

## Newsletter

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

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## Newsletter

Elstal, in June 2013

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

We greet you with the Bible verse Luke 17:21. Here, Jesus says: "...the kingdom of God is in your midst!" When the Gospel of Christ Jesus reaches people, transforms their lives and fills them with hope, then Heaven touches earth. We are pleased to share with you some important up-to-date information about such happening. Share our joy at the achievements, and please go on praying for the every-day challenges.



By *Ertan Cevik*, EBM missionary in *Turkey*. In Turkey, thousands of demonstrators have protested against Prime Minister *Recep Tayyip Erdogan* and his governance recently. It's not only the trees in the Istanbul Park that these protesters have had in mind. They also want more freedom. *Erdogan* has been in power for ten years. Those who were young teenagers in 2003 and are in their early or mid-twenties today have never known any other but this conservative prime minister. The young people want to be able to live as they please and not as they are expected to. They feel bossed around and patronized. All over the country, *Erdogan* has set up Muslim schools, yet many parents would prefer a secular education for their children. All of these disappointments have been vented in the protests. Yet, there are also achievements to the government's credit. The economy is booming, roads have been upgraded, and many people have more money in their pockets. The few Christians there are better off. *Erdogan* has had talks with them and seen to it that they are no longer being discriminated: Recently, the journal *Sabah* ran a report on our Baptist Church in *Izmir*. This would have been unthinkable few months ago only. Formerly dispossessed Christian trusts have been handed their property back.

So, what will come next? In the New Testament, there is a relevant appeal: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Tim 2:1.2). This is what we are doing.



In July, *Arturo Köbernack* and *Carlos Waldow* will visit the projects among the *Quechua* in the *Peruvian Andes*; there will also be a mission conference with the brothers and sisters from *Jimbe* and from the other four sites of mission projects in the area. This time, the conference with an expected attendance of about 200 takes place in *Rayan*, a village situated at an altitude of 4,000 m above sea level. In *Yanaoca*, construction of the church building is progressing, with its inauguration slated for July. *Adrián Campero's health* is improving; we continue to pray for his full recovery.

*Karell Lescaille* was the first convert on the *Isle of Youth* when *Daniel González* started mission work there about 17 years ago. Ten years later, when *Daniel* went back to *Havana*, *Karell* took over the responsibility of heading the mission work on the *Isle of Youth*. Today, there are about 90 house churches, five organized churches (with three additional ones to be founded in 2013), and 20 missionaries on the island. Now, *Karell* is going to hand over responsibility to *Ernesto*, a physician/surgeon who has been *Karell's* right-hand man for some time already. *Karell* will go to *Havana* with his family until the end of the year. There, together with *Daniel González*, he will work on the coordination of the existing projects and on the development of new missionary concepts, to be supported by *EBM MASA*. There will be a new project called "*Urbana 2020*" which is to encourage evangelism and church planting in big cities to a greater extent, by assisting and training churches. More details will follow.

From June 29 – July 23, a party of eight from *Brazil* will do the second mission assignment in *Mozambique*. There has been a partnership between the *Pioneira* (Baptist Union in *southern Brazil*) and the Baptist Union of *Mozambique* since 2012, which is coordinated by *EBM MASA*. *Dr Renato Gusso* will be lecturing at the Beira Bible School for two weeks. This time, the focus is on training the teachers of the *Mozambican Bible Schools*. The other seven Brazilians will carry out mission work in the Second Baptist Church of *Beira* and in two villages which are situated roughly a three-hours car ride away, where there is a church planting project. We are happy about the missionary commitment of our brothers and sisters in *Brazil*.



This year, we were pleased to welcome our dear brother and partner Rev *Rufus Kamalakar* from India to the Mission Council in Norway and to the General Assembly of the German Baptist Union in *Kassel*. Not only did he enrich our Mission Council by sharing his excellent Bible study on "Christian Mission", but his open-mindedness and commitment allowed him also to have many precious and informative talks with delegates and guests. In addition, he could give some insight into his work to many people at the Assembly as well as in a congregation on Sunday. We are very thankful for Rev *Rufus Kamalakar* and his faithful ministry, which he carries out day in, day out, with great warmth and devotion.

Since early 2013 we have supported an annex for each of two of our children's homes: an annex in *Bangarupalyam* in order to provide enough space to the children, so that each of them should have the possibility to develop freely, and an annex for the staff workers in *Nagalapuram* so that they and the caregivers may be closer to the children.



It is still not possible for the *Maag* couple to leave for *Bangui* in the *Central African Republic*. At the moment, an assignment in theological education in *Cameroon* is being considered.

In these days, *Dominique and Tabitha Azemar* are returning to *France* after heading the vocational centre in *Garoua* (CTG) for four years. Succeeding them will be a Cameroonian, with the Baptist Union (UEBC) deciding on the matter in the weeks to come.

Rev *Afonso Muendane*, our church planter from *Nampula* in *Mozambique*, is staying in Germany for medical treatment. In the wake of his diabetes, he lost a leg in December 2012.

In August, *Dr Thomas Klammt*, former EBM missionary to *South Africa*, will go to Malawi to lecture at the pastors' retreat of the *Baptist Convention of Malawi*. Pastor *Owen Mkandawire* from the *BACOMA* Theological Seminary in *Lilongwe* will end his guest semester in *Elstal* in early July. On July 22, 17 volunteers will start their preparation course in *Elstal*: 13 of them will work in *Africa*, and seven out of these in *Malawi*. We are planning a special project with two lady opticians who will do optometric exams and dispense glasses.

*Pearls for Africa* is a project allowing 90 women in *Uganda* to make a living by crafting necklaces. We are in a position to sell these and to allocate 3-4 Euro of the proceeds to *EBM women's projects* in *Africa*. The necklaces, packed in nice boxes, may be ordered from us for you to sell them on commission in churches or fair-trade-shops. Please contact us at [info@ebm-international.org](mailto:info@ebm-international.org) and we will send them to you.

With warmest greetings from Elstal  
Yours in Christ,



Pastor Christoph Haus



Pastor Carlos Waldow



Matthias Dichristin