

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

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Newsletter

Elstal, in October 2015

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. (John 3:16a)

With the week's watchword, we would like to invite every church to celebrate **World Mission Sunday** on the first Sunday of Advent. This is a good opportunity to support our mission projects! We have mailed a comprehensive brochure with materials to every church; you may also access it on our website: <http://www.ebm-international.org/detail-news-hilfe-ebm.0.html>

For updated information and prayer requests relating to some projects that need support, you may want to access the new **reports** (<http://www.ebm-international.org/reports.0.html>).



Since September 1, Pastor Magloire Kadjio has been on our team, being the new EBM Regional Representative for **Central Africa**. You may already see a picture of him by accessing <http://www.ebm-international.org/einheimische-ma-afrika.0.html>, and he will be introduced more fully in the next issue of our MAGAZIN.

This autumn again, we would like to recommend Hanna Pusch's book „*Hitze, Matsch und Hirsekloß*“ ("Heat, mud and millet dumplings", available in German only). It is available at bookshops but also on internet, and there is also a Kindle Edition. You are also welcome to order it by email direct from Hanna Pusch, familie@hdpusch.de, free of shipping costs. This book is captivating reading for young and old, and a great Christmas gift as well.



Adrián Campero, our missionary and coordinator of the mission work among the **Quechuas in the Peruvian Andes**, says thank you on behalf of the 1,640 families living in various villages there. They got assistance in great distress – medicine for their sheep, llamas and alpacas. Without this help, the animals would have perished because of the harsh winter. 70% of these families are not Christian. This has been an opportunity to provide disaster relief and preach the gospel at the same time. Some 450 elderly people, who belong to the poorest of the poor, have also been given a woollen blanket.

Noemi and Pedro Boretsky, our missionaries in **Esquel, Patagonia, Argentina**, have reported growth of the mission work on site, as well as in **Gualjaina, Gan Gan, Gobernador Costa, Cholila and Epuyen**. Despite big challenges, people are still being reached by the gospel. The missionaries in the various places are committed with passion.



Since mid-year, we have been supporting an audio-Bible project in **Manipur** for the Thadous (tribal people in India). In cooperation with Vumthang Sitlhou (director of Compassion Manipur) and the Thadou Baptist Association, the Bible is being translated into the Thadou language and after its completion, it will be handed out to the Thadous as an audiobook, sharing God's Word in this way. For many of them cannot read nor write.



In recent months, the refugee issue has been dominating in Germany. Several hundred thousands have already arrived in our country. As EBM INTERNATIONAL, we do not want to distract your attention from this but would rather widen your perspective, focusing on the refugee problems worldwide. Since the outbreak of the Civil War in the end of 2012, 900,000 people have taken to flight in the Central African Republic, seeking refuge in the capital or in neighbouring countries. From the areas where people live in fear of the Boko Haram Sect, i.e. northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, southern Chad and southern Niger, 2.2 million people have taken to flight – 250,000 of them children. In the Minawao UN Refugee Camp in northern Cameroon alone, the number of refugees has nearly doubled from 30,000 to 50,000 in recent months. And the number of refugees in Turkey has increased to over two million.

In some of these countries, the national Baptist Unions are members of EBM INTERNATIONAL. Our Baptist churches in the **Central African Republic**, in **North Cameroon** and in **Turkey** are taking care of these refugees. Their resources being far fewer than ours, they are still committed to helping these homeless people. In this effort, we would like to support them, as they are role models for us.

TURKEY

Our four Baptist Churches in Izmir, Adana, Samsun and Istanbul are committed and concerned at the same time: With a great deal of dedication, they are committed to helping the refugees from Syria and Iran marooned in Turkey. They hand out relief items – mostly to non-registered refugees. These activities give them positive publicity ("enjoying the favour of all the people" Acts 2:47) Time and again, some refugees find their way into the church buildings. What worries our churches in Turkey is the possibility of supporters of IS (Islamic State) seeping into Turkey with the great number of refugees. Being a barely noticeable minority (0.2% of the populations – with 99.6% being Muslims), their situation is difficult enough already. And they are afraid that IS attacks might primarily target Christian communities.



If you have already been thinking about doing **volunteer service abroad** and are interested in the way people live e.g. in South Africa, Malawi, Argentina, Turkey or India, you should apply with us by November 15, 2015. All you need is your willingness to engage in a great experience for at least six months, to get to know new people and to immerse yourself in a very hands-on way in their culture. The reports of former volunteers make it clear that such an assignment is an unforgettable time, which leaves its marks especially on young people – holistically and for their future. Our volunteer programme SERVE provides exciting places of work, always in cooperation with EBM INTERNATIONAL's member unions on site. For more information, please access <http://www.ebm-international.org/serve.0.html>

With warmest greetings from Elstal,
Yours,



Pastor Christoph Haus



Pastor Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin