



To the liaison persons,
Church leaders and pastors
In churches linked with
EBM INTERNATIONAL

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Newsletter

Elstal, in February, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters of EBM World Missions,

We greet you with this year's watchword: **„Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.“** (Romans 15:7), and we wish to all of you God's blessings throughout 2015.

We would like to thank all the churches and donors for their faithful support over the past year. The auditor has not yet come in order to audit the annual accounts 2014, but what we can already say is that in 2014, we received more donations than in 2013.

And we say this with gratitude on the one hand, and also with concern on the other.

For in 2014, we got 400,000 Euro in donations just for the huge crises in some of our member unions: for the Ebola Projects in Sierra Leone, for the people who fled from Boko Haram to North Cameroon, for the Syrian refugees in Turkey and the victims of the civil war in the Central African Republic.

The unstinting support we were able to give our Baptist Partners in these countries has encouraged them a great deal and made them feel that they are not left to themselves. And for this, we are very grateful to churches and donors alike.

In special newsletters we had reported on these crises, but we had not expected so many donations. We received more donations than we could immediately use, so that some of the money will be spent only in 2015. And, obviously, our churches and donors can spend every euro only once. So this was at the expense of other mission projects, whose budget funds we could not fully disburse in 2014.

We as EBM INTERNATIONAL are best served when we receive uncommitted donations, which we can then use where they are most needed.

Thank you so much for every support. As we have reliable and competent staff in our member unions, every gift will serve its purpose and is helpful.

TURKEY

At present, our work in Turkey is marked by the assistance which is given to Syrian and Iranian refugees by our four small churches. They provide beds, mattresses, furniture, fittings, toys for children, and, primarily, food and medicine. We are thankful that we can support our four churches in Izmir, Adana, Istanbul, and Samsun thanks to many donations for the refugee work in Turkey. And our churches as well as the beneficiaries of the assistance are infinitely thankful for this help.



The hot spots in Africa are still on our agenda, and there is new up-to-date information. In late January, mainly Malawi but also Mozambique were hit by a terrible flood. Several hundred thousand people have been affected and have lost all their belongings. Assisted by the disaster relief fund of the German Baptist Union, we have already been able to provide emergency relief.

In close proximity to our school in **Mokolo/North Cameroon**, there were two kidnappings by the Boko Haram sect from Northern Nigeria. We are still glad that our schools continue to operate, and that they are also involved in helping the refugees. The relatives of a student who found refuge in Mokolo are among those kidnapped. In North Cameroon we are supporting a refugee program run by the Baptist Churches.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Ebola virus disease is still a huge problem. Public life remains at a standstill. We could dispatch many materials in a container to the Lunsar Eye Hospital. In the **Central African Republic**, we have been supporting a reconciliation program which has provided training to 320 Christian and Muslim leaders in eight cities.



In some areas in **Peru** hailstorms and extreme cold and snow have done a lot of damage. Many things have been killed by frost or harmed, as has many a crop. For this reason, the Quechua did not have any potato seeds. Potatoes are their staple food. If they cannot grow them, this means a year without any food. Thanks to donations and the disaster relief fund, we could provide 1,040 families with 28 kg of seeds per family. We are very thankful for this!

In the Children's Home in **Alem/Argentina**, house mothers/parents are desperately needed for two houses. This work requires lots of perseverance, strength and love as well as the conviction to have a calling.

The church-planting work in **Irigoyen/Argentina** in the Upper Uruguay Area is growing. They are still looking for a missionary who can take over the project, thus assisting Oscar Kunigk, who is in charge.

On February 14, a new church, under the leadership of Sergio and Regina Gomez, will be founded in **Abel Santamaría**, a district of **Havana/Cuba**. The work there started with a Bible Club in March 2013. Now already, about 100 people gather there.



The sixth meeting of all the 17 EBM INDIA partners was held in Nellore January 15 – 17. Six years ago, at its start, this meeting was an event with little communication, but rather a conference with speakers and an audience. Today, it is an inter-active platform with a lot of sharing, encounters and collegial consultation among the partners, who run identical or similar projects. Under the quality leadership of our Regional Representative Dr. P. Judson, the annual meeting of the partners has become a success story. This year, among other things, they have started to draw up common standards for our 16 children's homes. Our partners want to set their own common standards ranging from space requirement for children, staff qualification, and staff-to-children ratio to wholesome nutrition and child protection from violence and neglect.



We are pleased that as EBM INTERNATIONAL we are now on Facebook with a good concept: Once a week, you receive a topical one-page report (photo) if you click on "Like" on the page. For all those who do not work with Facebook, all these reports are available on our website, collected, three times a year.

Moreover, it is possible to get any particular reports as high-resolution photographs from the Mission Office via internet in order to use them, e.g., in ads for publications.

If you want to collect an offering or to give information during an event, you may see how to compile a short presentation from the reports yourself with the help of a simple sample presentation. Just have a look under this link:

<http://ebm-international.de/reports.html>

Also, a topical story from the mission field is available every month at:

<http://ebm-international.org/nachrichten-hilfe-ebm.html> Have fun!



In cooperation with EBM INTERNATIONAL, „Hoffnung International e.V.“ is looking for a young lady (aged 18-28) to do a six-month volunteer work assignment at the Asha Kiran Children's Home in

Gotlam/India, from September 2015 to March 2016. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Gareis. Phone: 0049-(0)33234 74-143; E-mail: kgareis@ebm-international.org.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,
Sincerely yours,



Pastor Christoph Haus

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Pastor Christoph Haus.



Pastor Carlos Waldow

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Pastor Carlos Waldow.



Matthias Dichristin

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Matthias Dichristin.