

The EBM/MASA Advent Calender 2002 - which makes a difference: Project Cards

1/12 Sierra Leone

Peace in Sierra Leone. After the end of the Civil War in Sierra Leone we could start work among street children in Freetown, the capital. Leni Altdorfer, our Swiss missionary, is responsible for this work, called "Luke Ministry". It has now been possible to carry it to the cities up-country as well. Its name refers to the story of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 19:25 ff); the ministry offers children a meeting-place, food and basic schooling, and they are encouraged to start a new life.

2/12 North Cameroon

North Cameroon is situated just south of the Sahara Desert. Drought and dryness are a constant threat to people, animals and nature. For some years the "Sahel Vert" ("Green Sahel Area") project has been a counter-measure: Among other things, indigenous trees, hedges and bushes are planted, in an attempt to stop desertification. As a result, growing of food is improved, and wood is available to be used in many areas. In addition, this project offers young people a welcome opportunity of training, of which Raymond Todou from Cameroon is in charge.

3/12 South Africa

Work with AIDS-infected people is one of the big challenges in South Africa at present. 28 million people in southern Africa live with AIDS. Not even babies can escape it, the epidemic being also transmitted by pregnancy, birth and breast-feeding. In Thusong, south of Johannesburg and Soweto, young AIDS-infected mothers and their infants are offered care and counselling. They may even start simple vocational training, which is organized by co-workers of the black Baptist Convention.

4/12 Bolivia

Two million people live in Greater La Paz. Most inhabitants have come from the interior of the country. Half of them live below the utmost poverty line, with the children suffering most. The 12 orphans in our children's home won't forget what they have been through! Mr. Martinez, head of the home, would like the children to have musical instruments, and we would like to help him get them. In all of South America, MASA supports some 250 children. We would like to give every child a birthday present in 2003.

5/12 South Cameroon

Ndiki in South Cameroon is one of the places in Africa where we support the theological training of our partner unions. Here, young Africans acquire the basic skills for their theological and practical ministry as pastors and evangelists. They are trained to be co-workers who serve their churches in pivotal positions. They are responsible not only for preaching and teaching, but also for training and counselling honorary co-workers, for social ministries and evangelism as well as for the needs of the population in crisis and emergency situations.

6/12 Malawi

In 2002 there was a serious famine in this small country in south eastern Africa. Drought and dryness keep threatening life here. We want to help the people in Malawi and alleviate the suffering. We do so in cooperation with the Baptist Churches of Malawi (BACOMA). Relief

goods get straight to the people: Via our churches and co-workers, grain, maize and other foodstuffs are passed on to the people in need.

7/12 Cuba

For more than 40 years now, the Cuban Revolution under Fidel Castro has dominated life on this Caribbean island. The revolutionaries would have preferred to suffocate any religious life. This they tried to achieve by using violence during the first years. Yet in this of all countries, many people have come to believe in Jesus Christ in recent years. MASA helps by supporting two big projects: a missionary project on the Isle of Youth and the training of lay missionaries, whose number is in the hundreds.

8/12 Peru

Peru belongs to the heartland of the ancient Inca Empire and was, for many centuries, under the colonial rule of Spain and the Spanish Church. The Bible reached the villages and the regions of the Andes only very late. Even today, many men and women belonging to the Indian population have never heard God's Word, let alone had a Bible in their hands. Hugo Mondoñedo, our missionary, regularly visits the villages in the Sierra de Ancash in order to make the villagers familiar with God's Word. Within the country, there is hardly any financial support for his work, and we want to contribute towards his living .

9/12 South Cameroon

Whoever goes to Nkoteng in South Cameroon has to travel on dusty roads and through the jungle for many kilometres. Here we have been able to build up and to extend a hospital in recent years. This hospital is of great importance to the people of this region, which is situated in the tropical rain forest. Not only do they get first aid in case of an accident or illness, but patients can also be operated on, given meals and taken care of. In order to offer first (mobile) aid, an ambulance has now been purchased. The senior consultant there is Dr. Barnadí (Spain), who will be assisted by Dr. Schröder (Germany) as of next spring.

10/12 Argentina

For a long time, "El Impenetrable", the impenetrable Forest, was one of the blank areas on the spiritual map. It lies in the Chaco, in subtropical northern Argentina. Since we started mission work there, many things have happened. Small churches have originated in the Forest, even deep within it . Our missionary Margarito Soraire has now asked us to finance a motorbike so he could better look after the churches there.

11/12 Mozambique

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in Africa. In recent years it has been hit by big floods. In 1999 and 2000, we could send mission teams to help with the cleaning up and with reconstruction. A short time ago Doris and Günther Schwarzinger (Austria) came to Mozambique to live and work here. Their goal is to build up a social project, where young Mozambicans will get basic training in EDP, agriculture and cattle breeding.

12/12 Central African Republic

For quite some years, the Central African Republic has found itself in a challenging political situation. That's why no European staff have been there since a year ago. At present, we support the churches there especially in their training of pastors and evangelists. For the churches and fellowships increasingly want to take on responsibility for their country. We especially pray that God might reveal His perspectives for the the future.

13/12 Sierra Leone

People who cannot see or whose sight is severely limited must get along with a big handicap. Before the rebels destroyed the Baptist Eye Clinic at Lunsar in the mid-90s, many placed their hope in treatment at this clinic, as it was one of the most renowned hospitals in West Africa. Now, peace has come back to Sierra Leone, and reconstruction is possible. In cooperation with “Christoffel Mission to the Blind” we want to build up this ophthalmic centre again. It is our wish that the blind and those with poor eye-sight should be given “Light to Live” again.

14/12 Brazil

Brazil is a country which is appealing to many for its beautiful scenery, for its carnivals or its good football team. In the slums of the big cities, however, tragedies occur again and again, whose most helpless victims are children. Some of these children find themselves in such desperate need that we temporarily take them into our children’s homes till their situation has been clarified. We call these children XY-Children because their names are not known in Europe. Yet, we do help them. Those who want to do so may support these children by offering an XY-sponsorship.

15/12 Cameroon

The capital of Cameroon is Yaoundé: Here we support a Cameroonian missionary, Moise Epoh, who is responsible for evangelism and church-planting. Besides, he is responsible for church-growth and the organization of new churches in and around the Capital. He regularly evangelizes in cooperation with the young churches. This work is particularly aimed at reaching the children, young people and grown-ups in the surroundings of these churches. As of 2003, Moise Epoh will be assisted by Hanna and Dirk Pusch, a missionary couple from Germany.

16/12 Bolivia

Large areas of Bustillos Province in North Potosí belong to the blank areas in the spiritual map of Bolivia in the Andes. Two years ago we started mission work there, and it is now beginning to bear fruit, as for instance in Lagunillas. There, a church has been founded, and they now need an assembly building, which they call “templo”. By contributing a corrugated iron roof we’d like to help them build this church.

17/12 Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea, which is situated south of Cameroon, is one of the smallest countries in West Africa. EBM has been working there for a number of years, with the special commitment of the Spanish Baptists.

On Malabo, a small island, we were able to officially open a school last summer, where our missionary Damaris Lopez (Spain) has taken on the educational and theological leadership. Here, children are offered basic education which may provide them with good prospects for their lives in Equatorial Guinea.

18/12 North Cameroon

During the past decades, outstanding medical work has developed in the small village of Zidim, and it has become of great importance to the whole of North Cameroon. Under the leadership of Jutta Krebs-Mbiene, a nurse from Germany, and the Cameroonian doctor Dr. Miko, the Hospital enjoys an outstanding reputation. The staffs of a maternity ward, an operating room, a dispensary, a pharmacy and a small research institution all work hand in hand in order to help the people in North Cameroon very practically.

19/12 Brazil

Electric power has become scarce and expensive in Brazil. A year ago, each household in Greater Sao Paulo was apportioned its maximum consumption. Those who used too much were punished. Our children's home in Cotia couldn't possibly manage with this allotment. Solar panels are a means thought to remedy this situation. Only in this way can power consumption be considerably reduced. Electric power is needed to produce light to read and to heat water for the showers. So, the children will be able to learn and to play also in the dark winter evenings .

20/12 Malawi

For a few years only EBM has been committed in Malawi. Together with the national Baptist Union (BACOMA) we support three national missionaries, who are responsible for church work in three different regions: they have services, working with groups, pastoral care and the work with children and young people very much at heart. In emergency situations such as the famine, too, they commit themselves to caring for the population of their cities. They have thus taken on a very responsible task in one of the poorest African countries.

21/12 South Africa

Cape Town is said to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. But life there is not always as sunny as the postcards might suggest. The Christians of the black Baptist Convention in this city and in this region near the Cape of Good Hope have asked for our support. In the western region of South Africa, we assist them in local and regional church growth work, which is only in its beginnings. Moreover, four small churches in the townships of Cape Town need our help. This is why we support this work financially, by training courses, in prayer and, shortly, also by sending missionary teams.

22/12 South Cameroon

In southern Cameroon, in Nkondjock, there is an old EBM mission station. Here, in the tropical rain forest, European missionaries worked for many years; together with the local church, they were able to help the people in this remote area. In Nkondjock there is a school where we make training possible for young people, i.e. training in electrical engineering, agriculture and secretarial work. In this region particularly, good training is an important condition for being able to make one's living.

23/12 Brazil

Diadema, which is mostly made up of slums, is almost a city on its own in Greater Sao Paulo (Brazil). In some slums up to 50 000 people live on 3 sq km. The victims of this situation are above all the children, who are left to fend for themselves during the day and thus become street children, with all this implies. For them, a day care centre has now been built, where 100 children from 6 to 15 are taken care of. This doesn't mean social assistance only: It is our great concern that these children learn to trust God and His Word. In order to realize this they need our financial assistance support.

24/12 The Word became a human being and .. lived among us.

In Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Mozambique, Peru, Portugal, Sierra Leone, and South Africa, more than 41 national and European staff are at work, living there with their families. Please think of our missionaries and support our co-workers in world mission. They live and work together with Latin American and African Christians so that people might get to know Jesus Christ in word and deed through their commitment. They need our prayers and our support.