



Evangelical Mission
in Solidarity



**VENTURE
INTO A NEW
BEGINNING**

Annual Report 2018

IMPRINT

EVANGELICAL MISSION IN SOLIDARITY (EMS)

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VENTURE INTO A NEW BEGINNING

It's amazing, despite some internal turbulences and the General Assembly in December, which brought delegates of all EMS members to Neustadt/Palatinate, 2018 has set new impulses.

We have grown as an international fellowship. The General Assembly discussed topics and concerns, not only during the four days it convened but also at the biennial meetings of the Mission Council. We call this "Sharing of Life Concerns" and very often it results in the Secretariat receiving assignments.

Such as the request to create a Code of Conduct to prevent sexual abuse which should apply at all events. A working group dealt with the question of what such a Code of Conduct should look like for the EMS. It presented its initial results to the General Assembly. The clear appeal by the women's advisory board and the women's pre-conference is to go beyond just talking and to make it a continuous practice to promote intercultural awareness.

One milestone of the year 2018 is a new form of "sharing" within the EMS Fellowship – project partnership. The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) has adopted a partnership for a diaconic institution of the Mora-

vian Church in South Africa (MCSA). This is a sign of affinity between the two churches and it came about through the EMS, explained General Secretary Jae-Cheon LEE during his visit to Elim Home near Cape Town. Elim Home is a residential care home for children with disabilities. Hopefully, this understanding of "sharing", that could not be any more ecumenical, will not remain an isolated case.

Three catastrophes shattered the world of the EMS in 2018. A flood in Kerala (India), an earthquake, tsunami and soil liquefaction in Sulawesi (Indonesia), and a fire at the Wupperthal mission station (South Africa). Thousands of people lost their lives. Countless families were left with absolutely nothing. Prayers and silent thoughts radiate a force which affinity spreads and strengthens all over the world. We were also able to help alleviate the worst of the suffering by donations. Close contacts to our member churches and the EMS network of 'communicators' were quick to send up-to-the-minute reports. We were also able to assure our donors that their contributions went straight to where they were needed the most and that their distribution was well organised.

And finally, since the end of 2018, the Mission Council has grown to

include two advisory voices from young adults. This is a valuable addition.

In October, a group of 19 experts evaluated the very popular Bible programme "Reading the Bible through the Eyes of Another". We hope you enjoy the exciting conference proceedings in book form.

On behalf of all colleagues at the Secretariat, I would like to express my thanks to you all for your trust and support for our work.

Dr. Kerstin Neumann
Acting General Secretary



Photo: EMS/Lohnes

SHARING AND GIVING AS EQUALS

An appraisal after over 20 years in the EMS Mission Council

On 28 January 1972, representatives of the five regional churches in the south west of Germany, the Moravian Church, the mission societies of the Basel Mission/ Basel Mission German Branch, the German East Asia Mission, the Evangelical Association for the Syrian Orphanage and the Moravian Mission Society, set up the “Evangelical Mission Society in South-West Germany” (EMS). They also contributed their many decades of relationships with churches in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to the new association.

Rainer Lamotte (Protestant Churches in the Palatinate and member of the Executive Committee of the German East Asia Mission, left) had already sat on the first international EMS Mission Council in 1995.



Photo: EMS/Reimold

Dr Ketut Waspada, former Bishop of the Christian Protestant Church in Bali (GKPB) belonged to the EMS Mission Synod from 1988 to 1992 and since 2012, he has sat on the international Mission Council of the restructured EMS. Both stepped down from the Council at the General Assembly which took place in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse in 2018.

■ *Mr Lamotte, due to its history, mission is a difficult term in our country. What does mission mean in the EMS today?*

In its initial years, it was taken for granted that the EMS Mission Synod negotiated in German. Representatives of international member churches sat on the side or in the gallery without any rights to speak or vote. Their only contributions were limited to pronounce greetings from their churches. However, in the 1980s, voices started to be heard demanding equality of rights. At the Jerusalem Forum in 1991, which was convened under the theme of “God made no difference between us”, two delegates from each of the churches and mission societies were invited to consult how the EMS could be merged into a true fellowship. Reverend Isaac Fokuo from Ghana was one of those who continuously

asked, “When can we finally have a say and really participate?”

■ *How did this come about, Mr Lamotte?*

Since it appeared that full membership of international churches was not possible according to German association law, it was decided in 1994 to expand the 18-member German Mission Council by adding 17 delegates from the international churches by changing the constitution, giving them seats and voting rights. In 1995, the first international Mission Council started its work – with English as its working language. This was a significant step forward then from now we all consulted each other in a language which was not a mother tongue for any of us and which many of us did not command with any certainty. For example, there were always translations into Indonesian.

■ *Bishop Waspada, how did you feel about these changes?*

At the beginning of the 1980s, I studied theology in Germany and later, as pastor in Freiburg, I built good relationships to the churches in south-west Germany. In 1988, I was elected Bishop of the Christian Protestant Church in Bali (GKPB) and so I continued my contacts with the EMS. Up until the Jeru-

salem Forum in 1991, the international churches were not on an equal footing with the German churches. We were only “receivers”. We felt cut off and left out from decision-making, even if cooperation was based on a lot of trust. This was followed by several intermediate steps but it took until 2012 before all members of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity – which by then had been restructured and renamed – could enjoy full membership and receive truly equal rights.

■ *What was the main difference, Bishop Waspada?*

In 2012, when the new constitution and the new name came into force, the German churches relinquished their predominant position. They used to pay and still pay the highest contributions towards financing missions and projects, but they gave up their power. The international churches were very surprised about this decision. They give what they have and they truly live the feeling of sharing and solidarity. For example, the Indonesian churches pay much less but have the same voting rights. The Mission Council now works differently – it has become more open. But on the other hand, as international churches we sometimes fall back into our role as “little brother”. This is because giving has something to do with self-awareness – and that’s

something we don’t have enough of.

■ *In your opinion, Mr Lamotte, what challenges does the EMS face today?*

The threat from outside lies in the ever smaller funds and the ever growing funding needs. Especially in the German churches, contributions will diminish in the medium term – and these are the biggest payers. The style of the meetings is still very German – it should be better adapted to the needs of international members. Of course, a good opportunity is the election of the EMS Presidium and Mission Council for the ongoing legislature of 2019 to 2024. Ironically, after the discussion we held about gender equality, staffing was more unbalanced than ever before. In fact, it was a scandal to elect a “triumvirate” with open eyes. Three men in top management posts!

It is another enormous challenge to integrate youth and young adults. We must learn to listen more attentively to their ideas and interests and take greater notice of them!

■ *Where do you see the EMS at the moment, Bishop Waspada?*

In the past six years, we have helped each other making great advances. We have learnt to share



responsibility and tasks and we have exchanged staff. But, in my opinion, we are still in the starting blocks of internationalisation. The organisation is still very German. Only very few co-workers at the Secretariat come from other countries. At the moment, I am unclear where the EMS is going. We should wait another election period before making an evaluation.

*The interview was conducted by
Regina Karasch-Böttcher*

WORKSHOPS ON COMMUNICATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY IN CHENNAI, INDIA

Seven public relations officers from EMS churches in India, Indonesia, South Korea, Ghana, South Africa and Germany met in Chennai in South India in March 2018 to discuss and share the possibilities of networking their work. Although their general situation, tasks and requirements are totally different, they have one thing in common: they want to draw people's attention to the work of their churches and the EMS. At the end of 2016, the communication network of EMS churches was constituted at Stellenbosch in South Africa. Now the meeting in Chennai convened to plan joint activities for the coming years.

The lively five-day workshop led by Regina Karasch-Böttcher also enjoyed practical encounters. For example, visits to an old people's home and a school for children with disabilities, both run by the Church of South India (CSI). The group came to the conclusion, "We collect donations for joint missions in the congregations – why can't we also do this for missions of the EMS Fellowship? How can we raise funds by improved public relations work? All churches deal with topics such as climate change, unfair land ownership and human trafficking and they could become the subject of joint campaigns!"

Working visits and practical training belong to the tasks of the communicators' network. The EMS General Assembly in December 2018 was the first which was accompanied by an international media team. However, the exchange of information is the core task of the network. "In our congregations, people know very little about the EMS," declared workshop participants. In future, a pool of news, reports, images, video clips and worship service modules will help to create awareness at congregation level that they belong to the world-wide EMS Fellowship.

