



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

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Newsletter

Elstal, in April, 2015

Dear Friends and supporters of EBM World Mission,

Warmest greetings to you from the Mission Office in Elstal with Psalm 23:6:

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Spring is always a time of wonderful and diverse encounters. We are in the midst of preparations for this year's Mission Council (to be held 7 – 9 May at the Family Holiday Centre in Dorfweil), and in the week immediately following it, the Gathering of our Ambassadors and the Gathering of Friends will take place in Kassel. The Gathering of Friends will be integrated in the first evening programme of the BEFG General Assembly.

During the Mission Council, the theme will be: the essentials of mission as they are to be found in the New Testament. As EBM INTERNATIONAL, we are committed to a holistic understanding of missions. Mission finds its expression in preaching, social ministry, fellowship, teaching and liturgical life.

So, it is very fitting, isn't it, that over the first two weeks in May, we will visit more than 30 BEFG Churches. Another reason for us to look very much forward to all our encounters in your churches. We are bringing world missions to you!



In late March, our missionaries in **Cameroon** had their retreat. Over three days, the missionaries from Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, together with some representatives from Germany, met in order to share and to encourage one another. The retreat this year was special as Michael Kisskalt, director of the Theological College in Elstal, joined the group. Michael was among the main speakers at the Peace Conference, which had been held prior to the retreat in Yaoundé/South Cameroon. So he was also able to attend our meeting. The Conference had been organized by Prof. Timothée Bouba Mbima and was an important contribution to the inter-religious dialogue in Cameroon. At the same time, the Conference marked the farewell of Timothée Bouba in his capacity of Regional Representative of EBM INTERNATIONAL in central Africa. From April 1, 2015, he has now been the full-time director of the Protestant University in Yaoundé. We will see him off in style during the Mission Council in Dorfweil. Together with our partners in Cameroon, we are now looking for a successor.

The many different crises in Africa still demand our attention. We are pleased that we could go on supporting the fight against the Ebola disease. Medical supplies worth several thousand euros have arrived at the hospital in **Lunsar, Sierra Leone** in a container; this shipment was organized in cooperation with Intermission.

And in cooperation with the Lydia Project in **Malawi**, we can also support the rebuilding of houses after the flood disaster. For this purpose alone, we have forwarded more than 20,000 euros. We have been able to do so thanks to the disaster relief fund of the German Baptist Union.



In the **Jesus del Monte** district in **Havana, Cuba**, a new church is to be founded in 2016. So far, three house groups have existed there with Vladimir and Oviana Valladares being the missionaries in charge. It is quite challenging to find a suitable place for the church to gather in future. This is only one of many new churches being founded in Cuba. These emerge from projects supported by EBM MASA. Rejoice with us! We would like to count on your continued support.

A new missionary is desperately needed in **Irigoyen in Argentina**. The strong growth in the mission work there fills us with joy.

A small church in **San Rafael, Argentina**, is now launching a PEPE Project. In these projects, the children are given the chance of attending pre-school. The church is already involved in a MANNA Project for destitute children and their families. Time and again, we marvel at "poor" churches that are so passionate about reaching people with the gospel.

The mission work among the Quechua in **Peru** remains a source of joy. Adrián Campero, supported by Modesto Puñal, and their team have even further intensified the training of missionaries and co-workers in view of mission work. In the various areas, there are regular trainings, particularly for women, so that they, too, can develop their skills and invest them in their specific ministries.



Vuyyuru: More than 10,000 Indian farmers commit suicide every year, because they have become debt slaves to the big multinationals providing seeds and fertilizers. Our Indian partners have responded to this. Three years ago, our food security programme was launched, with 540 Indian farmers involved. They received seeds at fair conditions on a micro-credit basis. Moreover, they have been trained on how to replace pesticides and chemical fertilizers by organic fertilizers. Further training included growing new products, better storage as well as marketing their harvests. With a view to healthy food for their families, they have been taught to grow fruit and vegetables for their own use in kitchen gardens.

400 women farmers have stuck to the programme and proudly report that their harvests meet their own needs and that their products even enjoy such a good reputation on the market that they receive more money for them. Women from 18 communities have founded a cooperative. Not only have they regularly paid back their loans for the seeds but they have also paid 100 rupees per month into a shared account in order to grant small credits to needy families in the villages, for medical treatments, school supplies etc. In the 18 communities, 80% of the households now have their own kitchen garden. Six times a year, the women get continued training in agriculture, and doctors from the Baptist Hospital in Vuyyuru (which is running this programme) come to their villages and provide combined health and nutrition education. The department of the hospital in charge of this programme is the "Community Development" department. Dr. P. David says: "Since this programme was launched, the number of villagers here who fall ill has definitely decreased." EBM INTERNATIONAL supports this model programme with roughly 15,000 euros every year.



And, as always, please bear in mind the following:

If you collect an offering for EBM INTERNATIONAL or would like to give some information on a special occasion, you may find topical information concerning over 20 projects by accessing this link: <http://ebm-international.de/reports.html>.

Moreover, once a month the following link provides a recent story from the mission field: <http://ebm-international.org/nachrichten-hilfe-ebm.html>. Increasingly, churches make easy use of these pages to incorporate them in their church bulletins.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,
Sincerely yours,



Pastor Christoph Haus



Pastor Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin