



# GOD SEES THE SUFFERING OF CHILDREN

- » A home for children
- » Where children learn to laugh again
- » Advocates for personal responsibility and partnership



# Dear Reader,

**Open wide the gates and lift up the doors of the world,  
that the King of glory may come in! (Psalm 24:7)**

It is high time that something changes! If you look into the world with open eyes, it is actually unbearable: One terrible news follows the other. One catastrophe after the other. The daily routine in our mission office is also marked by this: Pandemics, climate catastrophes, wars, and unrest led to people suffering and fleeing their countries, that the number of requests for emergency humanitarian aid is constantly increasing.

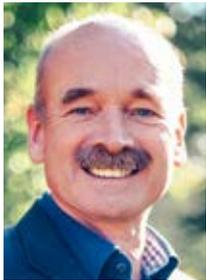
However, in all of this, our partners, we here at the office, and ultimately the entire EBMI family, are far from giving up. On the contrary, we have the privilege of experiencing that God comes. Again and again – even into the most perplexing situations. He comes with help to the victims of flood disasters. He hears the silent prayers of countless children who experience life-changing love in children's homes and social centers because people care for them without reservation.

We are grateful for so many who open wide their gates, arms and hearts to show people that God is there. Those who have mission in their hearts and support it experience Advent every day: because God Himself cannot be stopped. By nothing and no one. His love reaches its goal. That is what we believe, that is what we hope for, that is what spurs us on, and that is what every prayer and every donation helps us to do.

Yours

*Matthias Dichristin und Christoph Haus*

PS: This is our last magazine issue as staff of EBM INTERNATIONAL. Retirement (see page 18) and new tasks at the Gemeindejugendwerk are waiting for us. We thank you for all your company and support during the last years.



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Cover photo:  
New food security project in India

# INHALT

**06 God's Light for the Whole Family**  
PEPE Preschool Project in Argentina



**06**

**07 Giving Children in Need a Chance**  
Christmas Offering 2022

**08 Refuge for Children**  
Social Centers in Latin America

**10 Poster**

**14 Here Children are Loved and Accepted**  
Children's Home in Alem/Argentina



**08**

**16 Close to the People**  
Help after Floods in India

**20 Volunteer 2023!**



**14**



**16**



**20**

## GOD SEES THE SUFFERING OF CHILDREN

**04 A Home for Children**  
Vulnerable Children in India

**12 Where children Learn to Laugh Again**  
Social Center Macia/Mozambique

**18 Advocate for Personal Responsibility and Partnership**  
Pastor Christoph Haus retires

*POSTER to tear out!*





A life in the alley

Children at risk in India

# A home for children

*Hunger is a constant threat for countless children in India. But for some, there is hope – and not just for being fed, but for “an almost normal life” with loving care and school attendance. “A home for children” – not a given for those who come from the poorest families and live on the margins of society. Children are abandoned because mothers, who have been left alone, no longer have the strength to care for them or they simply do not have enough resources. Violence, abuse and parentlessness have also already shaped many young lives. Because of such family disasters, these children literally fall by the wayside. How can they be helped?*

Balu comes from one of the outermost villages, near the border with Myanmar in Manipur. The villagers are totally dependent on jhum cultivation, eating mainly rice, corn, pumpkin and eggplant. The area is sporadically disturbed by militants. Because of their poverty, Balu’s parents could barely provide for their six children. For him and his youngest sister, there was no prospect of going to school. They spent most of their time helping their parents earn a living by begging, for example. When Balu was four years old, he and his sister were taken to the children’s home by their mother. Balu feels very comfortable in the home, he is an attentive student. Nevertheless, he finds learning difficult and hardly ever passes an exam. So he receives special attention to improve his performance.

### Jesus-Loves-Ministries

In three states – Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh – children’s camps were again organized. Here,



Finally children’s camps are possible again

children could sing, dance, play games and learn about Bible stories together. Nearly 6,000 children were reached through these Vacation Bible Schools after a long pandemic break. The pandemic distanced the children from the church and its activities. This year’s children’s camp brought the children back to the churches.

Deep forests and high mountain ranges form the borders of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh. Many survivors of the riots that took place on the borders in 2008 live in this area. A milk and egg program for children was also started here this year. The missionaries built a small hut in the mountains where the children gather to eat.

**The Bethel Ashram Children’s Home** (for 25 boys and 20 girls) in Uppada was also able to reopen after being closed due to the pandemic. All the children are overjoyed to be able to go back to school 6,7. Since the students had

EBM INTERNATIONAL supports twelve children’s homes in India. Here the children can forget their worries for a while and achieve freedom, joy, school education, Christian upbringing, and better chances for the future. By taking them into the homes, they are also saved from the fate of child labor or even forced prostitution. Through the nearby churches, the children gain access to the Christian faith. Regular church services and various events are incorporated into their daily lives.

### Compassion Manipur Children’s Home

Here 40 children from different backgrounds have found their home. The home’s own school is also attended by children from outside. They are encouraged to develop practical skills such as planting a vegetable garden or planting trees on the new school campus. The fruit trees, avocados, oaks, almond trees and bamboo are thriving. The children also help care for the chickens and pigs.



Left: Balu is happy at the orphanage. Right: Balu’s sister has also been given a home.



missed almost 20 months of school, they lacked many basics. Therefore, there were additional classes, in the morning at five o'clock and in the evening at 6.30 pm. Almost all of them passed their exams! There is also an evening school program for children from ten villages. The volunteer local teachers tutor almost 230 children, coupled with spiritual elements such as prayers and songs.

Navin's story, whose father died before he was born, is impressive: the family is poor; they are illiterate. When his uncle also died, Navin lived completely isolated and without hope. JLM staff found him in this desperate situation and brought Navin to the children's home at the age of eleven, very weak and malnourished, with two pairs of clothes. This brought the unexpected turnaround in his life: At the Bethel Children's Home he received schooling, healthy food, and he found caring people, a new loving caring home family, and a church environment.



Navin (left) enjoys learning

Here he was able to make many friends. Now Navin has completed tenth grade and wants to continue his studies at junior college to become a teacher. Navin: "Thank you EBM International for the valuable support of Bethel Ashrams Children's Home, without which I would have had to work as a child laborer fishing on the beach and cleaning boats!"

### WATCH – Karunya Children's Home

Laya, 14: "I don't remember ever getting new clothes from my

mother. I always wore other people's clothes that they gave me. At school my grades were totally bad because we didn't have money to buy notebooks and pencils. My mother got sick very often. Often we had to sleep with hungry stomachs because we had no money for food. After I came to the Karunya Children's Home, my life changed completely. My mother doesn't have to worry anymore. God has done many amazing and beautiful things in my life. I receive so much care and love from the director and the educator. I am so blessed. I thank all the donors for being the light in the darkness and giving real hope to HIV/AIDS orphans and half-orphans."



Laya



Here eggs are cooked for the children



PEPE Preschool Project in Argentina

## God's Light for the Whole Family

Girls and boys from Latin America's poor neighborhoods often have no chance to attend preschool or daycare because there are no or not enough of them in these areas. Thus, these children are disadvantaged from the very beginning. PEPE (Pedagogical Development Program in Preschools) is a concept for children from Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia. Through PEPE preschools, they have much better chances when they start school. But the impact of this ministry radiates far beyond the children – entire families experience God's transforming love.

In Argentina, the PEPE project is affiliated with the Baptist church in Alem. It bears the beautiful name

"Rayito del Sol" – little ray of sunshine. 22 children from the age of three are lovingly cared for here, receive meals, have time to play and hear about Jesus. There is always close contact with the parents.

Morena (name changed) is a mother, most of whose ten children have attended the PEPE project in recent years. Even as a child she had to work on a farm, did not finish her schooling and can hardly read or write. She lives with her partner and children in one of the poorest parts of the neighborhood. The PEPE staff are happy to help her with food, shoes or clothes. Especially in winter, Morena is grateful when she is given a warm coat.

The other mothers of the PEPE children also take an interest in her life. This heartfelt care brought light into the life of the woman: being part of the PEPE mothers, receiving their prayers and hearing about God's love changed her life. She accepted Christ into her heart and from then on participated in the services. She likes to pray for her children.

Thus, the PEPE project became a blessing not only for the children, but for the whole family.



Morena and her children have experienced blessings through the PEPE project.



Nativity Play in the PEPE project



# Giving Children in Need a Chance

In about 60 projects in India, Africa and Latin America, we stand by vulnerable children and young people. This happens in the schools of our partners, in the children's homes and social centers of the various countries and in other projects, such as the PEPE Preschools or childcare in families from Baptist churches in the MANNA projects. Everywhere, the girls and boys experience love, care and safety.

In India, for example, twelve children's homes offer girls and boys a protective home, the care of a new family and hope in the Christian faith. At the social center in Macia (Mozambique), girls and boys, especially those with disabilities, receive support. There they can experience that they are loved and accepted. In Latin America, children find orientation and practical help in sports projects, social centers or homes.

**Übersetzung BUs fehlt!**



Indien: praktische Hilfe für Kinder und ihre Familien



Ganzheitliche Unterstützung im Sozialzentrum Macia/Mosambik



Familiengruppe im Kinderheim Alem/Argentinien

**Together with you, we would like to meet the needs of children at risk worldwide. Give girls and boys hope, education and a home through your prayers and your Christmas offering:**

**32 EUROS** covers the monthly cost of a hot meal for a child in a social center in Latin America.

**110 EUROS** will enable the Macia Social Center in Mozambique to provide one month of professional support for a child to attend school and ensure his or her nutrition.

**230 EUROS** euros finance EBM INTERNATIONAL's share per week to give a home and security to 60 girls and boys in the children's home in Chittador (India).

Donate as part of your church's Christmas offering or directly to EBM INTERNATIONAL:  
Spar- und Kreditbank EFG, Bad Homburg

IBAN: DE69 5009 2100 0000 0468 68

BIC: GENODE51BH2

Intended purpose:

**P 10500 Christmas Offering 2022**

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](http://www.ebm-international.org/spenden)

Thank you for your gifts and your prayers!

# Refuge for Children

Many children in Brazil are left to fend for themselves during the day because their parents either work to support themselves or are overwhelmed with the problems of their own lives. Many suffer from great poverty, have drug or alcohol problems and broken families. The children grow up without any perspective. For them, social centers have been set up in cooperation with some communities, which are reliable places of refuge for many children and young people.

The daily routine in the social centers is an important one: the morning group starts with a good breakfast, then the teeth are brushed. Then there is a devotion followed by various games and learning activities such as: Computer lessons, volleyball and soccer, cooking, math tutoring, English or music. Before they leave the social center, they have a delicious and balanced lunch. The afternoon group has the same program. Often, children new to the program are malnourished. But after just a few months at the social center, they are much better.

The social centers also offer special courses for parents, for example on parenting issues or to help them reintegrate into working life. In addition, there are offers for professional social assistance and health care. In this way, families receive holistic help in the midst of their precarious circumstances. The staff regularly visit the children's families at home to see the context in which they live. In this way, they can offer concrete help for their needs and intensify contacts. Some parents can hardly believe that there are people who want to support and help them.

## From the social center in Ijuí:

In 2013, Luiz, then 7 years old, came to the social center. His mother is a single parent and had problems caring for her children. At the social center, Luiz was always very lively and hardly stood still. When he was 14 years old, the social workers enrolled Luiz in an athletics club because they saw that he was very talented. To their surprise, Luiz became the best athlete in Ijuí. He

started to prepare for the competitions with a lot of concentration and reached a top class level. In 2022, Luiz is the reigning best in the 400 meters of the under-18s and the second best in the 800 meters in all of Brazil! This boy fills the Social Center with pride; and although he left last year, he still likes to return to the place where he learned about God's love and Christian values.

Marly happily reports, "In June, we were able to try out different workshops. I learned a lot about photography and filming. It was a lot of fun to act in front of the camera!" Justus: "Bikers came to the social



Luiz was promoted in Ijuí

center and we were allowed to ride around with them on the grounds. That was cool! I'll never forget that day." Medical students came to the social center on the topic of "drug use." They explained to the young people what effects drugs have on the human organism and what damage they do. Also about how consumption damages the whole family environment. Mila says, "It's an



Marly in the theater and film workshop

explosive topic that really got to me. After all, I see that drugs really do break so much, even in my family." The birthday party for the first half of the year took place in June. Many children don't know this from home, but at the social center they celebrate the beginning of a new year of life that God has given to each of them.

## From the Social Center in Cotia

Edith, the director of the social center, reports: "Every day we pick up the neediest and weakest children with buses, because otherwise they cannot come here. In addition to offering daily activities, we make sure that each one of them gets attention and affection. We tell them about God's love that can change their lives. Pedro came to us when he was 9 years old and today he is



Bus ride to the social center in Cotia



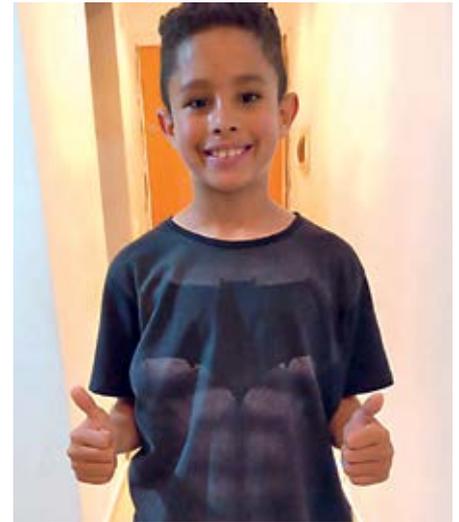
Justus: "We got to ride around the grounds with the bikers. That was cool!"

13. He was a sad child, cried a lot, was in a bad mood and constantly quarreled with other children. The reason for this was the family situation: his mother is overwhelmed with the care of her five children and her oldest son is a drug addict. We carefully approached the mother, listened to her and gradually she began to talk about her situation. We provided the family with food and clothing during the pandemic. Pedro says, "Today I'm doing well at school and with my classmates. I'm trying to cope better with the fact that my father is gone, and I've learned that God loves him, too. The social center is the best place for me." His mother is also coping better with her conflicts and her children. Volleyball practice is held daily. The youngsters play in the school league in São Paulo. In conversations with the team, we heard phrases like, "This is my second home," "I'm learning responsibility

and team spirit," "an opportunity for my life."

### From the Social Center in Diadema

Diego, 8 years old, has been participating in the sports workshop for two months. He likes sports, but he has asthma, which requires the special attention of the trainers. The mother asked the Social Center to take care of Diego so that he can experience something nice and be distracted. He is going through a very difficult time because a few months ago his father passed away. The Social Center accompanies the family, takes care of everything they



Diego finds help in the mourning phase

need and prays for them that Diego will develop in the best possible way, overcome the grief and find new perspectives in life.

#### DONATE

Your donation for the Christmas Offering will benefit children in all social centers.

Project number 10500



Sports groups Cotia



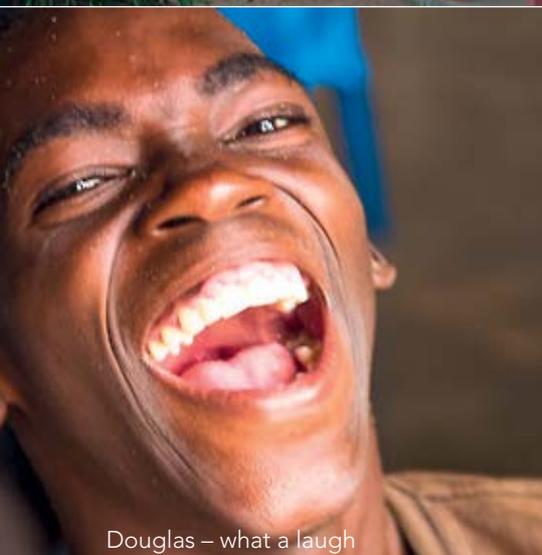
Sports create friendships



Open wide the gates and lift up the doors of the world,  
that the King of glory may come in! *Psalm 24:7*



# Where Children Learn to Laugh Again



Douglas – what a laugh



Macia – the beginnings 2002

*The social center in Macia was established after the great flood disaster in Mozambique at the turn of the millennium. The then president of EBM INTERNATIONAL, Dr. Helmut Rabenau, visited the flood area with a delegation from Austria and the vision was born to help people sustainably through education. Until 2007, the couple Doris and Günther Schwarzingler were in the country as missionaries. To this day, the Austrian Baptists have a special connection to the project and for many years, funds were also given by the Austrian diaconia for the work in the center. In the meantime, the Spanish missionary Sara Marcos has become involved in the project and many local leaders have left their mark on the center.*

Today, the social center supports a total of 153 children. Many of them suffer from physical, psychological and mental disabilities. 50 children (27 boys and 23 girls) can be cared for daily at the center and also receive schooling, while the others are visited and accompanied in their families. The families receive help in the areas of nutrition and health, as well as support for school tasks. Important for the health care is the personal hygiene of the children and the goal to increase their independence in it. In the case of children with chronic diseases, it is also necessary to ensure that they take their medication regularly. 41 Families who are particularly poor receive monthly packages of food and hygiene items. This supply is organized together with a local health station. A vision for the future is to be able to build a small hospital on the

site. Many still have to travel to the capital Maputo for medical care, a distance of about 400 km there and back.

Two teachers are available for the children who are cared for at the center. They help with schoolwork and support the children individually. Many of them show a good development at school. For some, additional computer lessons can be offered. For some young adults, a sewing program has also been developed that trains in three phases. Those who reach the final phase are provided with a sewing kit. The program is refinanced with the proceeds from the sale of the products made during the training.

The personal stories that have been written in Macia for many years are particularly impressive. Douglas

is special in this respect for many: the boy has remained in the memory of countless people with his infectious cheerful manner. No matter how long one has visited the center – everyone can remember Douglas. Over the years, his mobility has steadily improved. He now often leaves his wheelchair and makes his way across the sandy floor on walkers. Each step is a sign of the independence he has gained and an impressive expression of his



Good school material is not a matter of course



self-confidence, which has grown over the years in Macia.

Helia has become a young woman whose face I immediately recognized in the little video that was made a few weeks ago. You can watch it via the QR code or the link. I will never forget my first encounter with her in 2017: Struggling to stand up in her class with her physical limitations, she hesitantly introduced herself to me and the other visitors. Seeing her now, laughing and happy in the video, I'm just grateful that she's still in school and has found a place in Macia where she's matured from child to teenager and received appreciation. Or Dalton, who walks around the grounds with his blind cane and learns to take more responsibility for himself with each step. What is special about all the children at Macia is that the team at the center makes sure they go to school. Many parents would never be able to do this and would be completely overwhelmed and left alone with the situation. Even though the schools are hardly adapted to the special needs of the children, they experience school



Sara Marcos organizes food aid

community, are noticed and are part of society. The center invests a lot outside of school to support learning as individually as possible.

And then there are many children like Siyabonga, who also appears in the video. His thin body only gives us an idea of what he has already had to go through. What a miracle when, over the weeks of care and attention, the boy then thrives, gains weight and grows. In Macia, human lives are moved – in the truest sense of the word. And it is moving to see and to know that many people, also here in Europe, participate in this with their donations and prayers. By the way: Siyabonga is a typical

name in Southern Africa: In Zulu it means thank you.

Finally, one heroine must not go unmentioned: Sara Chavane has always been the good soul in Macia. As director of the social center, she has worked with various missionaries from Europe over the years. She has influenced a whole generation of children and has guided and motivated countless staff members. Sara has been the good soul in Macia for over two decades. Now she will retire and leave a gap. We are grateful for Sara's service and are happy that she will continue to work a little bit in the future on an honorary basis. Like no other person, she stands for what EBM INTERNATIONAL stands for in all projects: We consistently rely on indigenous leaders in the implementation of our mission projects.

Matthias Dichristin



Sara Marcos and Sara Chavane – a dream team



The link to the film:  
<https://t1p.de/macia2022>

**PROJECT SPONSORSHIP**

With a project sponsorship for the social center in Macia you support children like Siyabonga, Douglas and Helia permanently. For more information, see the insert in the center or visit [www.ebm-international.org/projekt-pate-werden](http://www.ebm-international.org/projekt-pate-werden).

# Here children are loved and accepted

*In Latin America today, many children still live partially or completely on the streets. Drug trafficking, crime, sexual abuse - these are the greatest dangers for these children. The most common reason why children are neglected and parents are unable to care for them is family abuse. These are, for example, parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs, mothers who are completely abandoned and are in deep poverty. There are many reasons why children come to a children's home. Only very few of them are full orphans.*

Some of these children find protection and a home in the children's home in Alem/Argentina supported by EBM INTERNATIONAL. They all have serious deficits to work through. Without help they would have no chance. Here these children get everything they need for their development, but also for their heart and soul. The most important thing is to convey to them again and again that they are loved and accepted.

Alicia, children's home director: "God wants us to be concerned not only with the care of the children and young people, but with a holistic physical, emotional and spiritual restoration, which is possible through the unconditional love of Christ."

At the children's home, several groups of up to ten children live in a house with home parents or a home mother. The grounds include playgrounds, the administration building, and a kitchen. The standards for this children's home are similar to ours in German-speaking countries.

## Challenges

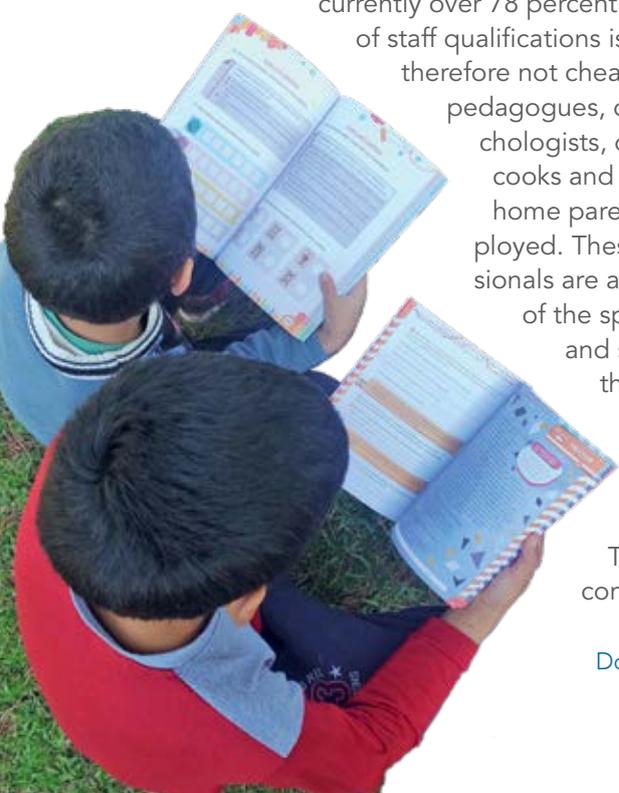
Financial aid from the state comes very irregularly and late. Therefore, the home is dependent on donations.

The annual inflation rate in Argentina is currently over 78 percent! The range of staff qualifications is wide and therefore not cheap. Social pedagogues, child psychologists, doctors, cooks and of course home parents are employed. These professionals are always aware of the special needs and situations that may arise with the children and caregivers. They even come to the

home outside of regular hours when necessary. The home must be resourceful in providing recreational activities and outings with the little resources available. The school children receive weekly support from a psychopedagogue, but this is not enough. The Ministry of Education has been asked to provide a teacher to assist with homework. The children are behind in their education because they had little schooling before entering the home. In addition, they arrive at any time of the year in the middle of the current school schedule and need some time to adjust to their new home.

## Alicia, the home's director, reports:

"There is constant movement all the time. Children come and go. The requests for admission exceed our capacity, so our constant prayer is: 'Lord, give us wisdom to make the right decisions.' We try to keep the number of children at 30, because there are children in each home who need very special attention because of their health condition. The children who have been in the home for a long time see other children leaving the home and ask to be placed in a family as well. We have several sibling groups who want to be adopted together. But there are few adoptive parents willing to take in multiple children and very few willing to adopt children with disabilities, illnesses or developmental delays. Thanks to the efforts of Romina, a woman from the community in Alem, we have been able to introduce a



Doing homework



Cooking and baking is fun



morning devotional routine in all the homes with Bible stories and praying together. The children learn to express what is on their minds and entrust it to God. The effects are noticeable and improve the quality of relationships among the children. It is a special joy when they choose Jesus. So far this year, eleven teenagers have been baptized!"

### God answers prayers

When Micaela\* learned that there was no chance for her and her two younger brothers to rejoin their birth mother, she found it hard to accept. She finally made the decision to be adopted with her siblings. From then on, she prayed for this at every home devotion together, and described her wishes to God in detail: "Please give us a mother and a father who are young and who will adopt all three of us together. Let them go to an evangelical church like me and let them serve God." Micaela told the judge in the preliminary interview for the adoption application exactly what she was praying for and what she envisioned for her family. And just a few days later, a suitable family arrived at the children's home! After only eight months in the new family, the adoption decision was in effect. The children are happy and proud that they now have new names.

13-year-old Antonia came to the home pregnant and gave birth to a healthy baby. When the little girl was

barely two months old, the home found a foster family for the young mother and her child. They were taken in by Carmen and Juan, former parents of the home. They continue to receive the necessary support in the form of formalities, purchases, clothing, diapers and food from the home, because the state does not provide funds to support foster families.



Marc asks God for new parents

\* all names of the children changed

### DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP

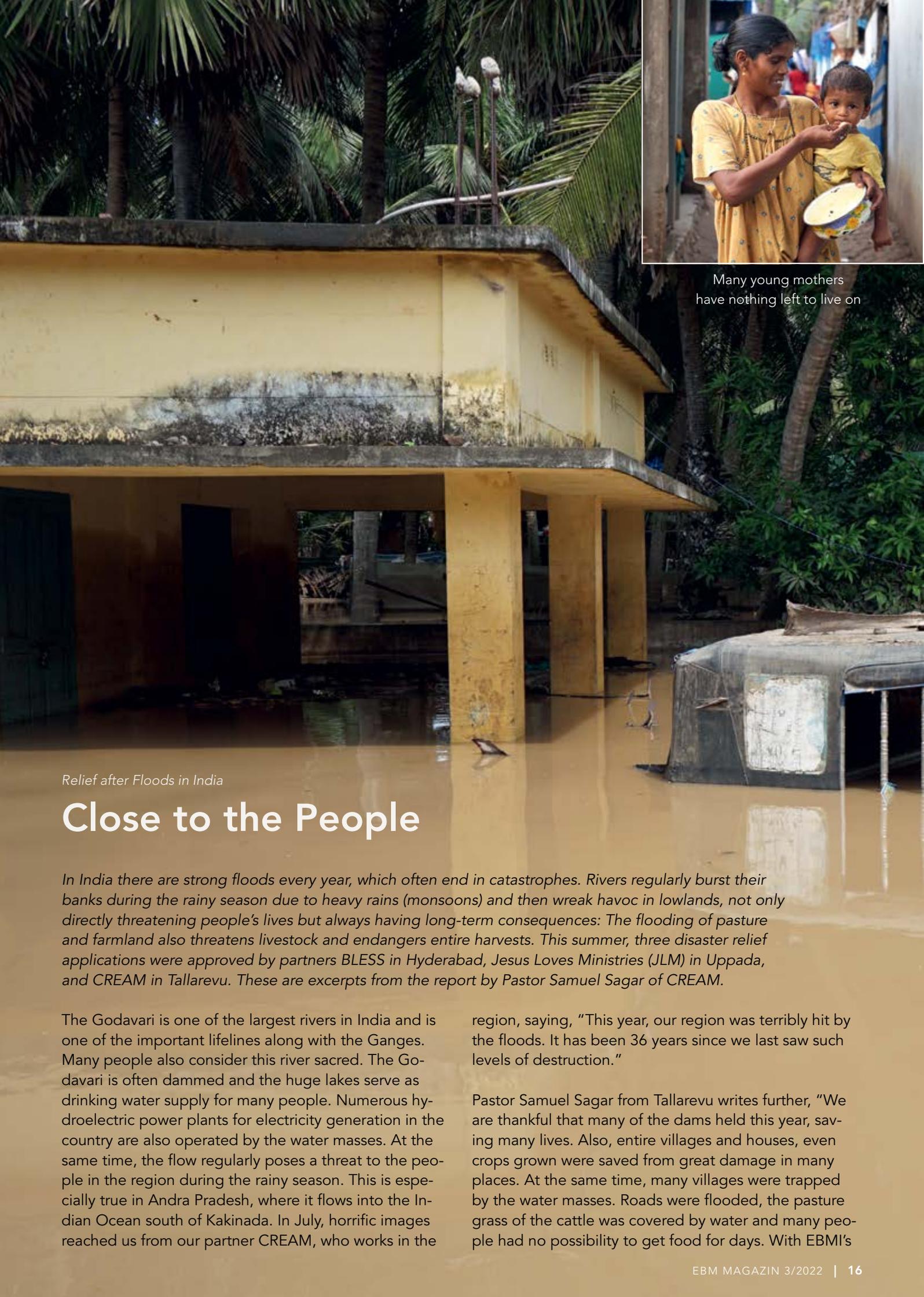
The children's home in Alem is also funded by your donation for the Christmas Offering (**project number 10500**). You can also become a project sponsor and support the girls and boys permanently. For more information, see the insert in the center of this issue or visit [www.ebm-international.org/projekt-pate-werden](http://www.ebm-international.org/projekt-pate-werden).



The three siblings are ready for adoption



The 13-year-old Antonia with her baby



Many young mothers have nothing left to live on

Relief after Floods in India

## Close to the People

*In India there are strong floods every year, which often end in catastrophes. Rivers regularly burst their banks during the rainy season due to heavy rains (monsoons) and then wreak havoc in lowlands, not only directly threatening people's lives but always having long-term consequences: The flooding of pasture and farmland also threatens livestock and endangers entire harvests. This summer, three disaster relief applications were approved by partners BLESS in Hyderabad, Jesus Loves Ministries (JLM) in Uppada, and CREAM in Tallarevu. These are excerpts from the report by Pastor Samuel Sagar of CREAM.*

The Godavari is one of the largest rivers in India and is one of the important lifelines along with the Ganges. Many people also consider this river sacred. The Godavari is often dammed and the huge lakes serve as drinking water supply for many people. Numerous hydroelectric power plants for electricity generation in the country are also operated by the water masses. At the same time, the flow regularly poses a threat to the people in the region during the rainy season. This is especially true in Andhra Pradesh, where it flows into the Indian Ocean south of Kakinada. In July, horrific images reached us from our partner CREAM, who works in the

region, saying, "This year, our region was terribly hit by the floods. It has been 36 years since we last saw such levels of destruction."

Pastor Samuel Sagar from Tallarevu writes further, "We are thankful that many of the dams held this year, saving many lives. Also, entire villages and houses, even crops grown were saved from great damage in many places. At the same time, many villages were trapped by the water masses. Roads were flooded, the pasture grass of the cattle was covered by water and many people had no possibility to get food for days. With EBMI's



A huge team of volunteers helps

Pastor Samuel Sagar goes to the people himself



generous emergency aid, we as a team at CREAM were able to cook meals immediately, organize food distributions with boats, and help the people who suffered the most sufferers in the first days.”

In total, meals were distributed over five days for many people in nine villages. The pictures clearly show the logistical effort behind this. 90 volunteers from the project cooked 3,500 meals. This was only possible so quickly because everyone pitched in. Young adults from the community brought the food to the people on boats, many women from the community works cooked and prepared everything. There was shopping, packing, and distribution. Countless hands passed on God’s blessings and came alongside those who were suffering.

All of the above partners are great examples of holistic mission. BLESS maintains a children’s home, several pre-schools, and a food security program. JLM has sewing

schools and a children’s home on the church campus and supports several churches and the people of the forests of Chattisgarh with an agriculture program (we reported in the last magazine). On CREAM’s campus in Tallarevu is a children’s home, several schools and training classes, and the main church. With more than 30 Bible women and evangelists, more than 2000 families in the region are spiritually cared for. This proximity of the projects to the people is the basis for the fact that in emergency situations quick help is possible. A donation for our work with children at risk helps these partners, in addition to such immediate aid, to be able to faithfully carry out the continuous and very important work in the schools and children’s homes.

# Christoph Haus Retires

For more than 14 years, Pastor Christoph Haus led the mission work of EBM INTERNATIONAL (EBMI) as General Secretary. During these years he has undertaken countless service trips to partner countries and has deepened and strengthened relationships with many church leaders. In addition to the international contacts, it was and is Christoph's heartfelt concern to give the mission a face in German congregations. Thus, he spent many hours a year on the train or on German highways. Unconfirmed rumors say that in some regions of the republic fans even followed him to church visits, which he shaped since his first ministry, as youth pastor in the Gemeindejugendwerk (GJW) Northwest Germany.

From there, Christoph and his wife Heike moved to Maroua in northern Cameroon. The two lived there for two years and were involved in development aid at the Technical Center in Maroua (CTM). The country of Cameroon and the two large training projects in Maroua have accompanied Christoph until today. After community service in Northeim, he became GJW director in Elstal and in this capacity also traveled to Cameroon every year to continue to accompany the projects that the GJW initiated in the 1970s and early 2000s. In 2015, Christoph was instrumental in making CTM and the Saare Tabitha Girls' School part of EBMI. And he has maintained contact with those responsible in Cameroon like no other, because it is his fundamental conviction to consistently promote their ownership and to place trust in their competencies.

As Secretary General of EBMI, one of the first things he did in India was to establish the Partner Conference. The newly integrated Hans-Hert-er-Indienhilfe in EBMI thus became a strong network within the organization and the mutual perception and learning from each other of the project partners could be promoted. Each year Christoph visited India and made his mark on this conference. In 2020, with Dr. Santosh from Ludhiana, a representative from India was elected to the EBMI board for the first time. By the way, the same is true for Hürrem Cevik: she is the first Turkish woman to be a member of the EBMI Board after the work in Turkey became part of EBM INTERNATIONAL since 2011. This

also happened during Christoph's term of service.

Christoph has always consistently continued the partnership paths, intensified the work with the four regional representatives and made EBMI "ONE" mission, with origins in different initiatives. He has honored and upheld the history of EBM in Africa, MASA in Latin America, Hans-Herter India Aid, and the communities in Turkey, yet pushing forward the dream of this one mission sharing God's transforming love. That in 2018, despite all obstacles, EBMI succeeded in becoming a public corporation in the state of Brandenburg is perhaps, on paper, Christoph's greatest achievement. Christoph would rather mention other things: perhaps that his boss since 2020 is a pastor from South Africa (Emma Mabitilala, as president of EBMI), that more than half of the board are women and that

the global south is strongly represented. Equality and partnership is something Christoph has simply lived and pushed for without a lot of words. Or maybe the good team that has formed here in Elstal and also together with the board and the regional representatives. The list would be long. It was an era - that is not an exaggeration. And so all that remains for us as a team is a sincere thank you and God bless you, as Christoph liked to write.

Christoph, you were the right person for all these different tasks, because humanly and spiritually you used your many talents for the good of EBM INTERNATIONAL.

*Your team from Elstal.  
We will miss you.*



# Strengthening Contacts with Local Churches

On October 4, Pastor Julia-Kathrin Raddek and Pastor Lars Müller started their service at EBM INTERNATIONAL. We are very happy that the two of them are strengthening the area of public relations. With their work, they will primarily expand the contact to churches that support our mission work and promote the networking of volunteers and their commitment to EBM INTERNATIONAL. In the following, both of them briefly introduce themselves:



Julia-Kathrin Raddek was pastor in the EFG Neubrandenburg

I am Julia-Kathrin Raddek, 39 years old, a pediatric nurse, pastor and in further education to become a counselor. I feel just as comfortable on a pilgrimage or behind the camera as I do at a nice concert or in the company of good friends. I have been dancing ballet passionately for four years, because I love to learn, grow, and broaden my horizons. That's why I'm really looking forward to my new tasks and all future encounters at EBMI. Together with my colleagues, I would like to contribute to our congregations being affected by our cause and that, in turn, people all over the world will be touched by the healing and transforming love of Jesus Christ.

My name is Lars Müller. I am married and have two wonderful daughters, both of whom were born while I studied at Seminary (2009-2014) in Elstal. Since then I have been in contact and worked together with EBMI, which has always been a great blessing for me and has brought me much joy. Therefore, I am happier now to start my ministry in Elstal. It has always been very special to meet so many great people from all over the world at EBMI, who have lived their service and ministry so enthusiastically, determined and at the same time with



Lars Müller was pastor in the EFG Pfaffenhofen

so much love (not only the "official" missionaries, but also the circle of friends, the volunteers, and the team in Elstal). I wish that together we can support and accompany the many projects of EBMI that bring hope to so many people worldwide and are such a great blessing. And at the same time I am convinced and have experienced that the contact to the projects and the missionaries all over the world can be an equally great blessing for our congregations and that we can learn a lot from each other.

*Welcome to Elstal, dear Julia-Kathrin and dear Lars. It's good to have you here.*

Just contact us at [promotion@ebm-international.org](mailto:promotion@ebm-international.org) if you would like to invite them to a mission service in your church or to another event. We look forward to being even more closely connected with congregations.

Helping in the classroom ▶

Getting creative in preschools ▼



▶ Share a little life with children

◀ Support in the hospital

# Volunteer 2023!

*Do you have the desire to spend a year abroad meeting new people and helping out in a social project? Encountering people in different situations can show us what really matters in life. If you have already experienced a lot of support in life or had to fight for some things, you can support people to go their way during a volunteer year.*

## Volunteer positions for summer 2023

**Malawi:** Support the team on a farm in Balaka to grow medicinal plants, corn, and vegetables. Training in sustainable agriculture is also provided here and there is a kindergarten. You can help here as a young man in many areas. In Senga Bay we also have a clinic where volunteers can help in the pharmacy and with care.

**Cameroon:** In Garoua there is a kindergarten, a pre-school, a technical training center, and a hospital. Those who have sufficient knowledge of French will quickly settle here and can apply for one of the areas mentioned.

**India:** Boys and girls get to live in a safe environment in the childrens' homes of our Indian partners, where they attend school and later learn a trade. Volunteering for 6-7 months opens you up to an intensive immersion in this work.

**Argentina:** At the Alem Children's Home, volunteer support is welcomed in the family-homes. Here children experience a solid routine to stabilize themselves and grow up in a loving environment.

**Sierra Leone:** In a school you can support children in their learning. In this way, you help them get a better start in life. Education frees people from poverty and gives them self-confidence. After many years of suffering due to wars and pandemics, Sierra Leone has new hope.

**South Africa:** Life in a township has its own rules and you start to adapt as a child and still find your vocation. As a volunteer you get to know and love this colorful and fascinating country in a different way. Especially for the overcoming and reconciliation of the apartheid generation, a volunteer service is often very beneficial.

Please apply NOW for summer 2023!

[www.hoffnung-international.de](http://www.hoffnung-international.de)  
[www.t1p.de/bethechange](http://www.t1p.de/bethechange)