

EUROPEAN BAPTIST MISSION



- Evangelism and Social Ministries in Africa
- Missionary Activities in South America
- Indienhilfe
Helping people in misery

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Newsletter to the
Liaison persons,
Church leaders and pastors
In churches linked with
EBM/MASA in our Member Unions

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Arild Harvik

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Mission Secretary Africa Promotion:
Pastor Volker Bohle

Mission Secretary Latin America Promotion:
Pastor Carlos Waldow

Elstal, in February, 2009

„God has always been your defence; his eternal arms are your support.“ (Deut. 33:27)

Dear Friends of EBM/MASA (Africa, Latin America and India),

Our warmest greetings to you as we are writing this letter. It is simply wonderful, indeed, to know that we find refuge in the arms of the eternal, loving and faithful God. Based on this assurance, we, Jesus' disciples and churches, get renewed strength and are shown new horizons over and again in our ministries. We are on our way with God in order to take the Gospel to people – talking about it and showing them in specific ways that no one must give up, that there is hope and there is refuge with God. Many children, youths and grown-ups have had the opportunity of experiencing this truth through EBM/MASA's mission projects. This is also thanks to your involvement! We would again like to give you a short glimpse into current developments in some of our projects and countries.

Latin America

After the huge **devastations** wrought by the **tornadoes in Cuba**, our brothers and sisters in the churches are getting back on their feet. The assistance we could give thanks to donations from Germany was a chance for many not only to recover from the disaster themselves but to **show Jesus' love to others** as well, in a very practical way. Thank you so much again. - The **MANNA Projects** in Argentina continue to prove very positive. We are happy with **Ursula Kampe, Sonia Kreischer and Miriam Pizzi**, who make up an experienced and faithful team. They coordinate the projects, train the families, motivate and give orientation to the churches. There are many children who are eligible for the project, and we now ask God to call a major number of church member families who are willing to take care of these children. - The projects relating to evangelism and church development in Argentina are faced with big challenges but show very positive progress. This is true of **Esquel (Pedro and Noemí Boretsky)** and another six villages in Patagonia, which are up to 400 km apart from one another, as well as of **Miraflores (Margarito Soraire)** and **Taco Pozo (Vicente and Marta Barón)** and another 15 or so additional mission stations in the Impenetrable. In the Region on the Upper Uruguay River in the north, several **Guaraní tribes** are being reached (by **Helmut Kluge and José and Juan Weiss**), and there are even three further mission churches that are being launched (**Oscar Kunigk**). We would ask you to go on praying and donating for these missionaries and projects.

■ **EBM (Africa):**
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■ **Indienhilfe (India):**
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Africa

As every year, the **Baptists in Cameroon** (UEBC) held their annual national conference at the end of January, marked by the elections to the national leadership and the appointment of a new President and a new General Secretary. The former President, **Dr Emmanuel Mbangue-Eboa**, had reached retirement age and was bidden farewell as he went into well-deserved retirement after serving for 30 years in this capacity. **Rev Emmanuel Mbenda** was elected the new President of UEBC, and **Rev Ekoule Maka Jean Paul Ngoube** the new General Secretary. - An e-mail from the **Central African Republic** has particularly surprised us: The General Secretary, Rev Aba, conveys the UFEB's (Baptist Union) warmest greetings, announcing that the churches in Central Africa have collected **72,520 CFA** (€ 110,55) for a **children's project in Latin America**. Our missionary, Markus Maag, already received this amount in order to forward it, he wrote. We are very happy about this initiative and would like to express our sincere thanks to the sisters and brothers in the Central African Republic! The CAR is among the world's poorest countries! - The **visa application** of our Spanish missionaries **Santiago López Herreros** and **Raquel Abellán Navarrete** to enter **Equatorial Guinea** has been a prayer request for many long weeks. The visa has now been granted and we thank the Lord for His possibilities (watchword for the year 2009); they may now take up their ministry, scheduled for 2008 already, in few weeks time.

INDIENHILFE, an area of EBM work since January

Our feeding programmes to the needy in the biggest four megacities of India (Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata) benefit the poorest of the poor. They experience that their very survival is assured because people in Europe are willing to share. But we also know that this is only a drop in the ocean. This is why we pray for these people.

More than 40,000 eye patients resorted to our five sight-saving services during the past year. Nearly 4,500 cataract surgeries could be performed. **For many, this means freedom from dependence and a great deal of deliverance from resignation!** Let us pray for the doctors and nurses in charge of this work.

We ask for your special prayer for Mrs Frieda Voola. She is the wife of Dr Voola, the director of the Baptist Field Association in Nellore. She is suffering from cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

As regards the State of Orissa, we know that there were many **attacks on churches and Christians** last year. Even though the situation has calmed down, we go on praying for these persecuted people and for reconstruction of their homes and churches that were destroyed during the assaults.

Europe

February 13-15, more than 20 **former EBM missionaries** from Germany met in Hamburg. They were most pleased seeing each other again and sharing, but we also dealt with the experience of being a stranger on arriving on the mission field and on coming back. Living in a different culture is challenging; at the same time, particularly the new spiritual experiences left important marks. The next reunion is to be held in two years, with all former missionaries being invited now already.

Finances

Your concern and your prayers are key to our mission work. But we are also very **grateful** for reliable **financial** support, which is as essential to do this work. Those people who have received concrete help would like to thank you very warmly! Please keep up promoting the worldwide mission work of EBM in Africa, Latin America and India and supporting it by praying and donating. We have attached some project proposals which may encourage you to do so. But you will also find other projects in our project booklet or on our web site. **THANK** you so much – may the Lord be with you!

With warmest greetings from the Mission Office,



Rev. Carlos Waldow



Rev. Christoph Haus



Rev. Volker Bohle

Attachments/enclosures: Project of the month relating to Latin America, Africa, India

■ EBM (Africa):

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Learning to read, write and do sums cannot be taken for granted in Africa; this is particularly true of girls. Command of the times tables as well as reading and writing skills are fundamentally important in life. Schooling and training are very often key to people's future, to their ability to shape life responsibly and on their own, and to their chance of reaching their potential.

Primary schools in Dagäi and in Gamboura

10 teachers work at the primary school in Dagäi/ Diamare, teaching almost 400 children, more than 80% of whom pass their end-of-the-year exams every summer. In Gamboura/Mayo Tsanaga, even all of the 500 pupils passed their exams in 2007.

Besides the traditional subjects, the children and youths are also taught skills in the areas of agriculture and trades.

The equipment of the schools is very simple. The teachers need further qualification in education.

In order to ensure continuation of this work, the parents are encouraged to assume more responsibility.

Raphaël Ziloua Zoumvouta



Financial needs: 24,000 €

Project number: 9830 / 1030

EBM

Account number: 33316

BLZ: 500 921 00

Bank: Spar- und Kreditbank EFG Bad Homburg

BIC Code: GENODE 51 BH2

IBAN No.: DE88 5009 2100 0000 0333 16

Latin America is a region full of contradiction: the extreme prosperity of a minority faces an inconceivable poverty of the majority. Hopelessness, drug addiction, and superstition leave people too powerless to free themselves from misery. MASA encourages people and helps them practically to take their lives into their own hands and give themselves into God's hands.

Peru: Mission in the southern Andes

Formidable mountain ranges extend across the country, even dominate it. Cuzco and Apurímac Provinces were part of the heartland of the ancient Inca Realm. Quechua, the Inca language, is still spoken today in the villages of the countless side valleys. The religious world of these people is a mixture of Inca traditions and popular Catholic influences. The Bible, God's Word, is widely unknown, and the Gospel even less.

The mission field **Adrián Campero**, our missionary, has to tend to is a jagged one. The roads in Apurímac and Cuzco lead over mountain passes rising to 4,000 m, into valleys at an altitude that is more than 2000 m below. Here, he visits the villages with their predominantly Quechua-speaking population. Here he plants churches, and sows hope springing from the Bible, which has already helped many families.

Here, he brings comfort when natural disasters have destroyed the crops, and also facilitates assistance. So, in the course of some years, a network of small churches has been founded, which turn to the Bible for guidance in their every-day lives.

Adrián Campero's work has by now also won the respect and confidence of people from outside the churches.



Project no. 402

Financial needs: 23,000 €

MASA

Account number: 133 906 | BLZ: 500 921 00

Spar- und Kreditbank EFG Bad Homburg

BIC Code: GENODE 51 BH2

IBAN No.: DE62 5009 2100 0000 1339 06.

INDIENHILFE > VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Schooling... Vocational training... What we take for granted is a high privilege for the children and young people in many areas of India. Most of the students come from the poorest of poor backgrounds so that in many cases they lack the resources to pay for their schooling or vocational training.

School education and training are key to the way people live, for very often they determine whether they have a future and what it will be like, whether they are able to take up responsibility and shape and develop their lives on their own.

In the 5 pre-schools of Secunderabad...

... tribal children (India's indigenous population) are provided with schooling opportunities. The Adivasi tribes live in primitive conditions as micro-farmers, lumberjacks or farmhands (in this region, there are many brick factories). Education is not highly valued, the children are often taken along to help with the work, e.g. in harvest assignments over several months. Hence, our pre-schools offer an opportunity for these disadvantaged children to get familiar with orderly living and schooling conditions and to spare them child labour. As classes are run by members of the Secunderabad Baptist Church, the children also get access to the Christian faith.



Project No.: 1003
Financial need: 10,000 €

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