

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

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Newsletter

Elstal, in December 2012

Dear brothers and sisters in our churches, dear liaison persons, dear friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL,



In recent newsletters, we have already kept informing you on how EBM INTERNATIONAL's financial situation has evolved. After the German Baptist Union asked to support EBM INTERNATIONAL in February, many churches and donors showed their solidarity. We are grateful for our balance, which shows an improvement of 510,000 Euro from last year. By now, income has increased by 370,000 Euro as compared to last year, yet, on the other hand, we have not been able to disburse budgeted sums in the amount of 140,000 Euro. The additional income does not yet correspond to the roughly 400,000 Euro of reserves we had to appropriate in 2011. By the way, contrary to assumptions in our churches that come to our ears, we do not grow. Our total budget has slightly decreased over the past years. With India and Turkey, we have integrated two financially sound areas of work, because, having the same mission, they belong to us. And we have managed all of this without hiring any new staff, which helps us keep administration costs low: They are below 15 %.

Our thanks go to all our churches and all those supporting our world mission work for their support, solidarity, their prayers and donations.

In order to make our mission work more visible in our churches, a group of "EBM Ambassadors" will present the work of EBM INTERNATIONAL in future, in addition to the EBM mission secretaries in Elstal. More than 20 former missionaries or people who have EBM mission work on their hearts are equipped with materials and will visit churches or attend conferences or meetings.



GOTLAM (South East India): We are very pleased to tell you that construction work of the extension building of the **Shalom Medical Centre** in Gotlam has nearly been finished. Dr Anil Benjamin writes: *"The building has been completed. A few things are still waiting to be done, such as electrics, lighting, ventilators, doors, windows, plumbing, painting, etc. Moreover, we still need some furniture, beds and specific equipment for the pediatric intensive care/emergency care unit. Some of the medical appliances you sent us in mid-year can be used for this. Thanks to your help we could proceed with this work without any noticeable interruptions, for which we are very grateful to you."*

MANIPUR: Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou, director of the „Compassion“ Children's Home in Taloulong with its 50 children has recently written in an email: *"We are overjoyed and grateful for your support and your prayers. The Christmas season is approaching, and the children enjoy this time, despite illness and health problems – they are just recovering from a virus infection. Apart from that, the children grow physically as well as mentally thanks to His wonderful love and mercy. Besides, we have completed the annual sporting season 2012 in various disciplines such as football, badminton, high jump, races, and there also was a singing competition...."*

We thank Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou and his wife, Kimcha, for their wonderful work. They do not only give the children love and security, but they also provide them with prospects for the future.



Last month, **Christoph Haus** was able to visit the **Central African Republic** and have some talks with **Markus and Annabeth Maag** and the new leadership of the Baptist Union. Transition from the founding generation to the new leadership requires a great deal of mentoring.

In **Maputo/Mozambique**, the retreat for our missionaries in Southern Africa has just ended. **Isabel Melo** was bid farewell, as she is retiring after serving in missions for several decades. She will return to Portugal before Christmas. **Eduardo Melo** will bring another couple of tasks to a close until April 2013. During a service in Maputo, the songbook compiled by **Szilvia Papp** was launched. Now, for the first time, Baptists in Mozambique have a songbook of their own.

In **Malawi**, **Dr. Klaus Fiedler** continues mentoring many students. Three Ph.D. students are about to finish their degrees. His small publishing house in **Mzuzu** (Mzuni Press) is publishing the sixth book already.

In **North Cameroon**, **Dirk Pusch** coordinates a new leadership training programme, which trains church workers in a very practically-oriented way. By now, more than 100 churches and four training institutions use this programme.

21 new volunteers have just finished their orientation course in **Elstal**. Now it is up to the Mission Office to plan their specific assignments in Africa and Latin America.



Taking over from Margarito Sorairo, who is having a break, **Roberto Gil** has assumed the main responsibility for the mission work in the **Impenetrable/Argentina**. We are pleased with the positive development of Roberto and the other pastors and co-workers, who tend to more than 20 churches and mission posts as leaders. **The PEPE Projects in Alem** (20 children) and **Mendoza** (30 children), which we have supported for a year and a half in Argentina, are also progressing very well.

On November 2, the car where **Adrián Campero** was a fellow passenger on his way from Abancay to Cusco (Peru) had a serious accident. We are very happy that God maintained Adrián's life and that he could recuperate from his injuries very fast. God is blessing the work of EBM MASA missionary **Hugo Mondoñedo** and his wife Carlota in **Jimbe** and the region around it. Many people become believers, are integrated into the mission churches, get inspired and invest themselves so that others are made familiar with the gospel.

Hurricane "Sandy" wrought a lot of damage in **Eastern Cuba**. 80% of the houses were unroofed or completely destroyed. EBM MASA has provided emergency aid and would also like to provide sustainable help so that some of the most affected families may be assisted. From January 14 to 30, Arturo Köbernick and Carlos Waldow will visit the projects in Cuba, accompanied by their wives. Besides many other assignments, strategic planning for the next 8 years is on the agenda, as well as **retreats with our missionary families**.

In early 2013, we will start supporting two new projects in **Bolivia**: a new **PEPE project** in **El Alto** and a **church-planting project** in **Sucre**.

From February 2013, **Valério and Sandra Kurth** will start working as missionaries in a new evangelism and church-planting project among the **people of Pomeranian descent** in Espírito Santo/Brazil.

We wish you all the blessings of the Season.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,



Pastor Christoph Haus



Pastor Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin

PS: We are attaching the current English-language issue of our MAGAZIN as a PDF file as well as the prayer items for the first three months of 2013.