



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 August, 2015

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



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
(Math. 11: 28)

First and foremost, Jesus felt he was sent to those who could not cope with their lives. It is the dirty children, the fraudsters, the sick and marginalized people in society that he turned to first. It is among these people that God's Kingdom began. And it is to this mission of Jesus' that we as EBM INTERNATIONAL feel committed.

In the following, you we will update you on our ministries to the "far-away neighbours", thanking you at the same time for every support, encouragement, every prayer and donation. For without you, we could not do our mission work.



Central African Republic – We are glad that three delegates could attend the Mission Council in Germany this year. This could by no means be taken for granted, considering the political situation, which has remained and still is unstable.

Slowly, peace is coming back to the country – a national reconciliation forum in May proved very positive – ,yet the big problem and at the same time the people's concern is still there because it has not yet been possible to disarm the armed groups. All the same, it has been possible to carry on the work in our Baptist educational facilities all right. Though situated right in the centre of the ex-Seleka armed groups' territory, the Bible School in Kaga Bandoro has been spared their attacks. To God be the glory! Five final students got their diplomas in July. At the Bangui Theological Seminary, nine students were happy to receive their degrees. Although taking place in the danger area, education activities could be carried on more or less normally here also.

34 people died in attacks by Boko Haram in **Maroua/North Cameroon**. The radical Islamist terror organisation "Boko Haram" (translates as "occidental education is sin") expanded its terror to Cameroon and, in late July, perpetrated three attacks in the city of Maroua, where we run a number of projects. The suicide attacks were carried out by three young girls, killing 34 people altogether. Our staff at the Vocational Centre were not directly affected, yet they are shocked. Fear has become tangible. Over the past two years, Boko Haram has mostly kidnapped foreigners in North Cameroon and extorted ransoms. This is why we had to withdraw all the missionaries and volunteers from the area. The deplorable result: a drop from up to 30 EBM missionaries in the 1980s to zero.

At a Conference in Yaounde, which was arranged by, among others, EBM INTERNATIONAL and the German Baptist Union, a Muslim cleric is reported to have told the 400 participants: "Fight social injustice and you will be fighting Boko Haram's extremism." At the Conference, it was also pointed out that in all the states affected, the corrupt governments had also contributed to the rise of the conflict by lining their pockets for years; this was true of Tchad, Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon. Another reason for Boko Haram's emergence was colonialism, according to the participants.

The people there need encouragement and our prayer support so this terror will to come to an end.



Elfi and Sergio Ibarra, directors of the "Norberto Haase" children's home in **Alem (Argentina)** have decided to end their service by the end of the year. Over eight years, they have been involved with great love, passion and commitment, for which we sincerely thank them. We wish Elfi and Sergio God's blessings for the new stage in their lives. At present, the board is busy looking for a new leader for this important task.

In **Yanaoca (Peru)** and a vast region south of Cuzco, where EBM MASA supports 15 mission projects, there has been a strong onset of winter. Most people here are very poor and live in small adobe huts. This rigid winter claims its victims: Domestic animals such as sheep, llamas and alpacas die from the cold. This is tragic because they are the main source of revenue for the Quechua. The animals must get medicine so as not to perish. There is no aid from the government. Adrián Campero asked us if it would be possible to support the 1,600 families most affected. Actually, we did not have the resources needed (20,000 €), but now God has made it possible. Relief has by now been organized and implemented. The animals get medicine, and the people are reached with the gospel at the same time. This convinces the people that God loves them. Adrián and his team are at a loss for words to express their joy and gratitude as they are now able to take help to these people.

In the **Jesus del Monte** District, in **Havana (Cuba)**, a new church is emerging. In February, there were three house churches there, and now, they already number five. In early 2016, they want to found a new church. *Vladimir and Oviana Valladares* are the missionaries in charge. A plot of land is to be purchased in the near future so that the new church will have a place to gather and to develop.

In February, a PEPE Project was launched in **El Alto (Bolivia)**. 20 children, who would otherwise have no chance of attending preschool, are getting this opportunity here. We were overjoyed when we visited the project in late June and realized with how much love and passion but at the same time how extremely well the staff are accomplishing this work. The families also are taken care of. The local church which is running the project is involved in an exemplary way.



In **North East India**, many people have lost their lives after heavy monsoon rains and floods. Particularly the Manipur area has been affected by the weather disturbances. Houses were just washed away or swept away by landslides. Vumthang Sitlhou, the director of the Children's Home in Damdei/Manipur, has reported that only 50 km from there, a whole village was almost totally destroyed by landslides, with 20 people losing their lives.

In Andhra Pradesh, in contrast, the harvests shrivel as rains have been very scarce so far in this area. The main monsoon season in India begins in June and ends in September. Let us hope and pray that there will still be sufficient rainfall. For in every year, many farmers commit suicide because as a direct result of bad harvests, they cannot pay back the loans they got to buy their seeds.

TURKEY

A member of the Samsun Baptist Church, Brother Mert, was critically wounded in a suicide bomb attack in Kobane/Syria. He was in Kobane, working with a Turkish humanitarian organization to help refugee children when the suicide bombing occurred, which killed 34 people and injured more than 100 others. Brother Mert has been in a coma since, and his church in Samsun and his family hope and pray that his life may be saved.

The Church in Samsun, on the Black Sea, also takes care of many Syrian and Iranian refugees on site.



Places are still available: In cooperation with EBM INTERNATIONAL, Hoffnung International e.V. offers to young people (aged 18 – 28) opportunities to do **volunteer service** in one of our partner countries, from six to ten months. The deadline for registration is 15 November 2015. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Gareis: Phone +49 (0)33234 74-143; Email: kgareis@ebm-international.org.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,
Sincerely yours,



Pastor Christoph Haus



Pastor Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin