

Newsletter

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

Elstal, in September, 2011

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Dear Friends of EBM INTERNATIONAL,

It is with great joy that we can share with you some important information from our common mission work.

Joy also fills our hearts as we know that the LORD himself stands by his mission. He stands by his word, i.e. his promise to equip his disciples with the power of the Holy Spirit as they follow him, and to bless them. This is what we and our workers in the mission field experience anew every day, and this is what you experience in your own church work. So let us fulfil our mission the world over with joyful and grateful hearts.

EBM INTERNATIONAL

Volunteers

After our successful preparation course, many of the 25 volunteers are about to leave for their places of assignment in *Africa* and *Latin America* in these days. Let us pray for God's protection and a good start.

Harvest thanksgiving

We would be very glad if many churches would give a part of their offering to the mission work of EBM INTERNATIONAL. There are 3 short videos (unfortunately only in German) which can be downloaded from our website (www.ebm-international.org/).

Matthias Dichristin will be the new Mission Secretary for Africa Promotion

On September 2, the Executive Committee of EBM INTERNATIONAL appointed *Matthias Dichristin* to succeed *Volker Bohle*, effective January 1, 2012. At present, *Matthias Dichristin* and his family live in *South Africa*, where he is serving as a missionary in the AIDS ministry of the Baptist Convention. The *Dichristins* will move to Germany at the beginning of next year. At first, they will be visiting some churches to report on their work in South Africa. During this time, they will still need financial support. We are looking forward to the time when the Elstal Team will be complete again.

Ertan Cevik back in Izmir

After visiting many churches in Germany in July and August in order to present the mission work in *Izmir*, *Ertan Cevik* returned back to *Izmir* on September 3. There, he is responsible for the church development project in the former *Smyrna*. *Turkey* officially grants freedom of religion. But in practice the work of Christian churches meets with hostility and obstruction over and over again. We ask for your prayer support for this small Baptist church.

EBM MASA (Latin America)

Big challenges in Patagonia, Argentina: Pedro and Noemi Boretsky, our missionaries to the Mapuche, have reported that more than ten young people have committed suicide in the town of Gobernador Costa, 200 km from Esquel. It has now become known that their deaths are the consequence of occult pacts: The youths had been ensnared in secret ceremonies and practices. More young people were involved, and their lives are being feared for as well.

Parents and teachers, the municipality - all of them are deeply alarmed and have asked the Boretskys for help. These have taken up the challenge and are now trying to assist those concerned by giving guidance and counsel, proclaiming the gospel at the same time. A group of people, who advocate these spiritist practices in the town, are outraged, and a heavy spiritual battle has ensued. During the weeks following the event, the Boretskys and other missionaries of ours have been attacked in several ways; e.g. objects and dead animals from occult ceremonies were placed in their houses. But they do not shrink back and ask for our prayer support. One positive result of these terrible events is the fact that people have become open to listening to the gospel and even to accepting it.

PEPE Projects in Argentina: We are happy that in August, the first two PEPE Projects in Argentina could be launched in Al  m and Mendoza with 25 children in each. Others are to be initiated next year. "PEPE" stands for the involvement of churches in social ministries; these churches help children through a pre-school programme to get a new chance in life.

In addition, the families can be reached in their misery by aid initiatives in different ways. This also means that the gospel reaches people in a very practical and tangible way.

Church planting in the slums of Havana, Cuba, continues to bring about big changes. Ever more people become believers and experience deliverance and find help. Yet the enemy is not asleep. During the past two months, the Christians have experienced something quite new: They meet with hostility and are attacked by some organized groups. There are many details our missionaries cannot share with us, but they desperately need our prayers. In our last contact, they said: "There is no victory without fighting! Please pray for us and rejoice with us, as the work is progressing very successfully."

EBM INDIA

Dr. Judson Pothuraju to be the new Regional Representative of EBM INTERNATIONAL to India

On September 3, after a prolonged search, the Executive Committee of EBM INTERNATIONAL appointed *Dr Judson Pothuraju* to be the new Regional Representative. He will be the main contact person for the 15 organisations with which EBM INDIA (formerly INDIENHILFE) works in partnership. *Dr Judson Pothuraju* is a professor emeritus at university and a member of a Baptist church in *Hyderabad*.

EBM AFRICA

Pastor Christopher Dikana is the new General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of South Africa (BCSA).

In July 2011, the national Executive Committee of BCSA appointed Pastor *Christopher Dikana* to succeed Pastor *Paul Msiza*, who had served in this capacity for 10 years. Some of you may know *Christopher Dikana*, as he participated in the "Without Borders" Programme in 2007 and attended the Mission Council in Bonn (Germany) that year.

Troubled times in Malawi

A poor harvest and unpopular government decisions combined have given rise to turmoils in *Malawi*. The people go hungry and at the same time, the government has raised prices. In July, people took to the streets to demonstrate. In the *Nsanje* region, some 10,000 families are heavily threatened by famine due to a very poor harvest.

We are praying for political stability and calm to come back to this peaceful African country; may the Baptist Convention be in a position to help the families affected by the famine.

With warmest greetings from Elstal,

Yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Waldow'.

Pastor
Carlos Waldow



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christoph Haus'.

Pastor
Christoph Haus