

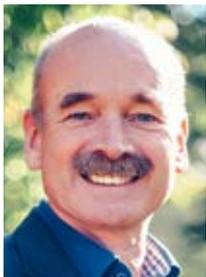


**GOD**  
transforms

- » Regina Claas leaves many traces of blessing
- » Mission projects in Ijuí
- » The year that was 2020



## Dear reader,



**"Be merciful, as your father is merciful!" (Luke 6:36).**

We know the acts of mercy: feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty and clothe the poor. Visit the sick and those in prison. These are great virtues. But first of all, God is merciful to us. He made the first move. We live in the forgiveness that is given to us through God's mercy. I must dare to take an honest look behind the scenes of my life: Isn't it myself who is often the worst of all enemies, the poorest of all beggars? Is not my soul sometimes sick and homeless? There, I encounter God's mercy. He looks at me. I live mercy out of gratitude.

Jesus clarifies in Matthew 25 that salvation is associated with works of mercy. Wolfgang Schrage writes in his ethics of the New Testament: "If God meets us in the shape of the distressed man, then humanity is indeed a place where the question of God and human salvation is decided." Acting with compassion to show love to my neighbour as an act of humanity – I actively have to choose it.

As a mission organisation, we address the needs of the vulnerable children, widows and orphans. We provide disaster relief and thereby proclaim the message of our merciful God. We can only do that with compassionate supporters and reliable partners.

*Christoph Haus*

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If desired, please indicate purpose of use!  
An annual donation receipt will be issued for all donations without being asked. Therefore please always give complete sender information and the donor number – if known! If, in exceptional cases, more donations are received for an individual project than required the surplus will be used for a similar purpose. Individual donation receipts only on request. Thank you very much for understanding.



Regina Claas with Elizabeth Mvula  
in Zambia

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Regina Claas leaves many traces of blessing

## Empowerment is my passion

*I never wanted to become a missionary – not with the patriarchal understanding that has prevailed in mission for so long: “We missionaries” are the superior, the giver and the teacher. On the other hand, the “poor pagans” – always the receiving, the helpless and ignorant. Nevertheless, I became a missionary, but for a long time did not call myself one. To this day I see myself as “the follower of Christ with a mission” – with the mandate according to Ephesians 4: “Some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as shepherds and teachers, so that the saints are prepared for the work of Service.” (Luther 2017)*

“Empowerment” means “authority or power given to someone to do something” and it is my passion: helping people to develop and use their own gifts, experiences and skills in order to build the church of Jesus, to serve people and to honour God. But how can that work? I bring with me my white skin and western culture. And my influence which is imprinted by “having” and equal opportunities, as well as my communication style and my understanding of time. With all these aspects that shape me, I come across cultures which are completely different: often affected by poverty, oppression and dependencies. But also, by a strong sense of community, strong traditions and completely different conceptions of time. These differences can cause conflicts, misunderstandings and disputes.

For me, this is where the decisive process of partnership-based cooperation in following Christ begins – with



Work with church leaders

the common task of building the church of Jesus. It means:

- Approaching one another with openness, curiosity and the willingness to take a risk, namely, to be honest with one another.
- Get to know each other, i.e. share life, leave your own comfort zone, get involved with the new and unknown, make mistakes and then try again.
- Build trust, that is, believe each other that we are on the same side, practice reliability – which is only possible with open communication, even in conflict situations.
- Keep putting your own assumptions and interpretations aside, and look at a situation from the position of the other in order to then look for solutions together.

Together with my African siblings, we have tried and implemented this in a variety of ways. We have taken the following steps: Train people, practice what they have learned together, observe supportive and finally let them do things on their own.

At large events, such as the ones with hundreds of women from all social classes in Zambia, I needed a co-pilot who could translate my teaching content into an African context. With Elizabeth Mvula, God put the right person at my side. Practical, relevant and humorous, she has her own special approach to people. She also gained more and more self-confidence in our



### For Regina Claas:

EBM International has "children at risk", "church development", "health care", "capacity building" and "relief work" as core areas of work. If there has been a missionary in the past few years who has made the area of capacity building a shining example of service, it is Regina Claas. She brought her experiences as a missionary, Pastor and general secretary to training work in Southern Africa and left many blessings. As well as a lot of gratitude and satisfaction from people who have been strengthened in their competence. The way in which Regina got together with the cultures and customs, and set out on a journey involved with the leaders there, may be the inspiration for our future work at EBM INTERNATIONAL.

Thank you, Regina, for how you shared your life and the Gospel with people and lived out 1 Thessalonians 2:8 "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

Christoph Haus



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



Promotion of women in Malawi ...

