

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 June 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters of EBM World Missions,

Warmest greetings to you from the Mission Office in Elstal with the week's watchword from Matthew 11:28: Christ Jesus says: **Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**



Summer has come, and we are looking back to a wonderful Mission Council and a very rewarding General Assembly. Many encouraging encounters and stories from the mission field witnessed to the relevance of this verse: We can come to Jesus to recharge our batteries, lay down our concerns and to find encouragement. Every month, you may read such an encouraging story on our website <http://www.ebm-international.org/index.php?id=220&L=1> or even by subscribing to our RSS feed at <http://www.ebm-international.org/rss.0.html?&L=1>. We invite you to make use of this possibility for your church work, and you are most welcome to use these stories in your church publications. In addition, there are again another more than 20 new reports from various projects – a great new format, which you may find here: <http://www.ebm-international.org/reports.0.html?&L=1>. You may get these reports, as well as the attached ad, as high-resolution JPG files, and there you go with a nice ad for EBM INTERNATIONAL to put in your report brochures or church bulletins. Or simply copy them as info leaflets for your next offering – especially new guests will be pleased about this thrilling information. All the projects presented here badly need donations. Please be patient if material is not available in English. We try our best to provide as much material in other languages as possible.

To us, summer also implies a summer slump in donations. We are truly thankful for many churches and nearly 3,000 individual donors who support us faithfully. But we are also concerned because the number of donors is continually decreasing. Who will be motivated to support mission financially this summer? Who will set up a standing order to benefit one of the projects presented? The above information, one page per project, will regularly be made available three times a year. Who is willing to share some of his or her money saved for the holiday?

*We were also surprised to find out that just slightly more than 10 % of those receiving this newsletter donate to us. And only just under one third of those receiving the MAGAZINE donate to our work (this valuable magazine also comes as a pdf file: <http://www.ebm-international.org/index.php?id=6&L=1>). We are pleased to make all these publications available, as we believe that the stories are worth telling – but we do need donations for this work and would ask you to give the amount God puts on your heart. And, please, also continue to pray for the numerous projects.*

**Pearls of Africa** has been a real success story. Ursula Brosch has just come back from Uganda, and there is a new collection. We would like to invite churches, women's groups, those in charge of book tables and fair-trade shops to order direct from Ursula Brosch: [ursulabrosch@hotmail.com](mailto:ursulabrosch@hotmail.com), or, respectively, to get further information via the link related to the order forms: <http://www.ebm-international.org/neues-ebm-hilfe.0.html?&L=1>



There are hardly any more convenient ways of doing good. By producing these necklaces, more than 50 women in Uganda can make a living. And, since 2013, the profits have enabled us to contribute an ADDITIONAL amount of over 30,000 euro to women's projects of EBM INTERNATIONAL in Africa. This has been possible because 170 churches joined in the campaign. A very big thank you for every effort, and we think that this is just calling for a second round. With this in mind: Happily go on trading pearls!



For the first time, the Baptist World Alliance Congress takes place in Africa, July 22 – 26. Thousands of Christians from all over the world will gather for this event in **Durban/South Africa**. Many friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL, as well as some members of our Executive Committee will be there. Paul Msiza, the long-time General Secretary of the

Baptist Convention of South Africa, will be the new President of the BWA. We invite all of you to pray for Paul Msiza, who over many years made an invaluable contribution to our partnership-based understanding of mission with all its inherent changes while he was chairing the EBM TASK FORCE.

Our Regional Representative, Fletcher Kaiya from Malawi, is at present travelling across the three countries where we work in Southern Africa. In **Johannesburg (South Africa), Maputo (Mozambique) and Lilongwe (Malawi)**, he is meeting the respective national leaders of our member unions.

For the **Central Africa Region**, we are looking for a new Regional Representative, as Timothée Bouba Mbima (Yaoundé, Cameroon) finished his service at the end of March. In the Extreme North Province of the country, there are still many activities in order to assist the refugees from the Boko Haram terror. This past Sunday (June 14, 2015), worships were celebrated in **Mabass**, a village raided on January 18, and food and hygiene articles were handed out. We are proud of our partners, particularly of Michel Mahmoudou (director of the Medical Ministries), Bette Lambert (director of the Maroua Vocational Centre) and Catherine Kolyang (director of Saare Tabitha), all of whom have responsibility in implementing these aid efforts. Faithful partnership does pay off in times of crises!



