

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





Dear Reader,

50 years of the EMS. A jubilee usually provides a welcome opportunity to celebrate and to reflect on the past and look ahead to the future. However, the "Year of Jubilee" in the Bible has a completely different meaning. In the Year of Jubilee, Jesus proclaims "release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind" and the oppressed shall be allowed to go free (Luke 4:18). The EMS wanted to refer specifically to this biblical tradition and apply it to the present day. Hence the Jubilee slogan "Free for the future".

The EMS Jubilee Year started in September 2021 with the Theological Jubilee Conference in Akropong (Ghana), to which the EMS invited young people from all member churches and societies. Delegates at the conference gave us the following words to take home with us:

"The Jubilee Year calls upon Christians to become Christ's ambassadors."

Ambassadors of God's creation, ambassadors of humanity, ambassadors of peace and reconciliation. We have incorporated this initiative as well as the call for "Now is the time to act!" into many of our activities over the past year.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

In retrospect, it was a wise decision not to celebrate the EMS Jubilee in one place but instead to celebrate locally in all the EMS regions: Ghana, Lebanon, Indonesia and India, at the WCC Assembly in Karlsruhe and at the locations where the EMS was founded in Landau and Stuttgart. Many congregations and partnership groups in the EMS member churches also celebrated their own EMS services locally on 18 September 2022.

In the view of the EMS, this is what emerged by the end of the year: "Together we are free!" Together, the 25 churches and five mission societies in the EMS Fellowship have many more opportunities to shape projects and to evolve than they do on their own. It is only together that we can overcome challenges, such as the increase in discrimination against churches and their members in India or in the Middle East. Together we can win people anew for faith. Together we are committed to combating the destruction of God's creation and to working for justice and peace. With this in mind, we also launched the new EMS focus theme "Integrity of Creation" at the end of last year. The first project under this focus is the intercultural Bible reading project "Reading the Bible through the eyes of another", where groups from different countries jointly study biblical texts on creation.

So what will we take with us into the future from the Jubilee Year? The first very tangible result is the "EMS Future Fund". Its aim is to improve future prospects for children and young adults. The second result is that we have strengthened the EMS fellowship.

At many junctures over the past year, we have reflected on the following issues in the churches in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe: What does mission mean today? What challenges will the churches face in the future? You will find the results in the EMS Jubilee Book. There you can also review the evolution of the EMS from a south-west German mission society into an international church fellowship with equal rights for all members.

THE EMS SINGS!

But for me, the most touching example of the dynamic cooperation between the churches in the EMS is the EMS Jubilee Song. We sent this song from Landau to the worldwide EMS Fellowship in January 2022 and asked: "Send us your own version of our Jubilee Song!" The variety, creativity and professionalism of the music videos we received were stunning. The EMS website and the EMS YouTube channel post videos of young and old, of deaf people performing the EMS song with gestures, and even of EMSO, the mascot of the EMS children's programme. "Together we are free!" they sing – and that is the message we take with us from the Jubilee Year. During our Jubilee celebration in Stuttgart, the Bishop of Württemberg put it in a nutshell: "The letters of the EMS acronym stand for 'enthusiastic', 'motivating' and 'surprising". This is what we intend to use as a basis for our work over the next 50 years.

Sectes Her Churoums

Reverend Dr Dieter Heidtmann General Secretary



REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Donations, offerings	1,144,597.20	Project allocations	2,474,389.23
Contributions from members	5,013,599.34	Allocations to reserves	225,000.00
Project refunds and subsidies	167,270.00	Staff costs administration	734,208.22
nterest, dividends	90,899.63	Staff costs programmes	1,854,372.48
Revenues on assets		Staff costs ecumenical	
Rental revenues	92,926.00	co-workers	182,686.56
Refunds and other revenues	117,777.60	Write-offs	51,679.90
Carried forward result previous year	1,483.19	Material costs administration	441,998.95
6,628,5	552.96 EUR	Material costs programmes	663,919.20
		6,628,254.54 EUR	
		Annual surplus	298.42

FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

The third year of the pandemic was declared the year of the "turning point". As the Russian troops invaded their neighbouring country, this did not only have far-reaching consequences but also presented the world community with new challenges. The effects of the Ukraine war were also felt in many countries of the EMS member churches. In Lebanon the war exacerbated the already difficult economic situation; in Indonesia the food supply was disrupted; and Europe had to cope with an energy crisis. Images of war depicting flight, misery and destruction triggered an enormous willingness to donate worldwide. At the same time, inflation reached a new high in many countries. In Germany, too, inflation reached double digits at times and caused the greatest devaluation of the European currency since the reunification.

A LOOK AT THE FIGURES

This situation also made the work of the EMS more difficult. For the first time in many years, the volume of donations declined.

The programmes and projects of the EMS have always been supported by a strong base of donors. We are very grateful that the amounts reaching us through parish collections, confirmation donations or mailings have remained largely constant and that the Waldensian Church in Italy once again supported our work last year to the tune of €300,000.

The EMS Future Fund introduced on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the EMS also met with enthusiastic support. The aim of the EMS Future Fund is to improve the education prospects of children all over the world. More than €110,000 were received in donations. It was also encouraging that the share of online donations rose thanks to targeted marketing activities. As a result, more than €25,000 were donated. However, there was a sharp decline in the number of large single donations which represented a major share of the volume of donations in previous years. The decline in this area was the reason why revenues in "donations, offerings" fell considerably.

Compared to previous years, fees from the 30 EMS members – five mission societies and 25 churches from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East – remained almost the same at around €4.1 million. This accounted for over 60 percent of earnings. It is a strong sign of confidence in the partnership work of the EMS whenever members stand together in the face of several crises happening at the same time.

MORE PROGRAMME WORK AGAIN

Nevertheless, the overall eight percent drop in revenues combined with inflation-related cost increases posed a challenge for the EMS. There were significant, unforeseeable increases especially in the areas of purchasing and travel. For example, the costs of international flights rose by up to 40 percent in some cases. For this reason, too, online communication channels were further expanded and increasingly used last year. This achieved savings in conference and travel costs.

After a forced interruption due to Covid, last year finally saw more programme work in the areas of women and gender, international study and the children's programme as well as the volunteer exchange. In total 15 North-South volunteers and two volunteers from the South-North programme could work in institutions of EMS member churches last year.

Fortunately, the EMS succeeded in re-staffing various posts in the departments in 2022. At the same time, this led to an increase of around nine percent in staff costs. Overall, the EMS is able to report a balanced annual financial statement for 2022. The reserves were increased by around €225,000 by utilising all the means of savings at our disposal.



The international ProPro Committee of the EMS Mission Council decides on project applications.



SECURING THE FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

In 2022, we again succeeded in securing funding for our project and programme work. We see this as an important means of further strengthening the EMS Fellowship network, alleviating the impacts of injustice and improving opportunities for the disadvantaged. A total of almost €2.5 million were invested in projects and programmes last year. Among them are 51 major projects submitted by our members and funded to the tune of €1.4 million in what is we refer to as the EMS ProPro Main Approval Procedure. The decision on which projects are funded is made by the ProPro Committee composed of six delegates from various regions of the EMS member churches. Based on this procedure, more than 50 percent of funds went to school and vocational training and almost 25 percent to health work. The money is used to support schools, boarding homes, children's homes, hospitals and health stations run by church organisations within the EMS network. This also benefits many children and adults with physical and mental disabilities.

In addition, the EMS supported a number of minor projects in 2022 to the tune of around €110,000. This money was used to fund projects for the empowerment of women, securing livelihoods, chaplaincy in prisons, work with HIV/AIDS sufferers or supporting disadvantaged groups, such as the Dalits who are

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 5

marginalised from the Indian caste system. Regarding the remaining funds from the Corona Relief Fund, it was decided to use them where it would particularly benefit women and children who are experiencing increased domestic violence and disadvantage as a result of the pandemic situation.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND ACTION

For many decades, the EMS has also been funding projects that promote environmental awareness and address our often unsustainable behaviour towards the Creation. Despite our awareness of the impending climate collapse, we all too often fail to take the action that is needed. This is where the EMS is taking very concrete steps in the right direction. Since last year, the EMS has taken part in what is known as the EMASplus certification process, which documents and verifies ecological, social and financial sustainability. This process also involves the refurbishment of the EMS office building in Stuttgart based on ecologically sustainable methods. The refurbishment measures are expected to be completed in 2023.

OUTLOOK

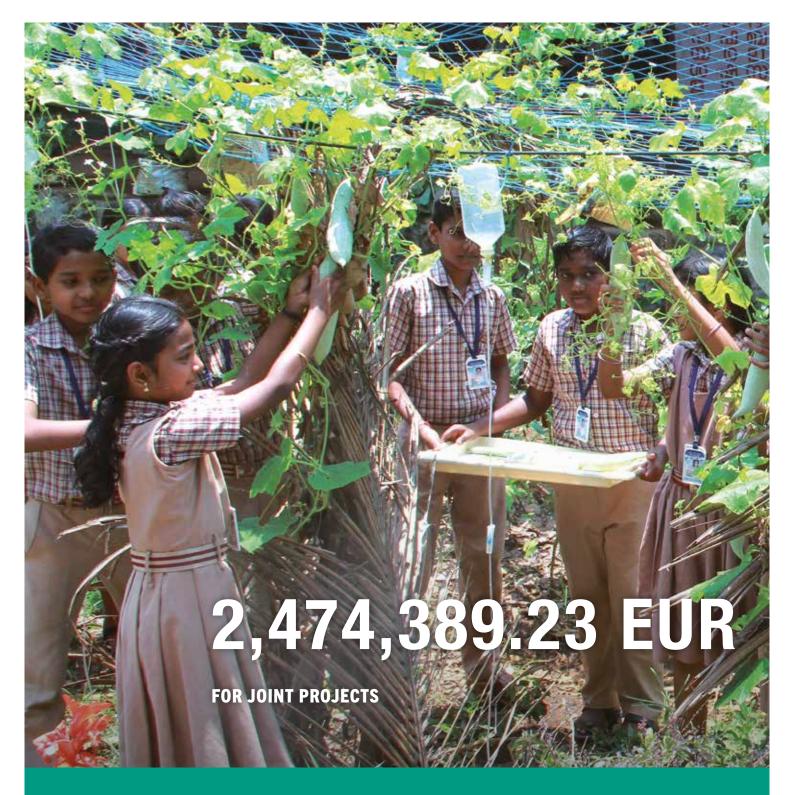
It is already becoming obvious that the years ahead will require great efforts on our part. Like many other mission societies in Germany, the EMS is also dependent on funding from its member churches. First and foremost are the German member churches which finance their contributions through church tax revenues. The high numbers of people leaving the church will ultimately require a financial readjustment in the not-too-distant future. The EMS will also feel the effects of this. This process has already begun. It will be the task of societies such as the EMS to maintain awareness of ecumenical requirements in the churches. Christian faith and Christian action can only survive in an environment of ecumenical cooperation spanning the globe. This statement must be constantly repeated and emphasised.

Rudolf Bausch General Manager



EMS PROJECT FUNDING BY COUNTRY*





FUNDING AREAS FOR PROJECTS 2022*

53% school and vocational education 23% diaconia

9% JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION8% THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

4% SPREADING THE GOSPEL
3% POVERTY REDUCTION

DONATIONS THAT HAVE AN IMPACT

Through the diversity of its project and programme work, EMS intends to make its contribution to a world without hunger and poverty, without war and violence, in which all people can lead a self-determined life in dignity.

Last year, the EMS funded a large number of projects and programmes to the tune of just under €2.5 million. The funds reached disadvantaged children and young adults, orphans, elderly people, prisoners and the sick, as well as church staff and people starting up their own businesses. The projects ranged from "Green Schools" in India to peace initiatives in Ghana, interfaith study programmes in Japan and sustainable community development in Indonesia.



All projects are described at www.ems-online.org/en/support



PROJECT EXAMPLES

ASIEN / SOUTH KOREA

FUNDING AREA: Health work/education **PROJECT PARTNER:** Diakonia Sisterhood

Many people in South Korea are still affected by poverty. This is where the commitment of the Korean Diakonia Sisterhood comes in. Its ministry combines following Jesus with providing direct practical help. The Protestant sisters are mainly active in the poor districts of the South Korean port city of Mokpo. They provide food for sick and low-income people, single parents, refugee families and senior citizens, and pay for medicines and medical treatment. They often include grandparents who have to raise their grandchildren whose parents have died, emigrated or are unemployed. The sisters support them with scholarships and help the children with school issues. They are assisted in their work by a network of volunteers. Together with the Mokpo municipality, they have also set up a number of social stations.

AFRICA / GHANA

FUNDING AREA: Securing livelihoods

PROJECT PARTNERS: Presbyterian Church of Ghana

Women in Ghana still suffer economic and gender discrimination far more often than men despite legislation granting them equal rights in education and employment. They receive lower wages and are exposed to violence and discrimination. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) has therefore developed a programme to empower women. The idea behind this is that, by raising sheep, goats or pigs, the women not only ensure a healthy diet for their own families, but also help to provide their region with a better food supply. At the same time, the women can increase their earnings and ultimately become more independent. Each woman who participates in the programme receives two animals to raise. The women learn how to tend the animals, work together with local veterinarians and exchange information among themselves about problems and difficulties. "Helping people to help themselves" is the motto of the project. The PCG workers in charge of the project supervise and support the participants for a period of two years. After that, the women continue their small businesses on their own.



BOOSTING EMS EDUCATION PROJECTS

EMS has also made use of its 50th anniversary to secure the future of children by setting up the EMS Future Fund. This provides support focused on children and young adults all over the world. The Future Fund opens up real and sustainable prospects for children and young people, whether it is fair educational opportunities, safe refuge centres or help for families in need.

The fund is currently financing 13 educational projects of EMS member churches in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The projects provide girls and boys in India and Indonesia with opportunities to receive a good school education. They open up a worthwhile future for children with disabilities in Jordan and South Africa. In Lebanon and Indonesia, young people receive vocational training so that they can earn their own living. The Future Fund was advertised last year in various publications, at events and on social media. More than €110,000 were channelled into the account of the Future Fund by EMS member churches and associations as well as many private individuals.

A special event that took place at the Church of St Leonhard in Stuttgart last year was the benefit piano matinee featuring the renowned Indonesian pianist Jongky Goei. On 23 October 2022, he presented works by Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin together with two other musicians and delighted an audience of around 170 visitors. In total, more than €1,700 were collected that morning for the benefit of an Indonesian EMS project. The project supports children with disabilities who have a particularly hard existence on the island of Sulawesi. In Indonesia, a disability is often still seen as a "punishment from God". The project staff help affected families with education and support services and campaign for the rights of these children to receive medical care and education.

Learn more about the EMS Future Fund: www.ems-online.org/future-fund







50 YEARS OF THE EMS – CELEBRATIONS AND REVIEW

The EMS celebrated its foundation exactly 50 years ago on 16 September 2022 with a thanksgiving service and a gala evening. The two events were the highlight of the EMS Jubilee Year which began in September 2021 with a kick-off worship service and a theological conference in Ghana. The slogan of the Jubilee Year was "Free for the future", based on the Bible verse "For Freedom Christ has set us free." (Galatians 5:1). The Jubilee slogan is also the title of the EMS Jubilee Book. It was publicly launched for the first time at a reception that took place during the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Karlsruhe on 5 September 2022. The book containing some 50 articles by international authors reviews five decades of EMS history. During this time, the EMS has

evolved into a "truly conciliar, post-colonial, ecumenical Christian fellowship", said WCC General Secretary Prof. Dr loan Sauca in his welcome address. After a historical review by former EMS general secretaries, one chapter expands on future visions of the EMS and includes the appeal by young people: "Now is the time to act!" Chapters three to five give in-depth insights into the way the EMS sees itself as an Evangelical, solidarity-based mission society.



The book contains 284 pages and is published in German and English. It can be ordered through the EMS Shop by offering a donation. www.ems-online.org/shop



EMS JUBILEE SONG WORLDWIDE JOIN-IN CAMPAIGN

It all started with an idea: music connects people. The result was a song composed especially for the Jubilee. It was sent on its world tour in January 2022. Congregations and groups in the EMS Fellowship were invited to use their creativity to arrange the song in their own way. We asked them to submit their recordings in the form of a video.

Among those that took part were choirs from Germany and Ghana, a South African trombone choir, Indian dancers, soloists, students with a corona tile zoom version, children, adults and even a deaf group from Indonesia. A total of 20 videos with a wide variety of song interpretations are posted on the EMS YouTube channel. A 5-minute video medley shows the impressive diversity of mission in action today.

The Jubilee Song entitled "Together we are free" is a song about similarities and differences and about a world in which we are stronger together. To make it easier for interested groups to produce their own version of the song, the EMS posted the music score, lyrics, playbacks and a karaoke version on its website.



All videos, materials and the medley are posted online at: www.ems-online.org/service

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 11

EMS GENERAL MEETING IN ARNOLDSHAIN





The EMS General Meeting, which is the main body of the EMS, took place in Arnoldshain in southern Hesse on 15 to 18 September 2022. Delegates from the 30 members come together every two years to decide on the focal themes of the content and the strategic direction of the association.

TWO NEW EMS MEMBERS

The General Meeting also approved full EMS membership to the Church of North India (CNI) and the Christian Church in West Sulawesi (GKSB, Indonesia) after they had completed a guest membership lasting two years. The admission of the two churches was the first time in 35 years that the international fellowship had expanded.

EMPOWERING YOUNG ADULTS

More environmental protection, more international cooperation, more participation. These were the demands presented to the General Meeting by the EMS Youth Network. Specifically, the youth delegates called for the establishment of a working group to develop a sustainability strategy for the EMS Fellowship. In addition, they wanted more support for international networking and more participation in EMS bodies.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH THE BIBLE

At the General Meeting, the EMS launched its three-year focus theme "Integrity of Creation". The campaign is centred around the project "Reading the Bible through the eyes of another", which focuses on our responsibility towards Creation. An international project team selected seven passages from the Bible and produced materials for the Bible reading groups. The intention is to broaden global viewpoints through an international exchange between tandem groups from different countries in order to shed new light on our responsibility towards Creation and discover new initiatives for taking appropriate action. For more details go to:

NEW PRESIDIUM

After holding office for four years, Klaus Rieth stepped down from all EMS bodies as Chairman of the General Meeting. He is succeeded by the 64-year-old theologian Detlev Knoche, Senior Church Councillor of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau. His two deputies are Anne Heitmann, Head of the Ecumenical Department of the Protestant Church in Baden, and Dr Habib Badr, Senior Pastor of the National Evangelical Church in Beirut (Lebanon). The three-member Presidium chairs the General Meeting as well as the Mission Council, represents the EMS externally and ensures that decisions are implemented.

ems-online.org/bibleproject



Detlev Knoche, Dr Habib Badr, Anne Heitmann (from left to right)



ECUMENICAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME (EYVP)

Every year, volunteers from Germany can apply until 31 October. Deployment starts in the summer of the following year. For information on the application procedure go to

www.ems-online.org/eyvp

GOING ABROAD WITH THE EMS

ECUMENICAL CO-OPERATION

A living ecumenism needs exchange and encounter. Anyone who is interested has the chance to gain intercultural experience as ecumenical co-worker in a church of the EMS Fellowship. Pastor Rafael Dreyer, for example, was an EMS ecumenical co-worker at the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) for five years and lived with his wife and two children in Accra. He returned to Germany in October 2022. Besides assignments lasting several years, the EMS also arranges short-term assignments.

www.ems-online.org/ecumenicalworker

INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMMES

Students acquire skills in intercultural and interfaith dialogue by taking part in international EMS study programmes. This not only helps them gain a better understanding of their own cultural identity but also of their own faith. Co-operations already exist with renowned universities in Japan and Lebanon. In 2022, discussions on how this co-operation could be further expanded were started with the Henry Martyn Institute (HMI), an interfaith centre for reconciliation and research based in Hyderabad (India). For more details on EMS study programmes go to:

www.ems-online.org/studyprogrammes

17 VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED

After an interruption caused by to the Covid pandemic, volunteers under the EMS Ecumenical Youth Volunteer Programme (EYVP) were again deployed in 2022. The EYVP offers young people between the ages of 18 and 28 a variety of meaningful opportunities to work in institutions of EMS member churches - from working in schools and kindergartens to caring for people with disabilities or helping with agricultural projects. After intensive preparation in three seminars, the 15 volunteers of the North-South Exchange set out in August to broaden their horizons for six or ten months and get to know the people and culture in Ghana, Jordan, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea. A young man from Ghana and a young woman from Malaysia completed their sixmonth voluntary service in Germany in 2022. In the EYVPblog (only in German) the volunteers reported on what they have experienced in their host countries.

www.oefp-blogs.ems-online.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 13

WOMEN ARE IMAGES OF GOD

Violence against women and girls is also an important issue in EMS member churches. In its position paper on genderbased violence, the EMS International Women's Network called for a definitive zero-tolerance attitude towards all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Dr Kerstin Neumann, EMS Head of Department for Women and Gender in collaboration with the Women's Network, compiled the handbook "Violence against Women and Girls: What we can do" and presented it at the EMS General Meeting in 2022. It contains important information and links for real help, "best practice" examples from Africa, Asia and Europe, biblical and theological contemplations as well as liturgical material for exchange in groups or for personal reading. The 40-page publication can be downloaded free of charge at:

www.ems-online.org/ourvoices



"Some men think that because woman was created after man in God's act of creation, they are worth less. But women are not God's second-class beings. They are just as gifted and have many abilities and capabilities to achieve God's purpose."

