

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

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## Newsletter

Elstal, in October, 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters of EBM World Missions,

Warm greetings to you with Joshua 1:5b: **“I will not leave you or forsake you”**.

This encouragement is to strengthen Joshua as a person but also to strengthen his faith in God – and it is also meant to encourage us. God doesn't leave his people to themselves in the challenges they face in their lives. We do know that our loving and merciful God is there, even though world affairs are overwhelming: wars in Syria, in Iraq, Ukraine and in some African countries; the Ebola virus which is claiming the lives of thousands of people; hunger and poverty, violence and corruption, and many more. Being God's chosen people, we have a clear mandate: to share His love, to share the liberating gospel of Christ Jesus, in word and deed. Often, there is a lack of human and financial resources, there is a lack of love and passion. And yet, we do know: He will not abandon us! It is His mission, He leads the way, provides the strength and the blessings! This is comforting and encouraging!



„Open Doors“ is calling for a day of prayer for persecuted Christians, to be held on November 9, in our congregations as well. On this occasion, we would like to ask you to give special consideration to our partners in **Cameroon** and the **Central African Republic**, as well as to the Cevik family and the churches in **Turkey**, the many projects and churches in **India**, and also the difficult situation of the churches in the Communist island of **Cuba**. Our friends do need us, they need our prayers. And the projects they have been running, for many decades in some instances, need our donations.

Last week, we received the following text from Ayoub Mbirvi in **North Cameroon**, who stayed with the congregation of Freiburg for four weeks only last year:

„I would just like to let you know that in the village of Tourou, some Boko Haram people shot 37 Christians dead as these were leaving a church last Sunday. At present, all the schools are closed in Tourou, as well as the market and the health care centres. Shooting can be heard all day long. All the pastors of the UEBC (Note: our Partner Union) from Tourou are in Mokolo at present.“

In late October, our Regional Representative, Prof. Bouba Mbima, will organize a symposium in Yaounde for Muslims and Christians to start talks with each other. The aim is to develop a common culture of peace and to include the Muslims as a part of the solution. “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matth. 5:10).

Let us pray for all those who are persecuted. Let us pray for righteousness.

Thank you for being with us, supporting the many mission projects in India, Africa, Latin America, in Turkey and Europe. In the following, please find some short updates from the projects.

## TURKEY

Our four small Baptist Churches in **Turkey** (Izmir, Adana, Samsun and Istanbul) have had the wind in their sails as a result of the Annual Gathering of the Baptist World Alliance, which was held in Izmir in July. All over the country, there was a lot of press and TV coverage on the BWA Gathering as well as on the four Baptist Churches in Turkey, and in their words of greeting to the Conference, top-ranking politicians voiced their commitment to tolerance and freedom of religion.

Our churches in Izmir, Adana and Samsun are very much involved to help Iranian and Syrian refugees. In Izmir, Ertan and Marlene Cevik have started a relief operation, finding flats for the refugees and providing basic furniture and household effects. In Adana, southeastern Turkey, more than 300,000 Syrian refugees have come to stay – some of them Christians. The small Baptist church, with its merely 25 members, cares for some of these refugees as best they can.



As to **Cameroon**, our missionaries are about to leave for the country for the first time or, respectively, to go back there. How we can go about this will depend on the developments of the events mentioned above.

Ebola is the reason for a lot of media coverage on **Sierra Leone**. We are contributing funds to facilitate various programmes providing education on the disease and food distribution.

Else Miklavcic from Austria arrived in **Mozambique** in mid-September. She is now going to work as a missionary in the Social Centre in Macia for four years. The Social Centre is closely partnered with the Austrian Baptist Union.

Regina Claas was highly motivated as she reported on the training she provided in **Malawi**. Regina and the BACOMA leadership feel that she is using her skills there at the very right time.

Having asked you, in our last newsletter, to pray for Isaac Zokoué, we now have to report that the President of the Baptist Union in the **Central African Republic** passed away on September 14, after serious illness. We invite you to pray for his family and also for the Church in that country.

In **South Africa**, Johannes Meyer has launched courses in car mechanics in cooperation with a church in Mamelodi (Township near Pretoria). To this end, he will assemble a small mobile workshop, putting the tools on a trailer. Anna is committed to conceiving a safe house for women.

Sara Marcos and Marta Nombela have reported from Evinayong/**Equatorial Guinea** that a group of volunteers from the Spanish Baptist Union have completed a successful assignment at the Talita Cum School in Evinayong.



Time and again, we are touched to see how much impact the MANNA Projects in Mendoza and its surroundings in **Argentina** have on the destitute children and their families. From October 11 – 13, about 70 MANNA workers from the churches will gather for their annual meeting. Here, they will receive training, encouragement and will be able to share their experiences.

Since August 2014, the church planting project in Ijuí/**Brazil** has had a new missionary couple: Pastor Airton Nickel and his wife Gerli. Airton is also the EBM Regional Representative for Brazil. They plan to commit themselves considerably to training staff and to attend to caring for church members and the staff of the Children's Home and Social Centre, strengthening them spiritually. The Annual Conference of the Brazilian Baptists took place in June in the area of the Pomeranian descendants. Some of the participants travelled as far as 2,000 km, which was very encouraging for the brothers and sisters there.

The PEPE Project in El Alto/**Bolivia** as well as the new mission work in Sucre have had a good start. Our Missionary Sebastian is very happy about the motorbike funded by EBM MASA – he can now easily get around and thus do more assignments.

Pastor Daniel Machado, whose father founded the Children's Home in Porto/**Portugal**, has passed away aged 81. He was also director of the Home for some time. Let us think of his wife Eunice and the family.

Marcos Rivero, who is in charge for leadership training in **Eastern Cuba**, has reported that 150 brothers and sisters completed the two years training at the end of September. They will now use their qualification and be involved in young churches or church plantings, respectively.



On September 14, 2014, **Damdei Baptist Church** in the Indian State of **Manipur** inaugurated their new chapel after almost three years construction time. Pastor Vumthang Sithhou founded the Church eight years ago, when it had 25 members. Today, membership is at 220. The Church shouldered the biggest share of the 60,000 euro building costs, with EBM INTERNATIONAL paying for the roof.

Moreover, the Church runs a Children's Home with 50 half-orphans and orphans. Among the Homes supported by EBM INTERNATIONAL, it is one of those that are best run. The children are provided support, homework tutoring (so almost all of them are among the best pupils in their class), outstanding food (the Home has a very large garden with a rice paddy, a fish pond, vegetables, fruit, hens, ducks and pigs), and they hear the Gospel: They have common devotions every day, and the children are also well integrated in the church on Sundays. Most of the children are victims to the ethnic conflicts in the area, which some years ago became violent and armed conflicts. Many people lost their lives then, and many children were left behind. 50 of them have now found a new home in the "**Compassion Manipur Children's Home**".

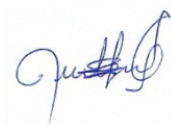
With warmest greetings from Elstal,  
Sincerely yours,



Pastor Christoph Haus

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