

Mission builds bridges

» Living Reconciled in Intercultural Fellowship

» Let Your Light Shine

» Making the World
a Better Place

WITH
ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

IMPRINT

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Typesetting/Layout: Oncken Verlag /
Blessings 4 you GmbH, 34123 Kassel,
www.oncken.de

MISSION ACCOUNTS

EBM INTERNATIONAL K.d.ö.R.

Spar- und Kreditbank EFG, Bad Homburg
IBAN: DE69 5009 2100 0000 0468 68

BIC: GENODE51BH2

For Austria:

Bund der Baptistengemeinden
UniCredit Bank Austria AG
IBAN: AT86 1200 0006 5316 5100

For Switzerland:

EBM-Schweizer Zweig, PostFinance AG
IBAN: CH95 0900 0000 8000 0234 7

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Cover photo: Anne Moussa (right), director "Maison Dorcas", Central African Republic and her colleague.

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Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
(1 Peter 1:3)

Dear Reader!



Living hope is a characteristic of Christians worldwide. This hope is not based on any human philosophy or pious fantasy, but springs from the risen Christ who makes his life force available to us in faith.

This vitality also inspires us in our missionary ministries on every continent: I have in mind our partners in India who, despite limited resources and political oppression, are giving refuge to the poorest with much energy and joy, offering education and celebrating cheerful worship services. I was particularly impressed by a fishermen's church on the east coast of India, which was repeatedly washed away by the sea tides during storms, but the members patiently and devotedly kept rebuilding it again and again.

We see such devotion not only in India, but also in Turkey after the earthquake, in the midst of economic hardship in Cuba and Argentina, and in Africa, which is always threatened by hunger. Practical help opens hearts to the Gospel. In the articles in this issue, we provide a glimpse into the hopeful growth of the church. We invite you to pray for the people in mission and to donate to the work.

The power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is unbroken. In this spirit, we wish you a blessed Easter and joy in reading this magazine.

Yours

Dr. Michael Kißkalt



POSTER TO TEAR OUT!

Mission Builds Bridges

The motto of this year's German Baptist Union Council in Kassel is dedicated to the theme of reconciliation: *Heaven Sends You – Experience Reconciliation*. How can people from different cultures live together in reconciliation? How important is one's own inner attitude toward strangers? And how can faith serve as a bridge? Regina Claas gives insights from her own experience and reveals what the key is to experiencing solidarity in all diversity.

1. Where do I come from and who am I today?

In my own life story, reconciliation means building bridges between people from very different cultures. Today there is a great variety of definitions of culture. The Federal Agency for Civic Education says: "Culture is understood as the total complex of ideas, forms of thought, ways of feeling, values and meanings produced by human beings ...". Culture therefore connects people who share these ideas, etc.

First of all, I feel most comfortable in my own culture. It gives me orientation, is familiar to me, and therefore not threatening. Only when I discover that it is possible to live in a completely different way do I begin to deal with my culture. This can lead to conflicts, because it challenges me in my identity. Sure, we can try to live with different cultures side by side. But it is much more exciting to discover the richness of diversity and to lift up its treasures for a reconciled, creative togetherness!

2. Dealing with cultural differences as a follower of Jesus.

Jesus Christ created a new culture with his church. Faith in Jesus Christ is not "transcending culture" but, perhaps somewhat boldly stated, "overcoming culture." For one of the most important characteristics of the church is unity in love.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:28)

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:22-23)

Belonging to the church of Jesus is my motivation for building bridges. Because we belong together, and we want to overcome what separates us. If we want to live reconciliatory with each other in our differences, we have to get involved with each other. That takes a little effort.

Imagine: A traditional round hut in northern South Africa. Barefoot women, giggling, slip into my huge shoes at the hut entrance. Immediately afterwards, they come sliding to me on their knees to greet me. I am shocked - why do these women humble themselves so before me? But for them, I learn later, it is a gesture of hospitality of their culture, of which they are proud! They do not want to do without it. I learn to accept this. But what nobody expects from me is that I now also slide around on the knees!



Reconciled diversity - Regina Claas with Baptist leadership in Malawi.





Regina in action at the AmPuls conference 2023

Another example: An African colleague picks up the phone in the middle of our planning meeting and speaks for a long time in a language that is completely foreign to me. It's as if he's telling me: "I've had enough of you and your European planning doggedness! I am outraged!" And only much later do I think about how I may have been the one who behaved quite insensitively towards the African.

A street beggar, who had told me heartbreaking stories many times before, disappears behind the hedge at the end of the day and slips into his clean pants and white shirt to hurry home. I feel fooled and have to deal with my disappointment that the beggar is taking advantage of my willingness to help - or even my feelings of guilt.

How do I encounter the stranger? How do I find out about myself when prejudices, fears or even just convenience make me prefer to steer clear? How do the strangers actually see me? What am I allowed to say, what is taboo? What do they mean when they say something I don't understand? In order to be able to ask these questions in the first place and to find answers, we need each other. We have to allow our alienation in order to be able to approach each other. If we avoid this, we miss the real encounter.

It is a great temptation to immediately blame any difference between two cultures on cultural differences and then not bother to really listen. I guess the opposite of "reconciled" is "hostile." And in between them lies indifference. The other person doesn't touch me, doesn't concern me. Personally, I don't want to be indifferent to

everyone else. I want to be perceived, to be recognized. In honest exchange we learn to trust each other and can build bridges for others. We learn to see Christ in the other.

What does it mean to live as siblings?

Siblings are not necessarily best friends. But they are irrevocably part of a family. We want our relationships with each other to please and bring honor to our Heavenly Father. When I see others through Jesus' eyes, priorities shift. Love becomes overwhelmingly strong, and bossiness fades becomes unimportant. Shared life is giving and taking, without self-interest and overreaching. We keep our own identity and cultural affiliation, but we subordinate them to our new identity in Jesus Christ. In this way we develop a new culture together, of living together in love - for the glory of God and the good of people.

By Regina Claas, former missionary of EBM INTERNATIONAL in South Africa. The article is an elaboration of her presentation at the AmPuls conference in Munich in January 2023.



Awakening and Growth in Zambia

Zambia has been a partner country of EBM INTERNATIONAL since 2017. The country in southern Africa is about twice the size of Germany. It has no access to the sea and yet most people are probably familiar with the thundering Victoria Falls on the border with Zimbabwe. The situation of the people in the country is difficult: The state is heavily in debt and HIV and AIDS have made many children orphans. The number of droughts is increasing, resulting in insufficient harvests. Yet our Zambian brothers and sisters are far ahead in church planting.

Pastor training and conferences

From the beginning of the partnership with EBM INTERNATIONAL, pastor training has been an important part of the collaboration. In 2022 alone, more than 150 full-time pastors were trained.

Conferences have a good and successful tradition in Zambia. Women and men hear God's Word in their own events, are encouraged for their everyday lives and experience fellowship.

Securing income and food

Poor harvests and rising poverty threaten the livelihoods of women in particular. In the province of Copperbelt, EBM INTERNATIONAL finances a three-hectare cultivation area for corn. Due to the rather unsuitable weather last year, only 30 bags of maize of 50 kilograms each were harvested. The Mpongwe Farm team hopes for a better harvest this year.

Women's groups were trained and educated at several locations. They learned how to start a small business and earn an income by growing vegetables, doing manual labor and raising livestock. Twenty women in Mayika started a chicken farm with 400 animals. In Chipata, a small goat farm started, and in Copperbelt, the women decided to raise pigs. In the process, they were advised by an expert.

The initiatives have had many good effects: The women's families see the success and pitch in. This increases their income, and the children miss less school. The participants' nutritional status has improved noticeably as a result of the vegetable cultivation. People in different parts of Zambia are seeing their lives improve noticeably as a result of the Baptist programs.

More than 30 church plants

Committed and well-trained pastors, practical help for the people – these are good conditions for a growing church. In fact, the number of church plants in Zambia is almost unbelievable by European standards: between June and September 2022 alone, twelve churches were planted and 600 people became Christians. From January to June, 19 new congregations were formed. The Zambian Baptist Union encourages the young congregations to make mud bricks for their new churches and helps finance the roofs.

More than 30 new congregations, more than 1,000 new believers – the church's growth is tangible and a great encouragement.



Opening of Agape Baptist Church in Zambia



Raising goats to earn their own income – women's group

Building churches, Training Founders

Where practical help is combined with the power of the Gospel, churches grow – not only in Zambia. As EBM INTERNATIONAL, we support over 30 pastors in Africa who are involved in local church planting projects. Our missionary Christina

Döhring is training pastors in Sierra Leone. Until the middle of this year, our missionary Johann Vollbracht is engaged in theological training in South Africa.

In Argentina, Roberto Gil is caring for the spiritual and material needs

of the people in the region of “El Impenetrable” (see page 9). His church planting work is one of many in Latin America. People experience the saving love of God and come to faith.

In Turkey, our brothers and sisters care for the needs of the people and openly invite people to their church services (see page 14). Their practical help, prayer, and pastoral care to those affected by the earthquake is a strong sign of charity.

At Easter, we ask for donations for the area of church development, which we support with more than 500,000 euros a year - so that churches can grow and staff can be trained for their ministry.



Graduates from the Bible School on the Island of Youth in Cuba

Together with you, we want to help build churches, train people to plant churches, and reach children and their families with the Gospel.



Your donation for community development can make a big difference:

25
EUROS

will cover the cost of a care package that a Turkish church can use to provide for a family and give them hope.

55
EUROS

will enable a person to attend a pastors' conference in Zambia that will strengthen them in their faith and equip them for ministry.

100
EUROS

fund the annual grant for a Bible student at the theological seminary on Youth Island in Cuba.

DONATE

On our website you can donate quickly and securely online, for example by credit card, PayPal or instant bank transfer:

www.ebm-international.org/spenden

Thank you for your gifts and your prayers!



God's Diverse Work in Cuba

The economic situation in Cuba is catastrophic. People suffer from food shortages, lack of medicine and unemployment. Hundreds of thousands are leaving the country. This phenomenon is not new, but churches are also losing pastors and leaders. Some have lost as many as 50 members in 2022 alone. Carlos Waldow reports:



Chapel building of the La Timba community



New house church in Havana's Lawton neighborhood



William, Raydel and Amanda – young people as sports teachers

Although Cuba's outlook seems bleak, the same cannot be said of missionary engagement. Missionary work is doing an excellent job. Despite great challenges, our partners are contributing with a lot of heart and passion. It is wonderful to see the clear vision with which they are moving forward. Continuously they ask for the next place where a mission work can be started. One of these new places of ministry is in the Lawton neighborhood of Havana. Good news is also coming from other parts of Cuba:

Youth Island: We celebrated the 25th anniversary with the church in Nueva Gerona. In the first ten years there was only this mission work on Youth Island, today there are many projects spread all over the country.

Community work in Havana: The community in La Timba still gathers in a living room. Now they are building a chapel. The work in Vista Alegre began with feeding poor

children in a slum. Meanwhile, they organize tutoring for the children and teens of families who have great difficulties. Soon they will start a missionary sports work. The house where they gather is right between two rival neighborhoods. Meanwhile, people from both neighborhoods come to church - a beautiful sign of reconciliation.

Many young people and their families come to faith through **sports ministry**. We met three young people who found Jesus through it. One came from the drug scene, the other was a criminal, a young woman completely desperate. Today they are three professional trainers and tell the young people how Jesus has changed their lives.

In the last twelve years, about 500 missionaries have been trained for church planting work in eastern Cuba. These have already planted more than 400 new churches. In 2022, 100 will have completed this

training. We were deeply moved to experience how much joy and passion they participate with, even though they have few resources and usually travel many hours by horse-drawn wagon, truck, or any ride to get to the training.

A heartfelt thank you for all the support through prayer. God is working in Cuba!

Carlos Waldow, Regional Representative of EBM INTERNATIONAL, is responsible for the mission in Latin America and traveled to Cuba with his wife Marli in early 2023.



Water for the Neighborhood

In northern Argentina lies one of the hottest and driest regions of South America: the “Gran Chaco”, a barren savannah with thorn bushes and dry forests. The population there is always struggling with drought. In many places, there is no adequate water supply. In the middle of this region in the city of Miraflores lies the church plant of Pastor Roberto Gil and Marcela González. They share how they are helping people as a church.

“We’ve been going through a drought for two months, where the wells, reservoirs and dams have dried up and the need for water is very high, especially in the rural areas.” Writes Roberto Gil in September 2022. It often does not rain at all for several months in the winter and many people do not have access to fresh water. The community in Miraflores found a way to serve their neighborhood with much needed water. They began drilling wells that not only the community and its members could access, but also their neighbors. In addition, they placed huge water tanks with a filling capacity of 15,000 liters on large wooden structures where water could be filled into jerry cans, buckets or bottles. These tanks were placed mainly in the surrounding poorer regions to supply the people there. Smaller tanks with a volume of 400 liters were made available to needy families so that they could store the urgently needed water. Through this service to others, the church became a blessing to the people of the dry “Gran Chaco.”



Roberto Gil distributing the tanks

The willingness to provide water to the neighborhood shows: God’s love consists not only of dry words, but of “streams of living water” that emanate from Him and His followers.

Argentina: World champion of great need

The jubilation in Argentina after winning the World Cup was great. Only on the side did the media show the great crisis in which the country currently finds itself. We asked Betty Köbernick, former board member of EBM INTERNATIONAL, for a brief account from her point of view. She lives in Oberá/Misiones in Argentina:

“Argentina has never been so deeply run down and in debt as it is now, even though it is such a resource-rich country. 64 percent of people in Argentina believe that 2023 will be worse than previous years. They worry about corruption, inflation or crime. Few have any prospects for the future. That is why many young people and young families emigrate.

Many people have mental disorders because of the pandemic (we had the longest lockdown in the world). Spiritually, we see small glimmers of hope in our church plants. We don’t have the great awakening to faith yet. We pray for it!”



Betty Köbernick



Water tank in Miraflores on a wooden structure



**YOU ARE A GOD
WHO SEES ME.**

Genesis 16:13



From Mecklenburg to Malawi

We are Margrit and Micha Soppa and will be leaving for Lilongwe (Malawi) this summer together with our four children Emma (12), Ruben (10), Matthis (7) and Annemie (3). There I, Micha, will teach as a lecturer at the theological seminary of the Baptist Convention of Malawi (BACOMA). Margrit is a nurse and will work in a hospital. We certainly would not have imagined a few years ago that we would one day work far away with EBM INTERNATIONAL.

A path to mission is forming

A few years ago, Margrit and I were thinking about how and where things could continue for us as a family. Especially Margrit had the feeling that there had to be something different again. After some contemplation, we thought about going abroad. We were both aware that something like this would have to develop over a few years because of the age of our children, so that we could tackle this new task together as a whole family. At the same time, such a project was so big for us mentally that we knew we could only manage it with God's help.

After some consideration, we decided to signal our willingness to EBM INTERNATIONAL to be sent out as missionaries. To be honest, at that time we had not yet thought through to the last detail about what we were getting ourselves into. We wanted to see if God had a way for us. About a year later – with other options having fallen through in the meantime – we received an e-mail with a job posting from Malawi. After we had hardly expected it, it suddenly became real.

FROM OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MISSION

As a matter of principle, we only send missionaries when requested by our partners. Here we take our partnership cooperation seriously. Missionaries are bridge builders between cultures. In their cooperation on site, the values of EBM INTERNATIONAL become clear: mission happens in partnership, on an equal footing, holistically, sustainably and in the context of local churches.

We are aware that we have challenging times ahead of us. Getting to know a new culture, a new environment for work, a new language – all of that is a challenge. Even more so when you leave as a whole family and the children also have to get to know a whole new life. Time and time again, alongside all the questions and doubts, we found the application process encouraging. One thing remained essential for us: we only want to embark on this path if we feel that God confirms it.

Service in Malawi: venturing out of the comfort zone

This is important to us precisely because we are venturing out of our comfort zone. Myself, because I have not worked as a lecturer before and I am aware of the challenge that comes with it. After all, what I'm going to teach should be relevant in a social and cultural context that I don't even know yet. I enjoy

learning and also imparting knowledge, and I am looking forward to diving more deeply into academic work after several years as a pastor in two local churches. I know that theology and church in Malawi focus on different issues than in German or European theology. This will require a new perception of topics and Bible texts on my part. This will challenge me, but it will certainly also enrich me.

Margrit is just about to return to her profession as a nurse after several years of parental-leave. She is looking forward to being involved in Malawi as well. Many things will be different than in Germany. Working in a medical context in English will bring its own unique challenges as well. As far as work is concerned, we are both looking forward to the future, but we are aware of the challenges that will have to be overcome.



Foto: © Familie Soppa

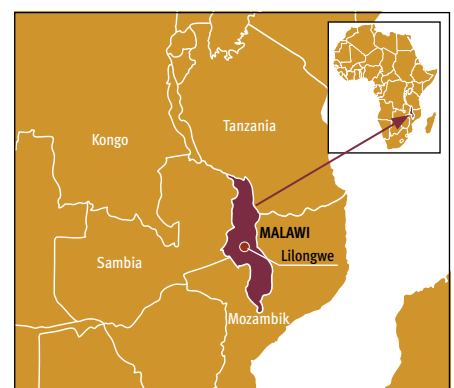
Margrit and Micha Soppa with their four children



Preparation for the whole family

I am very excited to be leaving with EBM INTERNATIONAL. Through personal relationships and my involvement as a translator with some mission councils, I am familiar with many aspects of the work. Especially the concept of a mission organization and their understanding of mission inspire me. Beyond that, the organization not only has Margrit and me in mind as missionaries during this time of preparation, but also our children. As parents, many of our thoughts naturally revolve around their well-being and us as a whole family. We are aware

that all changes will be challenging especially for the children. That is why we would like to take them into account already now in the preparations. Our wish is that our children will cope well with all the processes that come with leaving home (saying goodbye to friends and relatives, changing schools, getting to know a new culture, learning a new language, making new friends, etc.). One day they should be able to say that this time has enriched them. Therefore, the welfare of our children is one of our greatest prayer requests. We ask God to make the time in Malawi a blessing for all of us. We have walked in this trust so far and will continue to do so.



Theological training in Malawi

From Micha Soppa

PRAYER & DONATIONS

We appreciate prayer and financial support for the ministry of Micha Soppa and his family in Malawi. **Project: 52904**
If you would like to receive personal newsletters and prayer requests from the Soppas, please contact us at the mission office.



Let Your Light Shine

Imagine you are sending out 100 invitations to a celebration that is close to your heart. You are already looking forward to it and imagine how beautiful it can be, so that everyone feels comfortable and welcome. Of course, you hope that everyone will accept and yet you don't know until the very end how many will come.

Review: Christmas party with many guests

100 invitations sent out and 100 responses: "Yes, I'm in!" That's what the brothers and sisters of the Baptist church in Adana experienced last Advent. There was great joy surrounding it. And besides, Christmas was just around the corner. Pastor Şükrü Boyacıoğlu, his wife Petrina and many church members had organized a big Christmas party for the occasion on December 25, 2022. They met in the ballroom of a hotel for a colorful program. The vast majority of the guests were not church members, not even Christians. They were men and women of the Muslim faith. From politics and the city administration, from associations, the neighborhood, friends. Everyone came together and enjoyed the music, the plays, the speeches and the delicious food. In



Children's eyes marvel at the edible nativity scene

all this, one thing became clear: the light of the world is tangibly there. In the midst of us. Especially in the moment when candles were lit, one by one, and the Christmas message became tangible: Where Jesus Christ is, there is light and the darkness loses its power. Even two local newspapers reported on this joyful and festive afternoon. Once again, the Good News shone.

Search for own center remains prayer concern

The search for a place to meet proved difficult. Twice the congregation received an unfounded refusal to be allowed to use an Orthodox church temporarily. However, talks with the city administration about suitable building land took shape and proceeded positively. However, it was unclear on what terms a plot of land could be acquired. Financing the land and construction

also remain a major prayer concern. Numerous supporters from Germany and Switzerland have already pooled money that the congregation can use as soon as all the formalities are settled.

After the earthquake: Humanitarian aid launched

Due to the great destruction in Adana, which is located in the region of the February earthquake, the further perspective of the land purchase is unclear. Thanks to the great willingness to help from Europe and the rest of the world, the church, whose members all survived, was able to provide aid quickly: food, water, hygiene items, stoves and coal for heating brought hope not only to Adana, but also to other areas.



Moving closer together over bread and tea – Pastor Abdullah with those affected by the earthquake



Christmas carols sung by the Baptist church choir

Making the World a Better Place

During Advent 2022, several groups of the Baptist Scout Association (BPS) started a special campaign: They baked cookies, offered handcrafts, and got involved in the reforestation project "Sahel Vert" in Cameroon under the motto "One Cookie – One Tree". More than 10,000 euros in donations were collected, among others by the EFG Berlin-Tempelhof, the Wasbüttel tribe and the Wolfenbüttel settlement. Johannes Fähndrich, initiator of the campaign and long-time scout in the BPS, tells how it came about.

The Sahel is a special geographical zone. Not desert, but steppe. Not desert – not yet. But it can become one, because the desertification is progressing. So the Sahel is a huge area between threat and hope. It is one of the very large areas for the determined fight against global warming. If everything continues as it is, the Sahara will grow and swallow the Sahel. But something could happen. Things could get better. If many people pitch in and if miracles happen.



Seedlings on their way to the planting site



Foto: Jonathan Fähndrich

Christmas cookies for a good cause – delicious!

In my first profession I learned gardening and landscaping. God's vision of caring for His creation has always motivated me. In 2019, I heard about "The Great Green Wall" project. The goal is to create a huge reforestation zone across the width of the Sahel of Africa to stop the devastation. The "Sahel Vert" project fits that bill: Planting trees in northern Cameroon to preserve people's habitat. As Scouts, we are active in the midst of creation. At the same time, this has always been about "making the world a better

place". This quote is from Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout movement, in his famous last letter to the Scouts of the world. So it made sense to get involved with the young people of the BPS for "Sahel Vert".

I activated my network, got the BPS regions and churches on board and designed a group lesson. Since it costs about one euro to plant a tree in the Sahel, there was the slogan "One cookie – One Tree". Different tribes and groups baked and sold Christmas cookies for the benefit of "Sahel Vert". The congregation of Berlin-Tempelhof also got behind the campaign with half of their Christmas collection. The result is almost a small forest in Africa – more than 10,000 seedlings are financed by the action. It was fascinating to see how many pitched in. And more than one



Every euro from the cookie sales finances a seedling.

small miracle happened!

From Johannes "JoeF" Fähndrich. He is a pastor, game inventor, and outdoor educator.

Join the cause!

If you would also like to start a similar activity, you can get the lesson outline (material for children, youth or adults) from Johannes Fähndrich: faehndrich@dynamis-kooperation.de.

The material is also available on our website: www.ebm-international.org/material.

Information about Baptist Scouting can be found at: www.bps-pfadfinder.de.

We present the project "Sahel Vert" on our website: www.ebm-international.org/sahel-vert

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, dear supporters of EBM INTERNATIONAL,

We are grateful to you from the bottom of our hearts for accompanying the mission work in prayer and through your regular donations. Your faithfulness made it possible for our partners in Latin America, Africa, India, and Turkey to bring justice, renewal, and hope in Christ to the people.

The challenging year of 2022 has also left its mark on the commitment from Germany: Fewer churches and fewer individuals supported us compared to the previous year. The fact that the amount of donations from Germany remained stable (3,407,472 euros in 2022 compared to 3,365,086 euros in 2021) is solely thanks to legacies and special donations. This is the only reason why we were able to fund all projects as planned. In this annual report, we give you a brief insight into individual projects and areas of work that exemplify our missionary work.

Our wish for 2023 is: Stay connected to us in your faithful commitment.

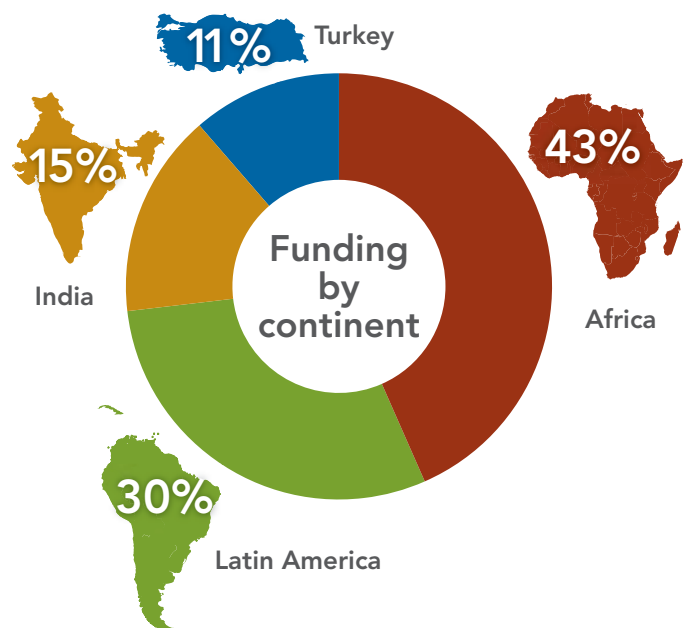
On behalf of all our partners we thank you very much – for your prayers, your donations, and your interest in the mission!

Your Dr. Michael Kißkalt



PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

INCOME	EUR
Project donations from Germany	3.407.472,49 €
Project donations from other countries	518.506,92 €
Donations for disaster relief	295.589,08 €
Other income	122.812,10 €
Total income	4.344.380,59 €
EXPENDITURES	EUR
Expenses for the departments	3.907.789,42 €
Project management	196.304,64 €
Administrative costs	55.209,81 €
Advertising and reporting	70.962,50 €
Sum of all expenses	4.230.266,37 €
RESULT	114.114,22 €



Thank you very much
for your faithful support!

Humanitarian work: Providing care in times of economic need and disasters

The proximity of our partners to the people enables us to provide fast and uncomplicated help in disaster situations. In India, when massive floods hit the Kakinada district in the state of Andhra Pradesh in July 2022, our partner CREAM was able to help directly. Entire villages were trapped by the waters. 90 volunteers from the project cooked 3,500 meals. Young adults from the community brought the food to the people on boats. Countless hands passed on God's blessings and came alongside those who were suffering.

CREAM in Tallarevu stands here as an example of holistic mission. The campus houses a children's home, several schools and training classes, and the main church. With over 30 Bible women and evangelists, more than 2,000 families in the region receive spiritual care.



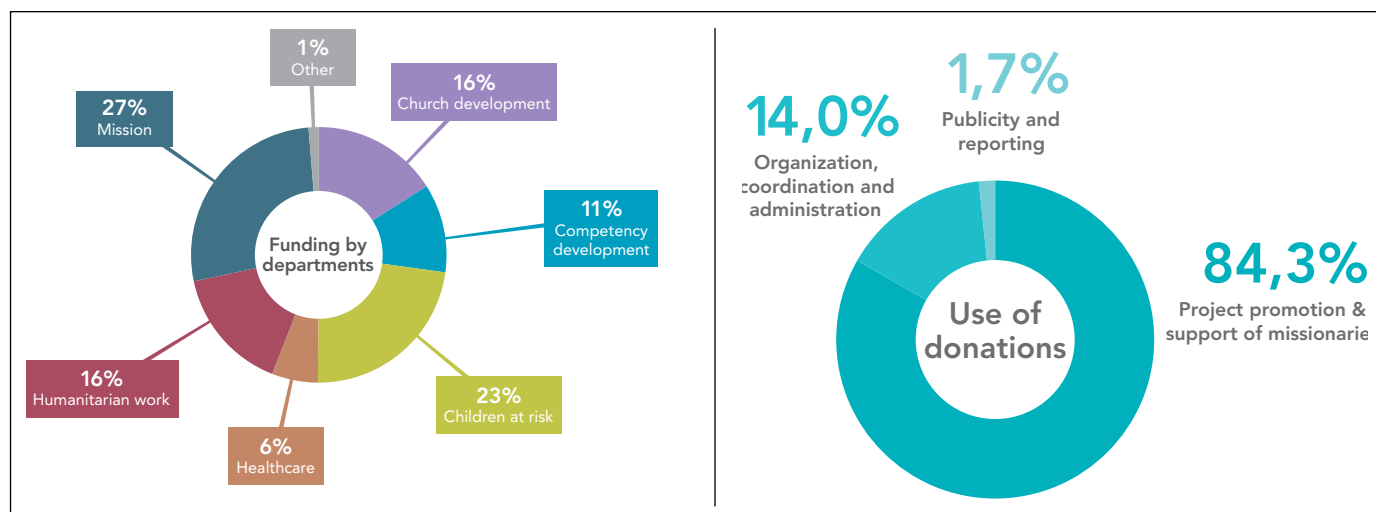
Promoting skills: knowledge protects against hunger and malnutrition

Since 2018, missionary Karin Schwarz has been imparting agricultural knowledge to people on the Balaka farm in Malawi: Local grain varieties, natural fertilization methods, and knowledge about medicinal plants help to increase earnings and secure basic supplies. Young women and men or groups come for individual courses or stay for several months. They live and learn there in a spiritual



community. In 2022, the service to the people could be expanded to include a kindergarten. A young woman from Germany is also involved there as part of EBM INTERNATIONAL's voluntary service.

In India we were able to start a new project for food security. Many people in the forests of Chhattisgarh don't own landless or properties, living in part in slave-like dependence or as day laborers. The consequences: Malnutrition, low education levels, high mortality. Our new initiative wants to help: The goal is to establish self-help groups in 45 villages around the town of Saraipali over the next few years. About 925 families would benefit. They will receive support to create storage facilities for the fruits and products of the forest and to purchase machinery for drying, cooling and further processing. In addition, the women and men will receive training on how to make their cooperative economically viable and how to use and preserve the forest sustainably. Because this prevents excessive deforestation, the climate also benefits.



Children at risk: hope, education, and a home

The children's homes and social centers take care of hundreds of girls and boys. There they are lovingly cared for, experience God's love, receive good food, play and sports activities, learning assistance, and social help for the whole family.

The social center in Diadema/Brazil enjoys great recognition in society. It has been recognized by municipal social welfare agencies as a relevant organization that has expertise in developing interventions in the social sector and stands out for its activities and results, as well as for the commitment of the team.

At the social center in Macia, Mozambique, families experience God's love, children with disabilities experience acceptance, and people's living conditions improve in a sustainable way. Former Secretary General Christoph Haus was once again on site in December 2022: "It was deeply moving and joyful that during my last visit I was able to see young people who, despite their disability, stand confidently in life. What I would never have



imagined when I met them ten years ago as weak and disabled children locked away from the public eye." This is where real transformation and holistic mission happens: children and their families experience practical help, gain new perspectives, and find hope in Christ.

Church development: the global church is growing

In Cuba, the economic situation has deteriorated extremely. Those who can are leaving the country. Even pastors and church leaders are forced to provide for the survival of their families abroad. New laws restrict the possibility of public worship services. Despite all these



adverse circumstances, churches are growing. Many Cubans are looking for help and answers, especially in times of crisis. They receive both in the churches and are open to the Gospel. Children and young people are connecting with the church and finding faith in the numerous Bible clubs and sports programs. The church in La Perla reached about 100 young people during a week of recreation in the summer of 2022, three-quarters of whom had no church background.

Together with a dedicated leadership team and his wife Petrina, Pastor Sükrü leads the church in Adana, Turkey. It has only existed for eight years, but has already founded a daughter church. About 70 believers belong to it. They care for children and their families, refugees and business people alike. All should hear of God's love in word and deed. The congregations in Adana still meet in private homes or rented business premises. For the past four years, they have been praying for a community center. Thanks to numerous donations from Germany, we will be able to support them as soon as a suitable property is found. This will be further delayed by the destruction caused by the February 2023 earthquake.

Health care: medical care for the most vulnerable

Since the Corona pandemic has receded, our medical facilities have also been able to continue their faithful service to the people under better conditions. Our missionary Sarah Bosniakowski is contributing to the Hospital

of Hope in Northern Cameroon in the area of pharmacy and in the care of pregnant women and young mothers. She also accompanies two volunteers of the volunteer program who are deployed in Garoua.

Voluntary service: traces that remain

We are grateful that we were able to send three young women to Cameroon and Malawi after the pandemic receded. Along with many other volunteer service organizations, we sense that while there is an interest in world missions among young people, it is difficult for them to make a concrete decision to serve abroad. Our desire is to work with churches in Germany to rekindle the enthusiasm for volunteer service. To this end, we have partnered with Baptist Youth Department (FSJ), Elstal Theological College (nxtChapter) and Ministries in Israel to promote a year of volunteerism and personal orientation through the "Standpoint" format. As EBM INTERNATIONAL, we hope for more volunteers who would like to serve in Malawi, Cameroon, India, Argentina or Sierra Leone, for example. By the way, the offer is not only for young people – anyone who is interested in mission even later in life can contact us.



Staff News: Changes in the mission office and abroad

We are grateful that in August 2022 we were able to send Christina Döhring (photo) together with her husband Ralf and their son Nathanael to the Theological Seminary in Jui/Sierra Leone. There she is a teacher at the Evangelical College for Theology and supports various training programs. Micha Soppa and his family are in preparation to be sent to Malawi.



At the turn of the year, Dr. Michael Kißkalt replaced Christoph Haus as General Secretary, who is now retired. We are thrilled to have gained an expert in the field of missions in Michael Kißkalt, who himself worked with EBM INTERNATIONAL as a theological teacher in Cameroon between 1995 and 2000, also at the Theological Seminary in Ndiki.

In the area of public relations and fundraising, Michael Fischbeck succeeded Matze Dichristin as team leader at the turn of the year, who moved to the Baptist Youth Department (GJW). Since October 2022, Julia-Kathrin Raddek and Lars Müller have been supporting the team, especially in the area of church contacts. All personnel changes in the mission center were implemented in such a way that the total number of job shares remained constant at 8.5 positions.

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If you are ready, it approaches you in a friendly manner
and asks: Can I hug You?

If you say YES, it embraces you completely,
takes you into a world full of intense colors,
lovely smells, exotic tastes...
wraps you in human closeness, exuberant joy,
immediate touch.

In a miraculous way, you embark on a journey
to yourself,
immersing in the creative beauty of God.
You learn what you did not know about yourself,
become a new person,
see the world with different eyes.
You stand on new ground.

Richly gifted I go now different back into my old world.
More grounded than before, with a broader view, more
sensitive, more grateful,
more connected with the world and its people.

In my heart I carry
pleasant encounters, radiant faces,
touching stories like a treasure,
visible traces of happiness on my soul,
because life has embraced me.

Impressions of Julia-Kathrin Raddek
from her trip with EBMI to India
in January 2023