Vicente and Marta Barón, missionaries in **Taco Pozo, El Impenetrable (Argentina)** have shared their joy as mission work in this area is growing despite big challenges. A large group of people have made a decision for Jesus. Vicente still suffers from Parkinson's disease, but he is motivated and looking forward with confidence. Let us remember him

in our prayers.

We are very pleased that a plot of land could be purchased for the church-planting work in **Abel Santa María, Havana (Cuba)**. We now hope that an open room with a corrugated iron roof may be erected so that the church, which was founded in February, may gather here. Our missionaries in charge of this project, Sergio and Regina, are happy and thank you very much for your prayers and support.

Airton Nickel is pleased about several new families who as of late have been attending the services of the mission church in **Ijuí, Brazil** and have shown great interest in the Bible studies Airton shares with them. Several of them are willing to embark on a committed walk with Jesus.

In **Saywite, in the Peruvian Andes**, a new church could be founded in mid-June, with the new chapel being inaugurated as well. Adrián Campero has told us about the joy and gratitude of the brothers and sisters there. In **Curahuasi**, the church is celebrating its anniversary with special evangelistic services. In late June, Arturo Köbernack and Carlos Waldow will visit several mission projects in Peru, have important talks with Adrián and the other missionaries and be involved in organizing a mission congress. Please pray for these items. From July 5 to 12, a group of 40 people from **Brazil** (students of the Theological Seminary in Ijuí and pastors and leaders from the churches in the area) will be in Peru in order to get familiar with the mission work among the Quechua and to contribute to several missionary activities. The intention of this stay is "learning from one another" and "standing by one another".



This year also, we could, among others, welcome our partner in India, Pastor Prasanna Kumar from **Uppada (India)**, who was accompanied by his son, to the Mission Council in Dorfweil as well as to the General Assembly of German Baptists in Kassel. In his sermon, Pastor Kumar told about how he had the privilege of planting a

church because he had prayed for a sick cow. In Hinduism, cows are holy animals for they make an important contribution to people's livelihoods. The villagers were standing around this sick cow and urged Kumar to pray to his God for healing. The next day, the overjoyed peasant came to see Kumar to tell him that the cow had been healed and brought Kumar a litre of milk to thank him. This experience resulted in the foundation of a Baptist church in this village, one of 35 churches planted by Kumar in this area. Kumar is the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Uppada, which has 3,000 members. He is in charge of the new children's home "Bethel Ashram" (accommodating 20 boys), a sewing school and computer classes on the church campus,

The heat wave in India has already claimed many lives. Temperatures in South India are reaching up to 48° C at the moment. The Federal State of Andhra Pradesh, where many of our projects are located, is also affected. Rufus Kamalakar, the leader of the ALMA Baptist Association, reports that the heat is unbearable. Most of the victims are homeless and elderly people, or also day labourers, who are forced to work despite the heat. For they need their day's wages in order to buy food for their families.

## TURKEY

On June 3, 2015, the young and small Baptist Church in Adana in south eastern Turkey could inaugurate its church rooms. Many representatives from politics and society had taken up Pastor Sükrü's invitation. The press reported about the event positively and favourably and quoted from the word of greeting by the American Consul as well as from that of Pastor Ertan Cevik, President of the Turkish Baptist Union. The latter underlined in his greeting how important it was for Christians in Turkey that a small Baptist Church had found a home so close to Tarsus (where the Apostle Paul was born).

The next day, 18 Iranian Christians were baptized in **Izmir** Baptist Church. For over a year, a group of 60 to 70 Iranian refugees have been gathering in this church. Many of them participated in a baptism and faith course, and these 18 have been converted to Christ and baptized.

The church in Samsun on the Black Sea has set up a new branch in **Ordu**, 150 km to the east, and has rented a room in the city centre to start church work there.

In late June, there will also be a baptism service in **Istanbul** Baptist Church. Three Turkish Christians have asked to be baptized.

Our thanks go to God for blessing these four small churches so abundantly in spite of many hostilities and reprisals.



Hoffnung International e.V., in cooperation with EBM INTERNATIONAL, is looking for young people (aged 18 – 28) for **volunteer service** lasting six to ten months in one of our partner countries. The deadline for applications is November 15, 2015. If you are interested please contact Kathy Gareis, phone +49 (0)33234 74-143, Email: [kgareis@ebm-international.org](mailto:kgareis@ebm-international.org).



With warmest greetings from Elstal,  
Yours sincerely,



Pastor Christoph Haus



Pastor Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin