

EBM/MASA and its Partner Union in the Central African Republic

First contacts between the EBM and the Baptist churches of the Central African Republic were made in 1976 when the EBM General Secretary *Helmut Grundmann* visited Sierra Leone as representative of the “Deutschen Evangelischen Allianz” (German Evangelical Alliance). There he met with Pastor *Paul Changé*, who is the founder of the “Union Fraternelle des Eglises Baptistes” (UFEB). The UFEB is a group of Baptist churches which developed from the Central African Republic churches of the American MID mission. In 1981 *Helmut Grundmann*'s successor, *Max St aebli*, went to the Central African Republic to analyze the situation there and to consider a common perspective.

After further talks an official partnership of co-operation between the EBM and UFEB was agreed upon at the mission council in Lueneburg in 1984. In 1985 Dr. *Jean* and *Doris Vincent* were sent out as missionaries and in 1987 *Susy* and *Max St aebli*.

The goal of the partnership was to support the young union UFEB in its theological and social work. Focal points of the EBM were the structuring and rebuilding of the “Evangelical Theological School” in **Bangui** (ETEB) in close co-operation with its President *Paul Changé*, and the extension of the training programme for women and the development of the community center „Maison DORCAS“. Furthermore there is the strong support of the work with the pygmies together with *Marc Caparang* and the “Basisgesundheitsdienst” (Basic Medical Aid), which is connected to the name of Dr. *Mechtild Schroeder*.