for her and her staff's work. The staff there make

it possible for 230 children to be cared for, and for 340 teenagers, youths, and adults to be reached through various courses and social programmes.

Arturo Köbernack, EBM Regional Representative for the Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, had to undergo surgery. We are happy about his good recovery and ask for continued prayer. The Children's Home in **Alem/Argentina** is looking for social mothers/parents to care for the social families. Work at the Social Centre "12 de Mayo" in **Mendoza** with its 15 projects is expanding so that an appendix with additional rooms will have to be erected.

In our previous newsletter, we already mentioned the new projects in **Bolivia**. The new missionary for the church-planting project in **Yotala/Sucre** is Sebastián Jancko Rojas with his family.

Following the study trip to Peru, Carlos Waldow will meet the missionaries of the projects supported by EBM MASA in **Peru** in a closed meeting in **Cusco**, June 22 - 24, 2014. The purpose will be listening to one another and to the Lord, evaluating the projects and discussing future goals. Our missionaries there are: Adrián Campero, Hugo and Carlota Mondoñedo, Modest and Lourdes Puñal, Wilfredo and Karina Velarde, Silvia Azabache and Santos Dominguez, and Patricia Canessa Lescano.



This year, we had the privilege of welcoming, among others, our Indian partner, Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou from **Manipur**, India at the Mission Council in France and at the Annual General Assembly of the German Baptist Union in Kassel. At the Mission Council, he gave an excellent Bible study and had the opportunity of having many valuable and informative talks with delegates and guests. At the Annual Assembly, too, he could give a small insight into his work to many people. Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou is a church-planter and at the same time the director of the "Compassion" Children's Home in Taloulong/Manipur. In this home, 50 children have found a caring home, being at the same time well integrated in the Church. We thank him for his faithful ministry, which he accomplishes day in, day out with full dedication and passion.

On April 12, 2014, part of the city of **Dimapur** (in Nagaland, Northeast India) was devastated by a disastrous fire. The houses of about 167 families were completely gutted by the fire. Those affected are Muslim guest workers, such as day labourers and rickshaw drivers, who are marginalized and live from hand to mouth. They have now completely lost their livelihoods. The disaster relief fund of the German Baptist Union put some funds at our disposal which we could transfer to our partners on site forthwith. The families were provided rice, temporary shelter, bed-nets etc. Moreover, they will be assisted in rebuilding their livelihoods.

Please don't hesitate to order any materials free of charge at info@ebm-international.org.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,

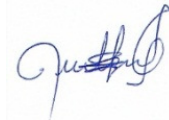
Sincerely yours,



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 'Matthias Dichristin'.