... and South Africa



training courses. Today she not only leads her church federation but is also on the executive committee of EBM INTERNATIONAL and vice-president of the Baptist World Federation.

In workshops with regional leaders, we got down to business with constructive discussions on the widespread dependency syndrome as well as the helper syndrome. How can we demand and promote self-development instead of always jumping at quick solutions through assistance? In team and individual coaching sessions, we looked at more specific things like clarifying roles, practicing how to deal with power, thinking in a structure and systematic way, being accountable and daring to start something new.

I was often amazed! There was so much spiritual depth and wisdom. People have received such great gifts and

leadership qualities from God. I can't say who learned the most from it – we learned together and that is so thrilling. Again and again it was clear: we are not building the kingdom of God, the church of Jesus does not belong to us – but the kingdom of God happens among us when we make ourselves available to God where we are, with the gifts and abilities that we have.

Regina Claas

### DONATIONS & NEWSLETTERS

The work of Regina Claas will continue receiving financial support until the end of 2021. Donations can be made to **Project no. 55900**. If you would like to receive newsletters from Regina, please contact the mission office.



# God's saving love for Malawi

Likoma Island is a lot closer to Mozambique than Malawi. The island, only 15 km<sup>2</sup> in size, is idyllically situated in the northeast of Lake Malawi. More than 100 years ago, David Livingstone set up a mission station here to stop the slave trade across the lake. What remains is a magnificent cathedral that doesn't really fit into the picture. A few tourists get lost here, enjoy the lonely beaches and leave some money there. This is beneficial for the people of Likoma who can barely make a living from the little that they grow. The Malawian mainland, which has better options, is far away and can only be reached after many hours on the rusty steamboat.

Harry Luhanga likes to take this long journey. He is part of a team of four church planters that EBM INTERNATIONAL has supported for many years. Harry has a heart for the people of Likoma and is passionate about reaching them with the gospel.

South of Lake Malawi, his colleague Paul Namfuko is active as a missionary in Mangochi: Throughout 2020, Pastor Paul held several church services at the beach. Dozens of people have heard his call for God's saving love. On social media, he regularly shares short videos and pictures of people queuing to be baptized.

In addition – these two evangelists: Julius Damson in the far south of Malawi (in the Nsanje region) and Albert Moyo in Mzimba in the north of the country, are tirelessly on their way to reach people in the remote parts of Malawi. The four founders all studied at the Theological Seminary in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, and were selected and prepared for their pioneering work by the Baptist Convention of Malawi (BACOMA).

The promotion of local leaders is a firmly anchored principle in the work of EBM INTERNATIONAL. We are convinced that this is how sustainable church work becomes possible, and that God changes people's lives profoundly without increasing dependence on support from Europe. In addition to the financial help for our partner churches that secure a lot of salaries, we invest heavily in theological training in different countries.



Rely on local skills

The Baptist Convention of Zambia (BCZ) is the newest member of EBM INTERNATIONAL in Africa. Our regional representative, Fletcher Kaiya, has been the key figure in this partnership from the start. Under his leadership, a cooperation with the seminar in Lilongwe was initiated. With a scholarship from EBM INTERNATIONAL, young people from Zambia are now continuously in Lilongwe to study theology and then sent home as missionaries to tell of God's saving love in Zambia.



Pastor Julius works hard with families



Proud parents of the 1st scholarship holder in Lilongwe from Zambia, Christopher Chanda



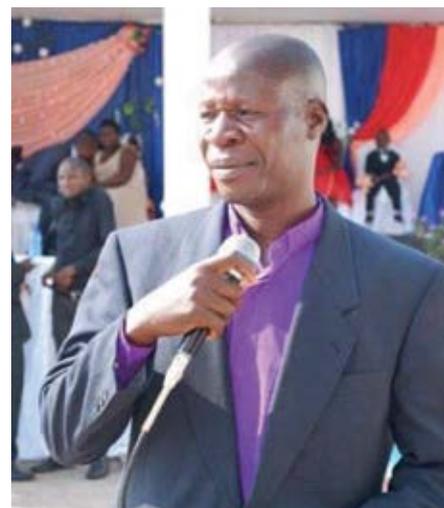
# Easter donation 2021

As EBM INTERNATIONAL, we support over 30 pastors in Africa who are involved in local church planting projects. Many people experience the saving love of God and come to faith. Julius Damson reports that two new churches were planted in his area in 2020. Through his work, he now looks after 15 churches created in the region. In Africa, we are also involved in theological training and further education in order to prepare and strengthen pioneering work. For this alone we need almost 150,000 euros in donations a year.