Rebecca Abladey, 57, secondary school teacher, Ghana

WORKING TOWARDS A CHILD-FRIENDLY CHURCH

Children are our future. They should feel accepted in the church and be allowed to contribute their points of view.

Since last year, an international team from the worldwide EMS Fellowship has been working on exactly what this implies in terms of theology, education, liturgy, children's rights and the design of spaces for children. The "Childfriendly Church", the new focus theme of the EMS children's programme YOU+ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD, takes into account the voices and wishes of children. A new workbook on the preservation of the Creation will also supplement existing offers for children's groups on the topics of "diversity" and "peace". For more information on the EMS children's programme, the elephant Emso and the bird Pipit go to:

ems-friends.org/en



CHURCHES AND MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE EMS FELLOWSHIP THE WORLD OF EMS **AFRICA** GHANA: Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) **SOUTH AFRICA: Moravian Church** in South Africa (MCSA) **EUROPE**

MIDDLE EAST

- JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST:
- The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East
- **LEBANON**: National Evangelical Church of Beirut (NECB)

ASIA

- INDIA: Church of South India (CSI) Church of North India (CNI)
- INDONESIA: Christian Church in South Sulawesi (GKSS) Christian Church in West Sulawesi (GKSB) Christian Protestant Church in Bali (GKPB) Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera (GMIH) Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa (GMIM) Protestant Church in South-East Sulawesi (GEPSULTRA) Protestant Indonesian Church in Donggala (GPID) Protestant Indonesian Church in Luwu (GPIL) Toraja Church (GT) Toraja Mamasa Church (GTM)
- JAPAN: United Church of Christ in Japan (KYODAN)
- KOREA: Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

9 GERMANY:

Basel Mission – German Branch (BMDZ) Evangelical Association for the Schneller Schools (EVS) Evangelical Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck (EKKW) Evangelical Church of the Palatinate (EKP) Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg (ELK-WUE) German East Asia Mission (DOAM) Moravian Church Moravian Mission Society in Germany (HMH) Protestant Church in Baden (EKIBA) Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau (EKHN)

SWITZERLAND: Basel Mission (BM)

COOPERATIONS

†) China: China Christian Council (CCC), Amity Foundation

THROUGH BMDZ AND BASEL MISSION:

- CHINA, HONGKONG: Tsung Tsin Mission (TTM)
- **CAMEROON**: Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC)
- MALAYSIA: Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM) Protestant Church in Sabah (PCS)
- NIGERIA: Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN)
- **SOUTH SUDAN:** Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS)

EVANGELISCHE MISSION IN SOLIDARITÄT (EMS)

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www.ems-online.org/en www.facebook.com/missioninsolidarity IMPRINT: Editor: Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS)

Editorial team: Dr Dieter Heidtmann (Responsible editor as defined by the Baden-Württemberg Press Law), Ulrike Pfab, Stefan Schaal // Design: büro für visuelles, Stuttgart // Print: MHD Druck und Service GmbH, Harmsstr. 6, 29320 Hermannsburg // Circulation: 900 copies // 5-2023

PICTURE CREDITS: Cover: EMS/Reimold // p. 2: EMS/ Heidtmann // p. 3: Ralf Stieber // p. 4: EMS/Edwards-Raudonat // p. 5: EMS/Schaal, EMS/Gräbe // p. 6: EMS/Lohnes, büro für visuelles/istockphoto // p. 7: CSI // p. 8: PCG // p. 9: Unsplash/Nikhita S // p. 10: EMS/Benjamin, EMS/ Reimold (2), büro für visuelles/istockphoto// p. 11: EMS (2) // p. 12: EMS/Reimold (2) // p. 13: EMS/Harner // p. 14: EMS, Gert Albrecht // p. 15: büro für visuelles/istockphoto // p. 16: BM, BMDZ, DOAM, EVS, HMH, EMS/Reimold

MISSION SOCIETIES IN THE EMS











PUBLICATIONS BY THE EMS AND ITS MISSION SOCIETIES

THE EVANGELICAL MISSION IN SOLIDARITY (EMS)

The EMS is an international fellowship of Protestant Churches and mission societies. It represents the concerns of about 25 million believers in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. All members of the EMS work together on an equal footing.

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