One possibility of improving the integration of communicator activities within their own churches was proposed by the head of the CSI Communication department, Rev. Sunil Raj Philip, at the end of the international workshop. He had invited experienced photographers and interested new entrants from all 24 dioceses to a photo workshop at his church. Thomas Lohnes, professional photographer from Pfungstadt, Germany, offered a

practice-oriented advanced training course in portrait, group, street and project photography and in digital image processing.

Sunil Raj Philip was extremely delighted with the results of the two-day photo workshop. "Now we have qualified photographers in every diocese. This will benefit the CSI at all levels – as well as the EMS as a whole!" This is exactly what happened only a few months later during the floods caused by monsoon rains in Kerala. Photographers from the CSI were quick to supply the communication network with reliable, up-to-date pictures and information (see page 7).

Regina Karasch-Böttcher



Photo: EMS/Lohnes

FLOOD DISASTER IN KERALA

EMS members demonstrate their solidarity

The worst floods for almost 100 years claimed over 400 lives in the south of India in August 2018. The areas affected were the states of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. At least a million people are homeless. Severe monsoon rains caused landslides and numerous rivers to burst their banks. Houses, villages and roads were flooded and destroyed; thousands of people have lost all they ever owned.

Before the catastrophic situation was even made public in the media, the Church of South India (CSI) had already started an emergency aid programme. Church leaders visited the region and CSI teams were quick on the scene to distribute water, food, clothing and urgently needed medical care. Traumatized victims also received pastoral counselling. Churches and community centres were turned into emergency accommodation to take in the many homeless.

A special role was played by the so-called “cyber warriors”, young people in the CSI who had set up an emergency call centre at the CSI Counselling Centre in Kottayam. They made contact with people in need over a specially created Facebook group called “Kerala Flood Rescue Facilitating Group”. They

collected information about survivors, localised them on Google Maps and passed on this information to rescue teams. They also informed distant relatives or families who had been torn apart during the catastrophe about where their relatives were.

After the floods had receded, the team switched their focus to informing voluntary helpers about specific needs for medicine, food and clothing at the aid centres as many people had been forced to leave behind all their possessions when they fled from the floods.

After the acute emergency aid phase, the CSI started to provide people with support to repair and renovate their damaged homes, schools, churches and agricultural land. Half of the population affected works in agriculture and had lost

their entire annual harvest in the flooded areas. Reconstruction will take years.

Many members of the EMS answered the CSI’s call for help and supported the church with a total of over €90,000 for emergency aid and sustainable reconstruction.

Regina Karasch-Böttcher



Photo: Shishir Kurian/CSI

Photo: EJW-Weltdienst



March 2018

Africa Day

“A Marshall Plan with Africa” – This is the slogan of the Africa Day which took place at the EMS Secretariat in March 2018. The event was jointly organised by the EJW World Service of the Evangelical Youth Office in Wuerttemberg and by the Basel Mission German Branch (BMDZ). Speakers Joy Alemazung and Gisela Schneider captivated their audience with their talks and invited those present to critically review their positions. ■

March 2018 Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Arusha

In March 2018, churches from six continents met at the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Arusha, Tanzania. Over 900 delegates, observers and other participants had come to debate how Christians perceived the theme of “Called to transforming discipleship” in our modern times. The conference was also attended by delegates and observers from EMS member churches and the Secretariat in Stuttgart. ■



Photo: Albin Hilbert/WCC

June 2018

Visit by Suzan Mark Zira

Suzan Mark Zira, head of Gender Work at the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria / EYN), visited the EMS at the invitation of the Basel Mission German Branch (BMDZ). She reported about her work with women in Nigeria who were forced to flee from Boko Haram. Herself a survivor of an attack by the terrorist militia, she helps traumatised women to deal with their traumas. ■



Photo: EMS/Benjamin

June 2018 Visit by the Diakonia Sisterhood

Representatives of the Diakonia Sisterhood from Mokpo (South Korea) were guests at the EMS in June 2018. For over 35 years, the sisters have looked after people in social distress. Today, the main focus of their committed work is elderly people. Poverty in old age remains a growing social challenge in South Korea.

Photo: Mission 21/Miriam Glass



Photo: EMS/School



September 2018

Emso visits Bishop July

"Welcome, Emso! How wonderful it is that you are paying me a visit!" A visibly delighted Bishop of the regional church opened the door of the Superior Church Councillor's home in Stuttgart to the EMS elephant. Dr Frank Otfried July was thrilled to receive the new publication of the EMS children's programme which Emso proudly handed over to him. The booklet entitled "YOU+ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD" was developed for children at Sunday school and primary school. It is available in German, English, Indonesian and Korean. ■ <https://friends-blog.ems-online.org/>

October 2018 International cooperation

The EMS promotes the partnership between the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and the Moravian Church in South Africa (MSCA). Cooperation between the EMS member churches focuses on support for the "Elim Home" in South Africa which looks after children and young adults with disabilities. Representatives of the PROK, MSCA and EMS met in South Africa on this occasion.

Photo: EMS/Lohnes



November 2018

Ordination of Rima Nasrallah

On 11 November 2018, Dr Rima Nasrallah was installed in her new office as pastor of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut (NECB). Dr Nasrallah is the first woman to be ordained by the Lebanese EMS member church, the NECB – and is the third female pastor to be ordained in the entire Middle East. ■

Photo: EMS/Benjamin



December 2018 Brochure "A Wealth of Faith" (Reichtum des Glaubens)

The brochure "A Wealth of Faith" was published in December 2018 and describes the work of all 28 member churches and mission societies in the EMS. It contains informative texts and numerous photos, presenting an authentic image of Christian life and witness all over the world. The 64-page brochure in A4 format is in two languages throughout, German and English. It is available free of charge at info@ems-online.org. ■



TAKING THE FUTURE INTO OUR OWN HANDS

On 28 September 2018, an earthquake, tsunami and liquefied soil destroyed in a few minutes what people in the Donggala region had built up over decades on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

But it was not only the loss of possessions that hit people hard: far more than 4,000 people lost their lives. Almost every family mourns the loss of a family member. Countless people were swept out to sea by the surging waters or were buried under the mudslides. Particularly hard hit are congregation members of the Indonesian Protestant Church in Donggala, the Toraja and the Toraja Mamasa Church who are all members of the EMS. The day after the disaster, the nine member churches started organising emergency aid via the “Indonesian Regional Forum” and almost 100 trucks loaded with water, food, blankets, tarpaulins, medicine and clothing were dispatched. All this was distributed

to church communities by the rapidly set-up coordination offices. Soup kitchens also provided people with hot meals. The professional emergency measures were available to all those affected in Palu and Donggala.

Another challenge for both the churches and the Muslim communities was the crisis of faith which kept on surfacing. “What’s wrong with me? What have I done wrong? Was our faith not strong enough? Why are we being punished?” Some people attempted to use this uncertainty for their own purposes by citing passages from the Bible or the Qur’an on the “true causes” of the catastrophe, namely apostasy, loss of faith, affinity to the wrong religious community, the decay in moral standards – in fact as a punishment by God for human wrongdoings. Both the Christian congregations and the Muslim communities had to compete with radical forces who tried to infiltrate and entice people away from their true faith – certainly an enormous challenge for pastors and imams alike.

In the time after the catastrophe, logistic support by the national Protestant Communion of Churches

(CCI) became ever more important. It ensured the dispatch of further medical teams and pastoral counselling for the traumatised people. At the end of the year, funds provided by the Regional Forum were distributed to farmers to purchase seeds mainly for maize and vegetables, fertilizers and agricultural equipment. The first crop in the region will soon be harvested. It was no longer possible to plant rice.

By December, the congregations were able to celebrate Christmas service, mostly together with neighbouring congregations. For many, this was a sign of hope and a significant step away from a situation of emergency and towards a “We survived and now we must take the future into our own hands”.

All this was only possible by the willingness of churches in Indonesia and international members to donate funds. In the end, it was also made possible by the large amount of donations from churches in Germany and the EMS.

Hans Heinrich



Photo: EMS/Heinrich

GRATEFUL FOR LIGHT AND SOLID GROUND

Enjelita Hariawang will remember the events of 28 September 2018 for the rest of her life, when the earth shook the town of Palu and the ground beneath her feet started to liquefy. The youth worker at the congregation of Getsemani was heading a bible camp with over 100 children who had just started school.

Friday was supposed to be a special day for the first graders as well as for myself as I was responsible for the bible camp that was to begin with a worship service at 19.00. Suddenly, we were shaken by a violent earthquake. Everyone starting shouting. We all panicked trying to leave the building. In the end, this was only possible through the windows as the doors had jammed.

Some ran to the sports field, away from the hall and from the parts falling from the roof, I ran to the road with a group. Then all at once, the road started to move under our feet. The asphalt broke open and mud streamed and erupted out of the cracks. Suddenly, we felt the ground soften. We jumped back and forth, trying to find solid ground. I heard cries for help. One

of my friends did not make it. She was sinking but we managed to grab hold of her and pull her out. Bit by bit, the buildings all around us started to disappear. Rice and maize fields flowed past us. The church next to the assembly hall was swept away and collapsed. Everyone shouted: "God, forgive us!" For us, it was the end of the world. We kept on running to the road over pieces of asphalt that were breaking into smaller and smaller pieces. Nothing looked like solid ground any more. Everything seemed to be liquefied. Some fell into the mud. We were able to pull a few out of it.

At last, we reached a piece of land with trees. At least, it felt like solid ground. After some time, the mud flow slowed down and solidified. Carefully, we went over to a larger

piece of ground that seemed to be solid and dry. There, we realised it must have been the concrete base of an overturned house. We stayed there because by now, darkness had fallen. Then we saw torches and heard noises. We shouted for help. But then we realised it was only people who were also trying to save themselves. We started doubting our faith but we kept encouraging each other. It started to thunder and there were flashes of lightning but thankfully there was no rain. Finally, the clouds parted and the moon came out. We were so grateful for the light.

When dawn finally came, people arrived from the neighbouring village of Langalessa to help us out. They had set up an emergency centre near the mosque. It was very touching the way they looked after us. They brought 50 participants to safety. But under the plastic sheets there were also many dead. Towards midday, the police accompanied us home. We know that over 60 participants at the bible camp were never found again.

Enjelita Hariawang



Photo: EMS/Heinrich

“I RECEIVED A DEEP PEACE FROM GOD”

In 2018, Marie Dunker completed a six-month voluntary service with the EMS Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme (EYVP) at the Toraja Mamasa Church (GTM) on Sulawesi, Indonesia. She worked mainly in children and youth work for the church in the town of Mamasa.

■ *Mrs Dunker, during your voluntary service, Sulawesi was shaken by earthquakes for several weeks. What did you notice of all this in Mamasa?*

We hardly felt anything of the disastrous earthquake on 28 September in Mamasa. Only the furniture wobbled a bit. Later in November, I then experienced hundreds of earthquakes of different intensity – in many cases, there were regular swarms of them. They started in the night of 5 November when my host family and I were suddenly shaken awake by a force 5.5 earthquake. I rushed to pack a few things and went downstairs where we all gathered and prayed together. When another earthquake came, we went outside immediately and waited the rest of the night outdoors.

■ *Afterwards, were you able to remain at your workplace?*

Luckily, the earthquake only caused material damage. For example, the ceiling collapsed in a primary school. Nevertheless, it was not safe enough to return to the houses. A large tent camp was set up on a field and we were able to live there for a while. Many people fled from Mamasa and

some of my host family went to stay temporarily with relatives. I was asked whether I wanted to go with them. Even the EMS was informed and found an alternative for me. But I preferred to stay in Mamasa with my host sisters.

■ *How did the residents deal with the catastrophe?*

Many pastors stayed to administer pastoral care. My host sister Meri, who worked in the children’s church, developed a “trauma healing” programme which we took to the surrounding villages. We sang and danced with the children and explained to them the causes for the earthquake. And we

always reenacted the story of the calming of the storm when Jesus says, “Where is your faith? Why are you afraid? Believe in me.” That really impressed the children and I think they were able to learn a lot from this.