We are also promoting the preaching of the Gospel by new local churches in Latin America: in Cuba we support house churches, Bible clubs and sports programs. In Argentina, Pedro and Noemí Boretsky take care of the spiritual and material needs of the Mapuche indigenous people.

In Turkey, our siblings invite you to their church services, take care of refugees and seek contact with people. This is an effective testimony of loving our neighbours and the saving love of God. In the middle of the pandemic, they have even started a basic digital theological course to network and learn more about the Bible.

The area of church development is a focus in the mission work of EBM INTERNATIONAL. During these weeks we celebrate Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. As Christians, we remember the origin of our faith: Jesus Christ made reconciliation with God possible. The Holy Spirit enabled the first disciples to go to "the ends of the earth" and to spread the Good News. It was a special time of new beginnings – the birth of the church. Many people should still hear and experience that God



Church planter Julius Damson

loves them. Each new church contributes to God's great mission being fulfilled.

**Together with you, we want to promote the building of churches, train people and plant churches – thus reach children and their families with the Gospel.**



## Your donation to community development can make a big difference:

**20**  
EUROS

covers the cost of an aid package that the Turkish church can use to support a refugee family and give them hope.

**60**  
EUROS

per month enables girls and boys in Cuba to experience fellowship, sing, pray and find hope in faith through Bible clubs.

**125**  
EUROS

finances the monthly costs of a church planter in Malawi.

**DONATE**  
 You can donate quickly and securely online at our website, for example by credit card, PayPal or instant transfer:  
[www.ebm-international.org/spenden](http://www.ebm-international.org/spenden)  
 Thank you for your gifts and your prayers!



# A dream come true

*I've had a dream for years. I wanted to found a Baptist Bible school for brothers and sisters who want to learn more of the Word of God and who can then serve in congregations as co-workers, elders or pastors. That was still missing in our country!*

So far, young believers from our partner churches only had the opportunity to take part in extremely Pentecostal seminars because we couldn't offer them anything else. Now the dream has come true! Many conversations with the pastors of our congregations showed that there was great interest in a Bible seminar. 28 people have registered for the newly founded Polycarp<sup>1</sup> seminar. Schoolchildren, students,

the class, the students received a general introduction to the Old Testament from a retired pastor from America who served the Lord Jesus in Turkey for a very long time. This first teacher was excited to be able to teach Turkish and motivated the students. For some, it was a bit difficult to concentrate at the beginning and to take the first exam. But everyone completed it and were happy.



Basic theological course with Zoom

culture. It was particularly popular with the younger generation.

Even in retirement, a Syrian-Turkish pastor, who had worked many years for a Bible society, is currently teaching. His specialty is Turkish Christian history. One of our best students, M. from Adana, reports: "I am married and have three children. My son is studying in Istanbul and my two daughters are still going to school. My husband is employed and is an elder in our church. I am very pleased to help out in the community and I am also involved in distributing aid to the many refugees. I am so happy to be able to attend the seminar and I am learning so much. This is only possible because the lessons take place via zoom."

Ertan Cevik

1. Polycarp was a bishop of Smyrna, today's Izmir, in the second century.



Distribution of relief supplies to families

a lawyer, housewives, married couples, people who work, as well as some of our employees and all pastors take part. Most of the participants come from Adana and Izmir, some from different cities such as Samsun, Balikesir, Bursa and Istanbul.

In mid-October, we started teaching online via Zoom. That works wonderfully. All appear on the screen punctually at the specified time. After the two-hour lesson there is still the opportunity to chat. It is a pleasure to see each other and to exchange ideas. In the first hours of

This was followed by lessons on the four Gospels from a 35-year-old Spanish pastor who grew up in Turkey. He taught very clearly. Since he unfortunately didn't have much time to check the exam around Christmas, the members could hardly wait to receive their exam results. After the Christmas holidays a Turkish brother from Istanbul, whom we have known for more than 30 years, taught about evangelism and Christian

## PROJECT PARTNERSHIP & DONATIONS

You can become a project sponsor for church development in Turkey! Find more information at [www.ebm-international.org/projekt-pate-werden](http://www.ebm-international.org/projekt-pate-werden)  
You can donate under project no. 35000



# Mission knows no Lockdown

Pastor Samarparna Kumar was on a mission tour in the Chhattisgarh-Odisha region when the Indian government imposed the lockdown on March 22, 2020. A return trip to Uppada, where the headquarters of Jesus Loves Ministries (JLM) is, was no longer possible. The plan of a two-week stay turned into almost five months. Instead of holding training courses for the evangelists in the region, Samarparna subsequently provided information about the virus and hygiene measures in the villages, as well as coordinated emergency aid measures.

2020 should actually be a year of celebration. Celebrations for the glory of God who, in 25 years since the beginnings of JLM, created a network of 35 congregations. 14 congregations have built their own church building, and many meet outdoors or in private homes. Up to 12,000 people gather at the various locations. Some of them are in the Chhattisgarh-Odisha mission field. This region lies in the area of two major rivers. Many people here are debt servants to large landowners. Others have poorly paid jobs: they make bricks or work in clothing factories. They own nothing and the lockdown has made their situation dramatically worse. Twelve evangelists work in this region. Thanks to financial support, they can concentrate fully on spreading the good news to the people, some of whom live in the forests in the poorest of circumstances. With Samarparna and the support of EBM INTERNATIONAL, these evangelists were able to organize practical help in the lockdown: Hundreds of families and numerous widows received blankets, rice sacks, oil and sugar. This is how people experienced the practical love of God.

R. is one of them: She has been HIV positive for many years and has long



Blankets made people happy



K. is a role model for many women

suffered from the stigma associated with the virus. Through a sewing apprenticeship with Jesus Loves Ministries, she managed to open a small business and take care of her family. In the lockdown, their existence was threatened again and the emergency aid from EBM INTERNATIONAL carried them through.

Every year 16 women like R. are trained as tailors in Uppada. It is the oldest social project in the church,



Samarparna shares life

which today also has a children's home and school. Many lives have changed permanently as a result. K. who is now 42 years old, completed her sewing training a decade ago and later found a job as a trainer. Although her husband is addicted to alcohol, she gives the family security and is actively involved in the community. She is a role model for many other women.

Since February of this year, the congregation in Uppada has been working specifically on the vision of starting a one-year Bible school to equip even more people for church planting. A curriculum with practical phases is currently being developed to start teaching in April.

*According to a report by Samarparna Kumar*





# GOD transforms

"Because we loved you so much,  
we were delighted to share with you  
not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

1. Thessalonians 2:8



Mission projects in Ijuí / Brazil

## From church planting to holistic mission

The city of Ijuí, just 130 years old, has always been of strategic and missionary importance. Located in the very south of Brazil, it is the centre of mission societies and universities. Ijuí is also important for the mission work of EBM INTERNATIONAL because it is where different branches of work show what holistic mission can look like.

There has been a large Baptist church in Ijuí for many years. With financial support from EBM INTERNATIONAL, an additional church planting project was started. Today this church is also independent and no longer receives any financial support. It is an expression of the strong missionary attitude of our partner association, Pioneira in Brazil. This attitude also shapes the Theological Seminary in Ijuí:

When Claiton Kunz went to his office in 2020, it was surprisingly quiet on campus. The volleyball field in the inner courtyard was unused in the sunshine, the lecture hall was empty. It has always been easy for the energetic director to prepare learning content digitally. This was a great advantage for the young women and men who had to study from home. With the leap into virtual learning, it was possible to reach several interested parties

who would never have attended a course in Bible studies on site. More than 50,000 people took part in events related to theology and religious practice.

The missionary orientation is especially important to the training centre. Every year, teams from the college set out to visit partner projects and evangelise there. For example, EBM projects in Peru and Bolivia which reach the Quechua people with the Gospel, have benefited from this.

The graduates of the seminary take this missionary energy and theological competence with them to their congregations or foundation work. 16 young women and men received their diplomas in December 2020 – including a blind and a deaf person. This may be surprising, but it is the natural fruit of help for people with physical limitations:



Presents were given out at Christmas



Employees with a heart



The director pushed digital teaching forward



In the work with deaf people in Ijuí through the CAIS project, young deaf people and their families receive practical help and experience how their lives can succeed with the right support. They “hear” the good news and take steps in faith.

The brothers and sisters in Ijuí have long understood that sharing the Gospel has two aspects: word and deed. So, it is only natural that children, young people and their families also have a point of contact for their worries and needs. As in many cities in Brazil, there are also poor areas in Ijuí that are characterized by addiction problems, crime and broken families. In the social center, children and young people find a place of refuge and open ears for their problems. They receive meals and help with learning. There is also social help and advice for families in precarious life situations. The need for help has multiplied since the beginning of the pandemic. The work of the social center has been adapted to the new conditions and continues to reach many people:

Isabella (name changed) is one of those who received help and hope in the last year. Her two grandchildren, 14 and 12 years old and are well known to the social center, for some time. When the pandemic hit her family, things quickly went downhill: unemployment, unpaid bills and hardly any food left for the teenagers. They had to stay at home and fell into despair. Social center workers brought groceries, encouraged and prayed with the whole family. The grandmother was very touched – “We are very grateful to God for the team and the care for our children.” Isabella and her grandchildren also have connections to the church through the social center.



Help for families

The missionary work in Ijuí is important and exemplary for us as EBM INTERNATIONAL: Where mission is lived holistically, preaching of the Gospel and practical help go hand in hand. Our wish is that many more church plantings worldwide will develop successfully and in this way, people in need will experience that God loves them, saves them and transforms their lives.

### EASTER CAMPAIGN

At Easter we ask for donations and prayers for the community development projects (see also page 7). **Project no. 10 100.**

# Ground-breaking decisions

On November 21, the Mission Council (general assembly) of EBM INTERNATIONAL took place digitally for the first time. It was an inspiring meeting with over 80 delegates and guests from 28 different countries. As much as we all miss real encounters, this experience of: seeing each other without having to travel, hearing from each other, experiencing community with each other and making important decisions, was just as impressive.



Emma Mabilalala – a South African at the helm

The highlight was the election of the new EBM Executive Committee (board of directors), which is responsible for overseeing all work. For many years, the committee has been made up of volunteers from all continents in which EBM INTERNATIONAL is active. The two presidents, Arild Harvik (Norway) and David Boydell (France), were no longer available for election after many years. Two more places had to be filled or re-filled.

With Emma Mabilalala from South Africa, a woman has now been elected for the first time (and by a large

majority) as president of our mission organization. The deputy is Norwegian, Lise Kyllingstad. "One of our most important values is learning from one another across the continents, because the times are long gone when we in Germany or Europe are the ones who have faith and knowledge to carry out into the world. Today, the experts in church growth and the relevance of church to society can be found in Latin America, Africa and Asia. That is why we are proud that six of our new board members come from non-European countries. And the fact that EBM INTERNATIONAL is now managed by two women underlines how important equality is to us," says General Secretary of EBM INTERNATIONAL, Christoph Haus.

Another important decision was the admission of the Quechua Baptist Union as an independent member of EBM INTERNATIONAL. Under the direction of Adrián Campero, a congregation association (comprising of 60 congregations and its own theological seminar) has grown in the Andean region of Peru over three decades. This decision shows how incredibly important the contextual work of EBM INTERNATIONAL is. All projects are managed by local employees.

The regional representative for Central Africa and Sierra Leone, Pastor Magloire Kadjo from Cameroon, was confirmed in his office for another four years.



Board members from nine countries



The Quechua Baptists become members of EBM INTERNATIONAL

# A real miracle

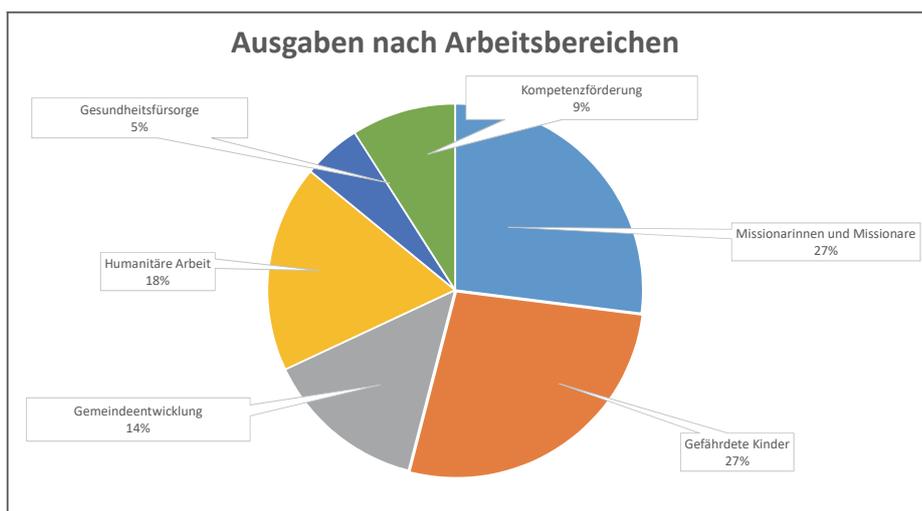
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear supporters of EBM INTERNATIONAL,

Thank you so much for making our missionary work possible over the past year through your prayers and donations. It was an intense and difficult year. The corona pandemic has not only severely restricted us in Germany but our partners in Latin America, Africa, India and Turkey were hit even harder: We lost many friends in these countries to Covid-19. Our former board member Linda Koroma and the President of the Cameroon Baptist Union Frederic Ngaka are just two of many who have passed away.

Overall, after an initial decline in income in the spring, we still received the necessary donations for our projects from Germany (3,254,500 euros in 2020 and 3,257,000 in 2019). This is a real miracle for us, and we are deeply grateful for your support. Our administrative cost also remained low at 14.6%. Furthermore, we spent less than planned: project trips and regional meetings could not take place and the mission council was only possible online. Likewise, some project activities had to be suspended or were replaced by Corona relief measures.

After several years in which we had to cut project budgets, we are grateful that in 2020, we were able to finance all projects to the agreed extent or even more. This is only possible through your loyal support and generous giving. We know that only through your solidarity and your commitment

Thank you for  
your loyal support!



can we continue to fulfil our mission this year: proclaiming Christ and loving your neighbour through social-diaconal projects. God transforms people's lives. Please continue supporting us through prayer and donations in 2021.

On behalf of all partners and employees of EBM INTERNATIONAL, we thank you very much!

*Christoph Haus*

Sincerely, Christoph Haus





## Relief Work

We were able to invest well over 200,000 euros in special donations in 2020 for various disaster relief projects. We always receive a large part of this money through the disaster relief fund of the Federation of Evangelical Free Churches. We are grateful for this cooperation, which is a testimony to our good networking. It is worth donating to this fund without earmarking it so that money can be used quickly and flexibly. After the earthquake in the Aegean Sea on October 31st, we provided almost 40,000 euros in emergency aid. Within a few hours, Ertan Cevik's team was serving the people who had lost everything in Izmir.



In addition, most of the special donations were made for Corona aid projects. We would like to thank everyone who took part in it. Especially in times when many people had to work part-time or have suffered other financial restrictions, this sign of solidarity moves us very much. We benefited greatly from the disaster relief fund mentioned above. These donations have made it possible to support almost 30<sup>1</sup> applications for special aid to help people who are in even greater need than we in Europe: In **Sierra Leone, South Africa, Malawi, Cuba** and **Turkey**, parcels with food and hygiene items were sent to families in need. In **India** we were able to help with PPE masks and medical equipment. In the social centers of **Latin America**, children and their families were given food rations. We have continued to serve many people through outreach work. In **Peru**, our church planters used radio programs and these evangelistic programs reached thousands of Quechua. We were able to support many other initiatives thanks to your donations. We stay in close contact to all project leaders, through our four regional representatives, which guarantee a close coordination and tailor-made help.

<sup>1</sup>The number of projects indicated in the icon is without "Corona projects"



## Mission has many aspects

The employees who share **God's transforming love so that people live in hope**, are our greatest asset. We consistently rely on locals who lead all of the mission projects we support. For our 2021 prayer poster that is sent to all congregations, we are again including the **88 leaders, the ten European missionaries and our team**

**of 13** (nine in the mission office in Elstal and four regional representatives). Upon request, we will send material free of charge at any time: many resources can be found and downloaded through our newsletter, website and social media. We are also always happy to make mission visible through a church visits.



## Community Development Projects

Countless churches are founded every year through missionary work. In **Cuba**, there are six strategic start-up projects in an urban context and many churches on the Isle of Youth, where we are investing heavily. In the **east of the island**, 145 women and men completed a training course for church planting work in 2019 and 2020 (before the pandemic) and are already active in their new church. In **Peru**, the network of Quechua churches continues to grow and the training work of

the decentralized seminar was also continued via radio during the pandemic. The 60 congregations, under the leadership of Adrián Campero, became members of EBM INTERNATIONAL as their own Quechua Baptist Union. They have a vision to keep growing.

In our 21 theological and competence training programs, Bible schools and theological seminars around the world, we focus on training people who want to get



involved in church planting work. Johann Vollbracht was able to hold many supportive workshops at the seminar in **South Africa** (in compliance with the Covid hygiene rules.) 60 men and women are currently being trained there for their service. The training work is really picking up speed. After 8 years with us, Regina Claas will finish her missionary service in **Southern Africa** and will retire in Germany at the end of the year. Before that, she will visit congregations in Germany and report on her work in training leaders.



## Capacity Building Projects

The CAIS project and the Balaka farm are representative of our many training centers and educational work. Silvia da Costa and her team in **Ijuí, Brazil**, work with deaf children and young people. She writes: "We have accepted the mandate to carry the message of Jesus to those who hear and express themselves through sign language." Karin Schwarz reported in her Christmas newsletter that despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, over 300 people in different courses on the

farm were trained in **Balaka, Malawi**. These are training courses that Karin designs with the team that lives on the farm. They formed a group that changes lives forever through Bible study, common prayer and the sharing of faith. Together they also look after groups in the surrounding villages and have developed modules for a training program. Accordingly, nine one-week workshops on various topics are planned for 2021.



## Children at Risk Projects



For 25 years, the social center in **Mendoza, Argentina** has been bringing hope to the slum "12 de Mayo." Miriam Pizzi has overseen this work from the start. Today, the center looks after hundreds of children and families. A preschool (PEPE project) has been set up for 60 children and 86 children are cared for in MANNA groups. 80 people regularly attend the church that formed through this work. The work in **Dagai, North Cameroon** has existed for 60 years. Pastor Mathieu, who is still alive today, was the first person to be baptized by Rudolf Kassühlke on October 23, 1960. In addition to

community work, Dagai has a school, a hospital and an agricultural project. Because the education of children and young people in one of the poorest regions in the world is so important, we also support schools in **Gambour, Mokolo and a technical high school in Garoua**. In India we continue to support twelve children's homes run by different partners. Hundreds of children are lovingly cared for and in school, learn important skills for their lives.



Of course, the corona pandemic has had a major impact on health care work. An intensive care space for Covid-19 sufferers was set up in **Ludhiana, India**. Our new board member, Dr. Santosh, reported that 150 people who are sick with Covid-19 are being cared for in the hospital. As far as the pandemic allowed, free treatments continued to be offered in the hospitals in **Serrango, Ludhiana, Pithapuram and Vuyyuru**, and people received further help in eye rescue work and in two leper colonies. Despite the pandemic, in **Garoua, North Cameroon**, some new projects were implemented and others improved. Sarah Bosniakowski introduced a better system in the pharmacy, the hospital is now a state center for the care of malnourished children and multi-resistant tuberculosis is also treated here. We celebrate with Sarah's family that she was able to give birth to a daughter in Germany this autumn. Back

## SPENDING CUTS

After our donations fell significantly in the 2nd quarter, we made significant cuts in spending in the interests of good stewardship. We have saved around 400000 Euros in travel costs, administration, conferences, personnel costs and project expenses. It was a miracle that our income in the fourth quarter reached the total income of the previous year. In addition, at the behest of the auditors, from now on we must differentiate income from January to the previous year if it is decidedly Christmas donations. So we achieved a very good annual result through pleading and understanding.

in Garoua, Sarah, her husband Elie and their daughter Nilah were infected with corona despite all precautionary measures. We are grateful that all three got through the virus well.

## Volunteer Program

"It was completely different than planned," writes Kathy Gareis, the coordinator of the program. Due to the pandemic, all 15 volunteers had quickly return to Germany in mid-March 2020. Nevertheless, at the end of the first digital evaluation course, volunteers expressed gratitude for unique memories. Kathy and her team did an excellent job during this crisis year. However, it is unlikely that there will be any volunteers sent out in 2021.

## Mission Council and EC election

The Mission Council 2020 could only take place digitally. We are currently planning the next mission council to also be online on May 8th and in November a face-to-face event in Adana, Turkey which our small congregations in the country ver much hope for. Please pray that this will be possible. At the digital meeting last November, three people were newly elected to the Executive Committee (Board of Directors): Hürrem Cevik from Turkey, Dr. Santosh Kumar from India and Dr. Claiton Kunz from Brazil. Emma Mabidilala from South Africa was confirmed for another four years.

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

REVENUE	
Project donations from Germany	3,254,524.09
Project donations from other countries	650,530.61
Donations for disaster relief	226,436.53
Special payments (not in the budget)	201,810.28
Other income	230,412.67
<b>Sum of all income</b>	<b>4,563,714.18</b>
EXPENDITURE	
<b>Expenses for the core areas of work:</b>	
- Missionaries	878,830.25
- Children at risk	837,139.87
- Church development	398,924.39
- Relief work	547,655.18
- Health care	134,678.18
- Capacity building	241,506.77
- Project support	197,084.24
- Administrative costs	497,867.23
- Advertising and reporting	85,759.48
- In reserve: unused donations	152,448.72
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>3,971,894.31</b>
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>591,819.87</b>

## Give and take, share and learn

*“The Heiden missionaries report self-glorifying humbug to us as the results of their mission. They are hypocritical, militant, tactless and hostile towards other cultures.” This mission criticism does not come from the 21st century, but from EF Langhans in 1864<sup>1</sup>. European missionaries who go overseas should first understand new cultures by observing, listening, learning from, and gaining respect.*

The Swiss theologian could also have written the vision of EBM INTERNATIONAL. We work with 30 member churches from four continents around the world. We understand mission as “give and take, share and learn.” For far too long, World Mission has been a north-south one-way street, fed by the conviction that people in Europe have the gospel, faith, money and knowledge and they carry it to the Global South. Because people there are poor in all respects. How does this attitude affect you?

Samuel Ikua Gachagua<sup>2</sup> describes his perception of “short-term missionaries” in the children’s home where he grew up as an orphan in Africa:

“Ten short-term missionaries from overseas are coming to our orphanage for two weeks. Five bedrooms are set up for them and they are given special meals that we children never get. During their stay, our orphanage employees were on call for the guests at all times and drove them to the shopping center or sightseeing every day. In between, the guests take on painting work in the orphanage, as if there weren’t any people here who could paint. ”

We learn from such experiences and perceptions today. And let’s be honest: for a long time now, the experts for church planting and the relevance of the church for their society can be found in Latin America, Africa or Asia!



Pictures speak louder than words: Former EBM President Arild Harvik with Anne Moussa

Our missionary, Adrián Campero, managed to successfully plant churches for the Quechua in Peru and even opened a Bible seminar in their language and culture. Our board member, Elizabeth Mvula from Malawi, empowers hundreds of women and men to use their skills for the kingdom of God through her work in southern Africa.

Before they are sent out, volunteers in our volunteer program are trained to go into their project as learners and recipients. When EBM INTERNATIONAL offers study trips, it is not to calm the missionary conscience of Europeans, but as an opportunity to give and take, share and learn: congregations in Europe are inspired by congregations in Latin America. School projects in Africa learn from school projects in

India. Agricultural projects in India learn from agricultural projects in Africa. Mission has long ceased to be a one-way street: for us, it is a global movement in which we learn from and inspire one another.

*Christoph Haus*

<sup>1</sup> “Pietism and Christianity as reflected in the external mission”

<sup>2</sup> Claire Diaz-Ortiz, Samuel Ikua Gachagua: Hope Runs. An American Tourist, a Kenyan Boy, a Journey of Redemption. 2014.

Greetings from the Brosch family

# MOIN MOIN!

[www.pearls-of-africa.org](http://www.pearls-of-africa.org)

EBM INTERNATIONAL and PEARLS OF AFRICA have been working together successfully for over seven years. More than 300 churches in Germany, Austria and Switzerland have collected donations and supported wonderful projects through this fair-trade project. Many know of the colourful jewellery, which have made people happy and encouraged donations to give. Now the range has been expanded with fresh and new ideas.

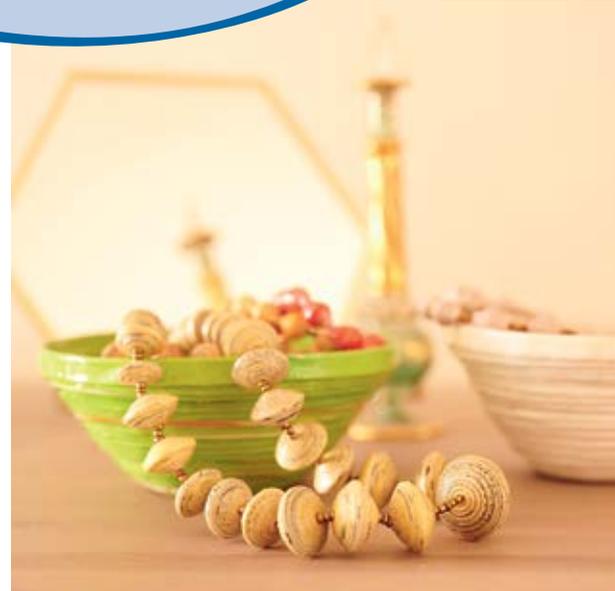
In addition to the well-known necklaces, bracelets and earrings, there are new decorative items such as bowls, tablets and mugs, key rings and glasses straps, as well as a stylish bracelet for men. All new products are available [www.pearls-of-africa.org](http://www.pearls-of-africa.org). Jewellery made from recycled glass, horn and African amber are also new.

In Uganda, the 60 people at EMMANUEL GROUP produce all pieces of jewellery with traditional techniques from recycled paper. By selling products, they support their families; their children go to school and many can afford essential medicines.

Pearls of Africa has been a recognized world shop supplier in Germany since 2018 and cooperates with the Alliance Eine Welt Schleswig-Holstein and the GEPA Süd-Nord-Kontor. We have a group of friends who are strongly committed to EBM INTERNATIONAL.

We greet you with the blessing of the Acholi: **Rubanga omini gum!**  
The Lord bless you!

Ulla, Anna and Dieter Brosch



With fair jewellery to an independent life

## Buying our products does a lot of good:

1. Pearls of Africa creates a unique joy in gifts on all sides.
2. 60 people and their families in Uganda are supported by the proceeds.
3. When you order at [www.pearls-of-africa.org](http://www.pearls-of-africa.org), 25% of the purchase price also goes to projects from EBM INTERNATIONAL if you enter the code "EBM" in the "Company" field of the delivery address!

## Our promise at a glance

- Fair payment for traditional handicrafts and fair trade!
- No work by children!
- Recycled material and traditional handicraft!
- Helping people help themselves!