

THE GOSPEL FOR THE PEOPLE

- » Down to Earth with Special Authority
- » Eliminating Hunger and Protecting the Forest
- » Humility that Inspires

Dear Reader,



Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King over the nations. (Revelation 15:3)

How appropriate is the monthly saying from the „Herrenhuter Losungsheft“ for this Thanksgiving issue of our magazine for October: Like no other time in the year, we marvel in autumn at the omnipotence of God expressed in his creation. Harvest in the fields, colorful forests, full apple trees and vineyards. We taste and see how kind the Lord is.

At the same time, we not only look at ourselves: humbly, we notice that we are incredibly well off during these days. People who suffer deprivation, who have lost their crops, or who literally have in due to natural disasters, painfully remind us that the world is not equally beautiful for everyone.

How good it is that we believe in a God for whom justice is indispensable. The Bible is full of stories of how God hears the cry of the oppressed. Jesus' life is a journey alongside those who suffer. Standing alongside the weak and oppressed is a core part of our mission – of God's mission. This is expressed in this MAGAZINE: people share about Gods actions because they have placed themselves alongside others. We are grateful for all who do the same through praying and giving. Stay by our side.

We appreciate your Thanksgiving donation for community development in our partner countries. The continued development of churches is an essential part of our work. We are also thankful for all the prayers for our missionaries; they become a blessing for many people!

*Yours Matthias Dichristin
Team Leader Promotion and Fundraising*

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Cover photo:
New Food Security Project in India

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Down-to-Earth with Special Authority

The provinces of Cusco and Apurímac were among the core areas of the ancient Inca Empire. It is a rugged, vast, often very lonely landscape at high altitude. Ketschua is still spoken in the villages today. The religious world of these people is a mixture of Inca traditions and popular Catholic influences. Gods and spirits were renamed and worshipped as saints. The Bible was largely unknown, especially the Gospel. Dietrich Weiland, then MASA mission secretary for Latin America, was the first to meet Adrián Campero when he began missionary work among the Ketschuas.

He wrote (can be read in the book "Hope for Shadow Children – 40 Years of MASA "*):

"1983: After a long, uncomfortable bus ride over bumpy, dusty roads, we are in the Andean town of Abancay: sitting in front of us is Adrián Campero. His room is more than sparsely furnished: one bed, one chair. The plaster is peeling off the walls. Neatly stacked in an alcove: tracts and Bibles. He calmly tells us about his first experiences as a missionary in this city. He encountered a lot of indifference, but occasionally also open ears. A year had passed since the Peruvian Confederation had given the green light for the Apurímac region. Adrián Campero was to be the missionary. What is special about him? You can see his rural origins. His language is simple. His preaching is simple. His advice is down to earth. But what accompanies him is a special authority. It has to do with the one who said: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'. And it pleased Jesus to show this authority through Adrián Campero. So he became an 'apostle' to the ketschuas of his homeland."

Ketschua churches continue to grow steadily

And today? What has become of those beginnings? Adrián Campero is still a missionary with great passion, but the situation has completely changed! Thousands of Ketschuas have come to faith in Jesus. More than 60 churches have sprung up and a separate indigenous Baptist association has been founded. The theological training of pastors and missionaries takes place at the Ketschua-language Bible seminary, which has been in existence for four years. Church workers are trained in leadership courses. The demand for participation is great; many want to pass on their faith in a biblical way and be missionaries. The material for the training courses must be well prepared. This takes a lot of time because the training material first has to be translated into the Ketschua language. But Adrián says, "If we don't have materials for the work, we are like a gun that is not loaded."

Radio mission for remote areas in the Andes

Because indigenous people often live in outlying areas, scattered lonely somewhere in the mountains, a special way to evangelize is used: There is a radio in almost every adobe house in the Andean region. For the community in Mariscal Gamarra, a long awaited dream came true: at the beginning of 2021, it received permission to set up its own radio station. A radio station and a radio mast were immediately built there. The villagers laboriously carried the individual parts up into the mountains by donkey or on foot. Many people pitched in and together they made it!



Adrián also helps with the construction of the transmitter



Material is brought by donkey for the transmitter



Sunday School in Trancapata



Training for the mission in Yanaoca

Theological training sessions and devotions were prepared for the broadcasts. A musical program was also included. Pastors and leaders involved were specially trained for this. For many of them, this was their first experience speaking on a radio station. Pastor and church planter Modesto Puñal from Yanaoca, who has been creating radio programs for a very long time, was won over for the training. Since January 2022, Radio Mosoq Kawsay, which means "New Life" in the Ketchua

language, has been on the air every morning.

Goal: 30 more communities for the Ketchua

The faithful Ketschua show an impressively great passion and commitment to the mission, are full of vision and are always setting new, higher goals. At this year's annual meeting, the pastors and missionaries planned activities for the coming year and set detailed milestones for mission work. The focus is to be



Bible seminar in Llauqui

on planting 30 new churches. However, the existing churches must also be strengthened so that they can take responsibility for newly planted churches. This meeting became a blessing for all – motivated and strengthened, the participants returned to their hometowns.

Gabriele Neubauer

*The book "Hope for Shadow Children – 40 Years MASA" describes the beginnings and development of the mission work of EBM INTERNATIONAL (at that time "EBM-MASA") in South America. It can be ordered for a donation at the mission office: promotion@ebm-international.org, Tel. 033234 74-146.





Dedication to Church Ministry

Sekhukhune is a district northeast of Pretoria in the South African province of Limpopo. Our missionary Johann Vollbracht regularly travels three hours by car to this area to train pastors and church leaders. At the present, 30 students are undergoing further training in subjects such as pastoral care or preaching, but also in various biblical subjects. He tells of one particular student.

Every time I meet the students, I am touched by their lives and faith, by their commitment and sacrifice. They are parents or grandparents who have to support their children and grandchildren, they work during the week to support themselves, and in the evenings and weekends, to support the community. They put their whole hearts into church work, evangelizing and some plant churches.

Last year, I met Bokang (name changed). She is a teacher and co-pastor of a church. But her life's journey has not always been easy: she came to faith while training to be a teacher. She found support in her church and in reading the Bible. "After graduation, I had a hard time finding a job. That was a difficult time for us. My family was very poor. I lived with my children in a tin shack. My husband lived and worked far away from us in the city" recounts Bokang. They endured more than ten years in these circumstances. In addition to that, her husband is also now unemployed. Anxiety and depression get to her, but praying brings her closer to God.

In retrospect, the pastor recognizes how God has shaped her heart through this: "In this situation, I have not given up loving God and hoping in Him. I lived by faith. God's hand saved our family. I understood that without Him, I can't do anything. I look back and see that in those difficult times, the Lord changed me spiritually."

Eventually, her vocation for church ministry grew out of this deep relationship with God. Today, she loves speaking about Jesus in public places and inviting others to a life with Jesus. Studying at Convention College adds even more depth to her ministry. She has one thing in common with the other men and women in her class: she sacrifices money and time to be equipped for her ministry. I am always touched by this sacrifice and dedication.

According to a report by Johann Vollbracht



Convention College graduation ceremony – Johann Vollbracht with his students.



The Good News changes lives

Pastor Bokang (page 6) is just one of many pastors and church planters supported by EBM INTERNATIONAL. In Africa, we support indigenous missionaries in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa, among others.

In Turkey, our brothers and sisters invite people to their church services, care for refugees and reach out to people. This is an effective

testimony of charity and God's saving love (see article on page 16-17).

In 2023, the church work in Peru under the leadership of Adrián Campero will have existed for 40 years (pages 4-5). More than 60 local churches have already been established, organized through their own federation of churches. Currently, 30 of these local churches have committed to founding a daughter

church and providing it with resources and competencies.

These projects exemplify some 80 initiatives in the area of congregational development. They are the focus of our Thanksgiving campaign this year.



Together with numerous churches, we invite you to combine a Thanksgiving offering for community development projects. In this way, you will help build churches, train men and women to plant churches, and reach people with the Gospel:

- 40 EUROS** cover the cost of care packages that will enable a Turkish congregation to provide for two refugee families and give them hope.
- 70 EUROS** enable an interested person to attend the Ketchua Bible Seminar in Peru.
- 125 EUROS** will finance the monthly expenses of a church planter in Malawi.

Please donate as part of your church's Thanksgiving offering or directly to EBM INTERNATIONAL: Savings and Credit Bank EFG, Bad Homburg

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www.ebm-international.org/spenden

Thank you for your gifts and your prayers!

Humility that Inspires

The information about the Central African Republic reads like a horror scenario (www.wikipedia.de): It is one of the poorest countries in the world. The country has the lowest life expectancy in the world, with more than one in ten children dying at birth or in the first five years of life. Sixty percent of the population is considered malnourished. The health care system is in no way up to the challenges of malaria, AIDS, and even leprosy. In addition, people have suffered from unrest for many years. The problems are complex. The Muslim minority (80 percent of the people in the country are Christians) repeatedly causes unrest and meets with resistance. But reducing the conflicts to religion would be a big mistake. The republic is rich in resources, mineral resources and also fertile in many places. Behind the conflicts are mostly economic goals and the desire for power. 90 percent of the Uranium deposits are in the hands of French nuclear energy companies. International interests play a major role in the conflicts.

This spring, Magloire Kadjio visited the Central African Republic again as regional representative of EBM INTERNATIONAL. In his travelogue, he describes challenges typical in the country, but also much of hospitality and hopeful glimpses of mission work. Here is an excerpt:

“Here, in Bangui, the capital of this extremely poor country, there is electricity just eight hours a day. It is 5:30 in the early evening when I arrive at the airport. There, a small welcoming delegation from the church leadership greets me; we have three hours left to get to the mission station, have dinner, and have the first meeting before the electricity is gone. We also have to observe the evening curfews. Just during my visit, rebel groups have regrouped to attack the capital. Controls and curfews have been a bitter reality here for many years. Nevertheless, after the first short meetings and a night at the safe

mission station, we have many project visits in the country ahead of us. We experience our travels in the country prayerfully and the leaders of our partner federation UFEB in the Central African Republic accompanied us the whole trip with much prayer for preservation. It was beautiful to experience how much good happens even in all the tragedy of the civil war-like situation:

Maison Dorcas: Training for women

I could see how many activities the director of the Maison Dorcas training center, Anne Moussa, has initiated: Former students now cook on the premises in a simple restaurant. It opens to the neighborhood community and to people on the campus, where the Theological Seminary is also located. At the same time, the products made in the sewing school are shown and sold here.



Simple opportunities generate income

It is impressive how every means is used to generate income for the people. EBM INTERNATIONAL has been supporting the Maison Dorcas center for many years with 6,000 euros a year. And I was able to make this clear to those responsible for the project: ‘You can continue to rely on our support for this school’.

Theological education: Reliable partnership

The situation is similar with the theological education in the country. There are currently 47 trainees studying at the Bangui campus and 26 of them will graduate in July. In Bangui, men and women study theology. This is something that EBM INTERNATIONAL consciously promotes, but it is far from being common in all Baptist unions with which we work. Theological education is supported with 10,000 euros annually. Despite all the challenges, it secures the salaries of many highly qualified teachers, among other things.



In Bangui, women and men study theology



Anne Moussa (2nd from left) with her leadership team.

Church service with the state President

On Sunday, I preached twice in a large church in Bangui to more than 2,000 people each time. After the first service, I was able to meet the state president and prime minister. Both are Baptists and came to the church with their families for the service. This was a great opportunity and experience for me and shows once again how well we as EBM INTERNATIONAL are networked through our partners in those countries. I was especially moved by the humility of this man. I suddenly discovered him in the church service.

He had taken his seat normally among all the other people and I only saw him because he stood up at one point and said a loud prayer for the congregation. In Cameroon, and probably in most other countries, that would be impossible. No president would think of going to such a big church without security personnel and as a normal citizen. For me, it was a symbol of the humility of many people in the country. And at the same time a great personal inspiration of how one can also behave as a public person with great social responsibility.

Prayer for the Central African Republic

Our Central African brothers and sisters explicitly invite us to join in this prayer: For the political situation in the country and for a comprehensive peace, for the government and the president. And of course for the many churches and the projects: May God bless the future pastors and change society through them. And may many young women be able to lead independent lives through the trainings at Maison Dorcas. God grant Anne, the director, strength, wisdom, and perseverance to do so."

Magloire Kadjio



Church service with the president



Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways, King over the nations. *Revelation 15:3*



“Everyone Respected Me!”

Maroua is the provincial capital of the Extreme North in Cameroon. Life pulsates in the metropolis of over 200,000 inhabitants. The market is impressively large and well-known throughout the country. Traders from all over the region meet here and offer their goods. It is noisy and cheerful, goats and chickens run around between the numerous food stands. There is a smell of spices and dried and roasted meat. Colorful batik fabrics and the clothes made from them flutter in the wind. In addition, old T-shirts that come from clothing containers in Germany are still used and sold here. For centuries, the city has been a central point where trade, handcrafts and the cotton industry have flourished. Two rivers are the lifelines for providing supplies for the city. Many people, including those from neighboring countries, come to Maroua: here they look for economic opportunities to improve their lives or they come to study at the university.

However, the city – like the entire region – faces severe challenges: Here, on the edge of the Sahel, drought has been intensifying for many decades. The rivers carry less and less water, and Lake Chad on the country’s border to the north is steadily shrinking. Climate scientists believe that the livelihoods of millions of people here will be threatened in the coming years. Moreover, the region has always been a multi-religious space where $\frac{3}{4}$ Muslims and $\frac{1}{4}$ Christians actually live together peacefully. However, since 2013, this peace has been under massive threat: due to the terror of the radical Boko Haram sect from Nigeria, people in the western border area in particular have regularly been the victims of violence, attacks, and assaults. Even in the otherwise safe Maroua, there have been regular attacks and many victims. In addition, the city now has to deal with many internally displaced persons who have left the insecure border region.

In the midst of this mixture of vibrant provincial capital and center of major challenges, the Saare Tabitha Girls’ School has now been operating for two decades. Once founded by the Gemeindejugendwerk with



With her education, Ahiakai has also gained new self-confidence



Saare Tabitha

development aid worker Kerstin Heller, the school has been run by Cameroonian Cathérine Kolyang since 2004. Since 2015, the institution has been under the umbrella of EBM INTERNATIONAL. During this time, more than 500 young women have been able to receive training and gain a great deal of self-confidence for their lives. In addition to the classic training work in the areas of tailoring and home economics, the school makes an outstanding contribution to education in the region. Saare Tabitha regularly receives funding to host programs on reconciliation work and prevention – extremely important work with young adults in Maroua who are exposed to the aggressive recruitment attempts of the Boko Haram sect. For some, poverty in the region makes them open to such calls to violence. Cathérine and her team are a loud voice for peace and for brotherly coexistence between religions.

In her last report, Cathérine told us the story of one special woman:

Ahiakai grew up as a half-orphan. She is paraplegic. She had many fears because of her disability and believed it was due to a spell. In addition to the fears, Ahiakai’s



From a poor hut ...

self-esteem was destroyed: “I don’t know anything!”, “Can I ever be useful to anyone?”, “What will become of me?”, were beliefs that characterized her life. Ahiakai first failed in the normal school system and then came to the girls’ school for an education.

In 2019, she was able to successfully complete her education at the girls’ school as a graduate. But the road there was filled with great obstacles for the young woman. The former principal and many fellow students helped to make this possible. As a team at Saare Tabitha, we worked a lot on Ahiakai’s self-worth. Gently, we pastored Ahiakai with another woman who also had consequential damages from polio. Slowly, she began to accept her situation and to understand and recognize her disability as a result of the polio infection. Step by step, her basic attitude improved and learning became easier and easier. Finally, she managed to complete her education, which changed her whole life. Soon, Ahiakai became an instructor herself in the Mouldoudaye district.

“I am also called ‘Madame’ now. I am overjoyed and living my dream in this training center. I am respected and can give my best every day,” Ahiakai says joyfully as she visits the girls’ school once again. It is not only professionally that life has changed for the woman: When her poor hut was destroyed during the rainy season, she was able to have a new small shelter built herself. Today, Ahiakai is married and they have a wonderful son.

For Cathérine, this impressive story is the core of her many years of training work in Maroua: real development and change is possible when we succeed in strengthening the self-esteem of the young women. An independent life can succeed even after the training, and the women make a real difference in their home communities and change their families and ultimately



... to a beautiful little house.



Ahiakai never thought she would have a family

the entire environment. “We can undeniably see from the women’s life stories how successful our work is. We hear and read about them – we see that they feel they are valuable. So they become a source of change and inspiration for others that does a lot of good.”

According to a report by Cathérine Kolyang

Eradicating Hunger and Protecting the Forest

For many years, we have been fighting hunger and malnutrition in India through two initiatives: In Milk-and-Egg programs run by various partners, children and mothers in particular receive meals. In Vuyyuru, families receive support to becoming self-sufficient long term. To this end, they receive training and also practical help such as receiving seeds from our partner. Now, together with Jesus Loves Ministries (JLM), we are launching another project to improve people's nutritional situation. At the same time, it serves to preserve forest areas and protect the climate.

Chhattisgarh is one of the poorest states in India. The climate here is tropical. Large areas are covered with dense forests. Chhattisgarh has always been home to various tribal communities. Although the caste system has been officially abolished in India since 1949, it continues to shape economic and social relationships. Among members of the casteless tribal communities, called adivasis, poverty has been cemented by exploitation: they are landless and propertyless, living in part in slave-like dependency or as day laborers. The conse-



Pastor Samarpana Kumar

quences: Malnutrition, low education levels, high mortality. Because of the Corona pandemic and the travel ban imposed at the time, day laborers could not pursue any work.

It was precisely at this time, when nothing really worked in India, that Pastor Samarpana Kumar of JLM was stuck in the forests of Chhattisgarh. He was there on a mission trip to serve the people and bring them the gospel. When his planned short stay there turned into a visit of several weeks, he took the opportunity to conduct hygiene training and talk to the Adivasis about the Christian faith. It was not his first encounter with this outcast ethnic group: already as a theology student in 2009, he



Fruits of the forest harvested by hand

brought the Good News to the people and recognized the spiritual and material hardship in which they lived. Since 2018, he has been conducting regular missionary outreaches in southern Chhattisgarh, as far as the neighboring state of Odisha.

Tropical forest as a source of food

Actually, the tropical forest offers many possibilities of use: tamarinds, various other fruits, leaves, nuts, and seeds can be collected there. It is also a source of firewood. Families live from hand to mouth. If they can sell parts of the seasonal harvest, they hardly receive adequate prices from the middlemen. Further wealth lies hidden beneath the ground: mineral resources attract companies that clear the trees and mine ore, sometimes



The Tamarind



Seeds are dried.

with permission, sometimes without. Resident families have to get out of the way and the tree population is lost. This in turn harms the climate.

Our new initiative wants to help: The goal is to establish self-help groups in 45 villages around the town of Sarai-pali over the next few years. About 925 families would benefit from this. 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.

Cooperations against hunger and climate change

For Devahraj Vibhor, this is a prospect he hardly dared dream of: The 52-year-old lives with his wife and three children in the village of Amaldih. His daughter, 18, already has to contribute to her parents' income. His 15-year-old son also dropped out of school because of this. Only his 13-year-old son is still allowed to attend seventh grade. Devahraj keeps his head above water with many odd jobs. He knows the forest and its many uses well: In the course of the year, he knows when the tamarinds or the red fruits of the grape fig are ripe. He collects and dries tendu leaves, which are used to wrap local cigarettes. He knows the locations of the chironzi and butter trees, from whose seeds oil is extracted. But at present he is still dependent on harvest

times and the middlemen. This is the situation for most people.

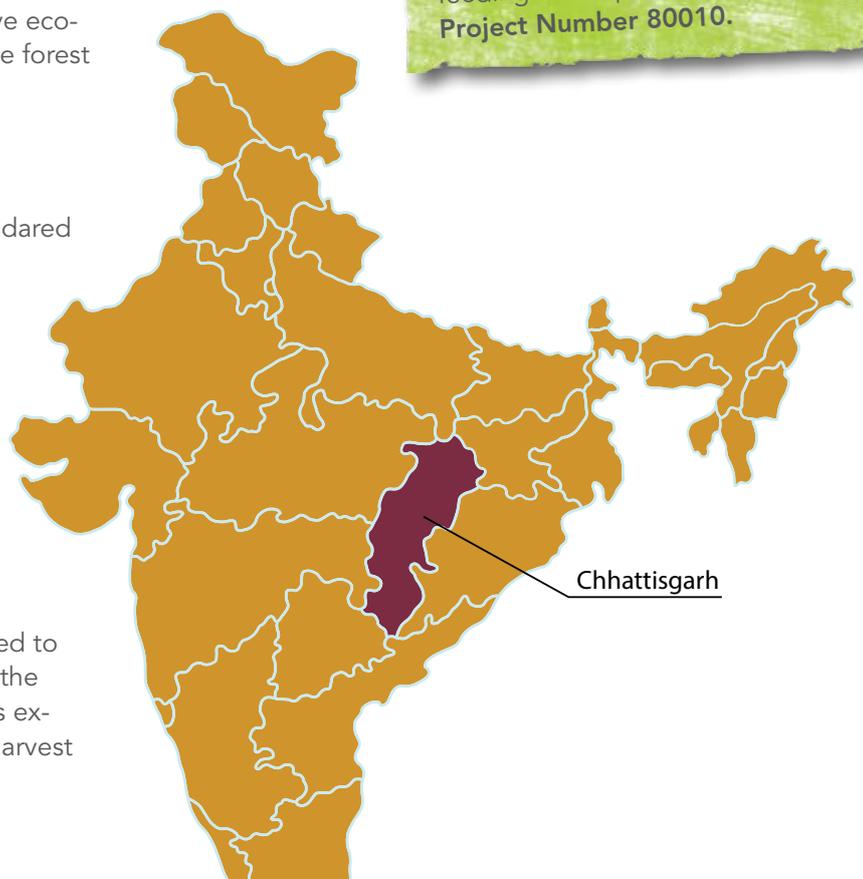
The newly emerging cooperations are given the opportunity to preserve the fruits, leaves, and seeds and to store the harvest. For this purpose, for example, warehouses are built and people are trained on how to market their products profitably without the dependence on middlemen. In addition, they learn what other crops can be grown in the existing forest to improve their own food supply. These forest gardens are ecologically valuable because they utilize all layers of the existing forest. The long-term goal is not only to preserve existing forests, but also reforestation. This is a benefit for the people and the climate.

Devahraj and his family are excited: the hope for change and a stable income could change so much and allow his village to escape the cycle of poverty. The children could then finish school and the care, and therefore the health, of the family could be greatly improved. For Pastor Samarpana Kumar, this practical help is part of holistic mission: he wants to help people practically and show them God's love. He wants them to hear the gospel!

Michael Fischbeck

DONATE

This new project is supported among others by funds for the feeding of the poor in India: **Project Number 80010.**



News from Adana and Izmir

In 2014, the Turkish Baptist Union was established, which includes four congregations. Under the leadership of Pastor Ertan Cevik, we support a team of five pastors. The congregations are all heavily involved in working with refugees.

Adana

In June, Christoph Haus was able to travel to Turkey and visit the churches with which EBM INTERNATIONAL is working. The reports from Adana, not far from the biblical city of Tarsus, were particularly impressive. Pastor Sükrü and his wife Petrina are working in this constantly growing church. In May, five people were baptized. Three of them come



Murat on the right on the sofa with Pastor Sükrü

from the new group in the district of Yüregir. Brother Murat already founded a small daughter church there. Through good contacts in the neighborhood, new people keep coming to the church services.

It is impressive to experience how this new house community in another district is already being advanced from the church in Adana. During Christoph's visit, a meeting was organized with Adana city officials to move forward with the purchase of a piece of land for the church. For a short time, the brothers and sisters can still meet in a commercial building. However, this building will soon have to be vacated due to planned renovations. Now the Adana congregation would

like to build its own building and is already collecting initial funds for this purpose.

Sükrü, pastor in Adana, and Petrina report enthusiastically about their trip to the USA, to which they were invited by a friendly church: "We received training on what it means to be a godly leader. We are grateful for the teachings and the teachers; we talked about sensitive topics like "sin" in our daily Christian lives, we had separate groups of men and women, and many of us really felt like we took a step forward in doing ministry that is more in God's image and truly honors Him."

Petrina is originally from Romania. She lived and worked in France as a doctor for several years before meeting Sükrü. After marriage, she moved to Turkey and sought recognition for her medical studies. Due to this, she had to do different trainings. Currently, she is continuing her education in the field of acupuncture. For this she travels several times to Antalya, 600 km away. In

August, she would like to take her final exam. Siblings from the community are happy to help with the care of her two-year-old son, Aman.

Izmir

The church in Izmir continues to be heavily involved in refugee work.



A Syrian refugee family in Adana



All churches are invested in refugees



Volunteers pack aid packages

Every day, people come in need of help. In cooperation with the disaster relief organization of the German Baptist Union (BEFG), aid supplies can be regularly passed out.

Ertan Cevik reports on the refugee work of his congregation in Izmir: "At the beginning of July, we started buying food again, which we packed with our Turkish brothers and sisters. We started distributing it in the refugee camps outside Izmir because that is where the need is greatest. In the next few weeks, we will also distribute these relief goods to those in need in our city. Many local leaders and mayors have been calling or coming to our church for months asking for food for poor families in their neighborhoods. So, one list after another is planned and executed and it's not all that easy and takes a lot of energy in at least 40 degree heat."

Ertan Cevik and his team regularly contribute to the services of the Syrian and Iranian groups. Both groups have their own leaders, but the challenges are great.

Furthermore, visitors often come to the church in Izmir. There they hear the Gospel. There was great joy: In April, four young Turkish people between the ages of 24 and 31 decided to follow Jesus. They come very faithfully to all events and are taking a faith course.



Worship in Izmir

This year, Easter could be celebrated again on site. For the new brothers and sisters this became a special celebration in times of pandemic. Many Muslim neighbors and friends came to visit and greet the community on this feast day. Despite the cool, rainy weather that day, the celebration continued happily until the evening.

Germany

During and after the EBM Mission Council in May, Ertan Cevik was in Germany with a delegation of five staff members from Turkey. They visited many churches and groups that support the work in Turkey. Pastor Onur represented Ertan in Izmir and gained important experience for his new church planting work in Pergamon. Onur writes that a family seminar held during this time was a highlight. For many months, people from the churches have been meeting regularly online for seminars.



In the Hatay Refugeecamp near Izmir

Now the first courses are also taking place on site again.

EBM-Missions Council 2023

After pandemic-related postponements, the EBM Mission Council (General Assembly) is scheduled to take place in Turkey in 2023. More than 100 guests and delegates from 30 different countries will then make their way to Adana. Christoph Haus was able to visit the premises in Adana with the Turkish pastoral team for this purpose and conduct important negotiations. Many in the EBM INTERNATIONAL family are already looking forward to this opportunity to see the places where Paul ministered at the beginning of the Christian church.

Gabriele Neubauer



Adana: A truck with aid packages



Mission outreaches are part of the curriculum

Theological education in Ijuí, Brazil

Innovative, Holistic, Missions

In Brazil, there is a great need for people to work in church congregations and on mission fields. At the same time, it is a vast country and the distances people have to travel to attend seminary or study theology are very great.

The home of some students is more than 1,000 km away from Ijuí. Soon it will be possible to offer a theology course through distance learning. Only the exams will be taken at the end of the semester in the faculty. The Ministry of Education has already examined the new standards and awarded them top marks. Now they are still waiting on accreditation for official approval. Then the study of theology as a distance learning program will reach an even greater number of people and prepare them for service in the kingdom of God.

There was a big hello and much laughter of joy when, after a long period of social distancing and on-line study because of the pandemic, in-person classes finally began again at the theological college in Ijuí. The opening service had a relevant theme: "Visual Pedagogy and Biblical Teaching for the Deaf." Due to the proximity to the CAIS project on the grounds of the Social Center in Ijuí, students there have been volunteering for deaf children and their families for many years. A new "LÍBRAS Basic Course" started at the college, in which students learn Brazilian sign language for the

first time from a hearing and a deaf teacher. With this training, future pastors will be able to have deeper relationships with deaf people. They will be better able to respond to spiritual and social needs.

The education in Ijuí is practice-oriented and close to the people

Practical units are an important part of the theology program. The students work parallel in churches and organize missionary and social outreaches. In hospital outreaches, they



Mission outreaches are part of the education

prayed for people suffering from Covid 19, for their doctors and nursing staff. They also offered prayer to family members who had to stay outside the hospitals. In the midst of pain and suffering, they experienced that people want to hear about God's grace and mercy.

Childhood and adolescence are excellent periods of life for sowing the Gospel of Jesus, because it is largely at this age that a person's character is formed. That is why students in Ijuí invest in the work of school chaplaincy. They see it as a great way to teach the principles of the Kingdom of God. It has been contracted with the Regional Education Coordinator and the Municipal Secretary of Education and Culture of Ijuí that they may offer this service to the students of the public schools. In lectures and discussions



Work in the social center

with the students, topics such as relationships, feelings, the preparation for a career, and biblical values are addressed. In this way, many children who have never entered a church hear the Gospel of Jesus.

Missionary outreach is firmly anchored in seminary life

In June, the Theological Seminary choir went on a mission trip and visited three Baptist Union churches. The choir consists of more than 40 voices made up of staff and students. They performed the musical "Who is Jesus?" In it, the focus is on how much Jesus wants to define life in all areas of life.

The Wake Up project also launched a new course, organized by faculty and students. For six months, twelve



Intercession in times of pandemic

young people are strengthened in their faith, trained, and encouraged to be missionaries. The daily schedule is intense and filled with devotions, workshops, activities and evening theology classes. The Wake Up participants had one of their practical outreaches in São Paulo and Diadema: they evangelized on the streets with mime and music; distributed food baskets, organised programs with teenagers and children, and preached in church services. Together with local missionaries, they reached out to homeless people and drug addicts, helping them with their social, spiritual, and emotional needs.

One participant reports after an outreach on the streets of São Paulo:

"It was an unforgettable experience! The encounters with the people gave me a more sensitive view. I recognized God's love for them and also for me. God takes care of us – everything comes from Him. I was shaped and challenged in these outreaches."

Gabriele Neubauer



Street outreach for children



A special evening for communities

Monadh: Thoughts of Grace

Monadh, by Dagmar Wegener and Mareile Gnep. They create language and music that join hands, pull each other along and walk together – sometimes dancing, sometimes silent and often full of contradictions.

In their creative work, the two had been traveling independently for a long time, until their paths also met in their art in 2018. They quickly discovered a common language and interwove their words and sounds. What emerged was something new – not a concert and not a reading, but a dance of both, resulting in a remarkably deep program that they are happy to share with the audience.

As EBM INTERNATIONAL we were able to support the production of their great CD last year. Dagmar and Mareile are closely connected to us as a mission: Dagmar is pastor of the Baptists Schöneberg, who promote our work, and Mareile has been an EBM ambassador for many years. Both

are happy to receive invitations from churches to perform at events.

Information is available at:
www.monadh.de or E-Mail mail@monadh.de. On Instagram you can find the Duo at [@monadh_](https://www.instagram.com/monadh_)



CDs can be ordered for 14 euros at the mission office. Simply send an E-Mail to promotion@ebm-international.org or call 033234 74-150.

For book tables we are very happy to provide copies on consignment.



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