



# Report on Schools and Education 2003

**Dear Friends of EBM!**

*Writing, reading and maths belong to the basics of our lives in Europe. Whereas they are free of charge and taken for granted here, they are still a privilege in Africa. Only few people can afford the required tuition fees. In a family with several children, only the boys are sent to school, and very few are the opportunities for the girls. Yet, education and training are of utmost importance for the perspectives and the personal development of young women and men in Africa. At the same time they encourage the economic and democratic development of these countries.*

*Thus, education, training and further education are important elements of our holistic and sustainable development and mission work. Especially young people receive a chance of living their own lives and of developing perspectives. Through our work we reach thousands of young people. Co-workers from the partner unions as well as European missionaries take on responsibility for the educational and subject-specific programmes.*

*This report on education will allow you to have a look at our current EBM work. And we'd ask you very kindly to go on supporting this work.*

*With warmest greetings from our office in Elstal  
Yours very sincerely,*

*Volker Bohle  
Africa Promotion Secretary*

## **A. Pre-Schools, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools including Grammar Schools**

### **Equatorial Guinea: Malabo Primary School.**

In autumn 2002 we could finish reconstructing and enlarging this primary school. The Spanish Baptist Union has committed itself especially to this project. Having more than 600 pupils by now this school has become an educational institution very much in demand. Rev. Mario Bolo and our educational missionary Dámaris Llopis (Spain) are the headmasters.

### **Cameroon: Pre-School and Primary School in Garoua**

In 2003, the Governor of the North Province has given a plot for a new building to this school, which has been established by the Baptist Church of Garoua/North Cameroon on its own premises. This means an enormous appreciation of this kind of church work. The plot is situated opposite the Centre Technique de Garoua (CTG). Initial plans for preparing and constructing the building, in 2004, have been made. At 500 pupils, capacity of the school has reached its

limits, although three additional class rooms could be built on the church premises. Adding classes 4 and 5 had also been possible by increasing the number of teachers. Thus more children from the Muslim neighbourhood of the school could be admitted.

### **Cameroon: Primary Schools in Gamboura and Dagai**

In Gamboura and Dagai, EBM supports and runs two primary schools. At present, Dagai numbers 412 pupils, 127 among them girls, and Gamboura slightly more than 500 pupils of both sexes. Generally we can say that examination results in Dagai and Gamboura – as in the whole north of Cameroon – were good, so that 90 % of the pupils could be moved to secondary school, as compared to 71 % in the previous year. In addition to traditional subjects, the children and adolescents are also taught agriculture and trades. Concerning these subjects conditions in Gamboura are somewhat more favourable than in Dagai, as larger areas are available for teaching agriculture and as there is more rainfall. In this connection cooperation with the

vocational schools and training institutions in Maroua is under consideration. The equipment of the schools is very simple. The teachers need further educational qualification. In general there is a lack of literature, and the school and the teachers' buildings want renovating.

### ***Cameroon: O-Levels and A-Levels in Mokolo***

At present 532 pupils attend the Mokolo Secondary School. The 133 girls and 399 boys may even reach A-levels at this school. The school was founded jointly by the Baptist Union of Cameroon (UEBC) and the Protestant Church of Cameroon (UEEC). 39 pupils come from a Muslim background (5 girls and 34 boys). 108 did not indicate their religious background. The school is a sign of hope – not only because boys and girls receive schooling which opens up perspectives for their lives but also because young people from Christian and Muslim backgrounds learn and live together here. The school can house male and female boarders.

## ***B. Vocational Schools and Training Centres***

### ***Cameroon: Technical Centre in Garoua (CTG)***

In spring 2003 the Technical Centre in Garoua could officially open its new buildings. The director Wim Hardeman (The Netherlands) was decorated with the "Médaille d'honneur de travail" by the governor of the Province du Nord. In spring 2003, Peter Boers (civil engineer from The Netherlands) succeeded to Wim Hardeman. With more than 100 male and female trainees the CTG has become the show-piece project for vocational schools in northern Cameroon. Areas of training include motor vehicle and motorbike mechanics and related electric engineering, tailoring and design, agriculture and development of agricultural products. The CTG has also been recognized as an authorized repair shop by Mitsubishi.

### ***Cameroon: Vocational Centre in Nkondjock***

The training institution CAREJ (Centre d'Animation Rurale et d'Encadrement des Jeunes) in Nkondjock/Southern Cameroon has had a new headmaster since the end of 2002: Jean Marie Mihuzimbere from Rwanda. In the very centre of the tropical rain forest more than 50 young men and women are given training in the following areas: secretariat (2 years) electric engineering (2 years) as well as agriculture and raising of small animals (1 year). Through these courses, we reach young people in this region so they might get perspectives for work.

### ***Mozambique: Social Center in Macia***

Since the end of 2002 our missionaries Doris and Dr. Günther Schwarzinger have been responsible for building the Macia Social Center. To begin with, the required training and class rooms have been built and equipped in 2003. The Macia Social Center project

### ***Sierra Leone: Primary and Secondary Schools***

After the peaceful elections in May 2002 we could continue and increasingly develop the work among young people, jointly with our partners, the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone (BCSL). In addition to the "Luke Ministry" (work with street children) which offers reading and writing courses for a limited period of time, BCSL is involved in more than 20 primary and 5 secondary schools. The class rooms of many schools are in Baptist churches or also on their premises in makeshift tent constructions. In the refugee camp at Grafton the BCSL is even responsible for a primary school with more than 1 200 pupils. The BCSL has also been directly responsible for its secondary schools: in Mambolo since 1971, in Gbendembu since 1980, in Kassiri since 1986 and in Makama since 1994. In Mambolo and Gbendembu, the pupils can even reach A-levels in order to go on to university. Many pupils depend on scholarships, awarded by EBM or the churches. More than 8 000 boys and girls in Sierra Leone thus receive a foundation and a perspective for their lives, with the need rising.

mainly aims at reducing poverty and improving living standards, especially for single parent women and unemployed youths in Bilene District, southern Mozambique. In order to achieve this, training courses in income-creating skills are organized. Besides manual skills, the current programme includes setting up self-sustaining micro chicken farms, computer skills in view of the rapidly growing tourism industry as well as basic training in state-of-the-art clay construction technology with ambient air drying. The idea behind all these courses is the training of local experts, who will then offer such courses as trainers in their turn. After the build-up phase, which is being financed by donations, the project is scheduled to become self-sustaining, allowing for income from a chicken-breeding facility and from tuition fees.

In addition, Isabel Melo (Portugal) is responsible for a small-trade training programme for young women. In crocheting and needlework courses they can acquire skills which will allow them to work on their own and to make some money.

### ***Sierra Leone: Vocational Training Programmes***

Training opportunities for women have taken an astonishing turn in Sierra Leone. In Gbendembu the Women's Department of the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone (BCSL) offers tailoring and design courses. Besides, literacy courses are held for women so they might learn how to read and write. In Kassiri and Makama more than 100 young people may get training in metal processing, secretarial work, landscape gardening and wood processing.

### ***South Africa: Vocational Training in Thusong***

In Thusong Baptist Center, southeast of Johannesburg, the Baptist Convention runs various projects and training courses. Among others, young offenders are offered a rehabilitation programme in order to be re-integrated into society. This programme is taken care of by a local pastor. The young people stay there to live and learn. At the same time there are short training

courses for youths, e.g. in the areas of electrical engineering, the raising of small animals or in vegetable-growing. Besides, HIV positive mothers and their babies are counselled and taken care of at Thusong Center.

## ***C. Theological Education***

### ***Equatorial Guinea: Bible School in Bata***

Till summer 2003 Daniel Banyuls from Spain was responsible for various teaching units at an inter-denominational Bible School in Bata; these units were especially aimed at co-workers from Baptist churches.

### ***Cameroon: Theological Seminary in Ndiki and Bible School in Mokong***

Responsibility for the theological education of our partner union lies with the Institut Baptiste de Formation Théologique (IBFT) in Ndiki/Southern Cameroon. A Curricula Committee, set up in 2003, has now restructured the courses so that the 25 students at Ndiki are trained to be pastors, whereas the students at Mokong Bible School (Northern Cameroon) are trained to be evangelists. Both these education programmes may be linked to studies at the churches' universities for applied sciences at Ndoungue and Yaoundé. In Ndiki additional residential buildings have been built in the meantime. Thus the students can be joined by their families in Ndiki. Arne Holte, theological missionary from Norway, ended his assignment in Cameroon in summer 2003 and returned to Europe. At Mokong Bible School, Emmanuel Mbiene from Cameroon and Pascal Carton from France have been able to get familiar with their new leadership tasks as a team.

### ***Mozambique: Theological Education at Beira***

Responsibility for theological education in Mozambique is assumed by Eduardo Melo from Portugal, in collaboration with our Mozambican partner union (CBM). At Beira Biblical Institute as well as in regional courses held at Gaza, Tete, Namupla and Quilimane, the theological foundations for the ministries of evangelists and pastors are conveyed and acquired. With more than 150 students theological education is an important element in the church work of our partner union.

### ***Sierra Leone: Theological College at Jui***

The theological education of pastors takes place at the inter-denominational Evangelical College of Theology in Jui (TECT), near Freetown, the capital. The TECT cooperates very closely with the University of Sierra Leone. 10 students from the BCSL are full-time students; others study part-time, working already as pastors in their churches.

### ***South Africa: Theological College at Soweto***

In a three-year course, a diploma in "Theology" and "Ministry" may be acquired at the Baptist Convention College (BCC) in Orlando/Soweto. For students with lower schooling standards a certificate is within reach. The goal of these courses is offering a highly qualified theological education, which is at the same time embedded in the South African context; theology, a holistic spirituality and modern educational science are to be brought into relation with each other. More specialized areas such as "Work with children and youths", "Women's Theology" and "Social Ministries" belong to the training as well. In 2003, the College numbers 43 students, 11 of them female. 24 students take part in a correspondence course in theology while continuing to work, some of them as pastors of BCSA (Baptist Convention of South Africa) churches. The BCC staff numbers 4 full-time lecturers and 8 pastors teaching part-time. Negotiations in view of merging the four theological colleges into a common "Federated College" are being continued.

### ***Central African Republic: Theological Education and Bible School***

After the troubles in 2002/2003 in the Central African Republic (CAR) with the traumatic experience of civil war for the people in one of the poorest countries in Africa, the situation has now somewhat improved in summer 2003.

Work at the Theological College in the capital Bangui could be pursued with only few interruptions, even if parts of the building or even teaching aids were destroyed or stolen. The theological education offered by our partner union has again met with wide appreciation within the Protestant churches of the CAR for its very high standards.

Our partner union UFEB runs two further theological institutions, the Ecole Biblique in Kaga-Bandoro and the Institut Biblique in Kémbé. Both institutions found themselves in rebel-controlled areas. The staff and the students with their families were especially affected by the rebellions. In these institutions, church workers of our partner union UFEB study Biblical knowledge, missiology and, partly, pastoral theology. The students' wives are also offered courses in home economics, or in medicine and nursing. During their husbands' studies many women seize the opportunity of taking literacy courses.

## ***D. Further Education***

All our partner unions work on the further education of their full-time and honorary staff and of their pastors. This is being done in various ways in Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Malawi and the Central African Republic.

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**W**e'd ask you very kindly to support our education work, especially the theological education work, which are of crucial importance to our partner churches. For it's here that the future leadership is being trained, who, as multipliers, will assume responsibility for social and evangelistic ministries in churches and communities.

**Financial resources** needed (per year) are at present:

Schools in	Sierra Leone	€ 8,000
	Cameroon	€ 51,000
	Equatorial Guinea	€ 14,000
Vocational Training in	Cameroon	€ 6,000
	Mozambique	€ 59,000
	Sierra Leone	€ 5,500
Theological Education in	Sierra Leone	€ 16,000
	Mozambique	€ 16,000
	Cameroon	€ 60,000
	Central African Republic	€ 38,000
	South Afrika	€ 85,000

These donations are used to build and maintain school and other buildings used for classes, to award scholarships to pupils and students, to purchase teaching materials and to finance the salaries of national and European staff in the educational area.

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*Primary school at the Grafton refugee camp / Sierra Leone*