■ *Did this experience change you – regarding your faith?*

If anything, it strengthened me in my faith. I received a deep peace from God. During the whole time, I was much more relaxed than my relatives at home – some of them were really worried. But I simply placed my complete trust in God, that he had a plan for me and that he held me in his hands. And if ever something were to happen to me, it would also be a witness.

The interview was conducted by
Stefan Schaal



Photo: EMS/Schaal

SHARING IN SOLIDARITY

Seeing, acknowledging and accepting one another: this lays the foundation for living in solidarity

In the Gospel of Luke, we find a story about being seen. Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my

possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.” For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.

Everyone needs to be seen. We must acknowledge and accept one another. It is one of the liberating messages of the Gospel, that we are indeed accepted by God.

Jesus sees us. He sees the tax collector working on behalf of the Romans. A man who profited from his job to amass riches for himself. Today we call this corruption – and although we frown on it, much too much of it exists everywhere in the world. But Jesus does not see the corruption in Zacchaeus, he sees the human being.

We humans need incentives to preserve ourselves in this world, to work, commit ourselves so that more prosperity and more social security can grow from this order. Zacchaeus could not see Jesus so he climbed a tree. Now the perspective of the story changes. Jesus sees him, sees through him. He sees that Zacchaeus is open to him.

And he is completely there for Zacchaeus. He enters into fellowship with him. “...for I must stay at your house today.”

And what does Zacchaeus do? The meeting with Jesus changes him. He changes – his change is enormous. The feeling of being accepted makes a new man out of him. He promises to share and to act in solidarity and – if he has taken too much – he will give back far more.

So, Zacchaeus is converted. He gives away voluntarily what was the most important thing to him before. This is certainly good for the poor and for the victims of his previous fraudulent actions. But in the end, it is a sign of something much deeper. Zacchaeus changes his values. He turns his life upside down.

Luke 19 says, “For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” We are seen. Let us stay willing to see one another – despite all prejudices that are always petty and which can be rebutted at any time by our willingness to change. Let us come together – although sometimes we would prefer to go away from one another. Let us accept one another, especially when we are totally different and



Photo: Hannes Futter



think in completely different ways. Let's "rescue" our human "fellowship" every day, as Jesus says in this story – this, too, is one of the ways of looking at change. Let's stay prepared to change but let's keep our togetherness!

Seeing and acknowledging one another when action in solidarity is called for also shows in the way we handle funds entrusted to us. Every day. Do we then achieve the aims that we give ourselves and that many supporters expect? Do we handle it with care and economy? At the same time, it's not the money itself that is special – it's what we can do with it within the EMS Fellowship. And that's quite a lot.

The year 2018 showed that organisational and strategic adjustments can be successful. We supported individual member churches to meet enormous challenges that they faced due to natural disasters. Floods in Kerala (India), an earthquake, tsunami and soil liquefaction in the island of Sulawesi (Indonesia) and a major fire at the historical mission station at Wupperthal (South Africa) have shown that solidarity has its place in the EMS Fellowship. Members generously provided moral and material support. In 2018, this led to the highest level of donations in

nearly 50 years since the EMS has existed.

Now that a new Mission Council has been elected and changes have also been made in the Presidium, we are ready to face new international challenges in the future.

We are living through a dramatic change in history. Many people are fleeing from their homelands as the result of war, civil war and climate change. Many perish on their flight or drown in the Mediterranean. Hundreds of thousands come to Europe – this migration will presumably continue despite all the barriers that have been set up in the meantime. This movement of people comes at a time when Europe is destabilised, divided and in disagreement.

We are experiencing a dangerous climate of dissatisfaction, impatience, irritability, bitterness and increasing aggression. The internet is now full of hate posts, insults and threats. Violence is taking over the streets. Against refugees, journalists and democrats. Nationalism and racism in Europe have again become politically acceptable. Sentiments against minorities, foreigners and democratic politicians are now being articulated with increasing self-awareness. It seems that many people no longer

want to adhere to the elementary rules of political and humane civility or respect for human dignity. It is now more important than ever to defend the commandments of humanity, solidarity and Christian charity against the rule of egoistic interest in our own country. It is essential to learn and practise humanity anew, as many already do in our country, both Christians and non-Christians. But there is also a need for mental and spiritual encouragement. It will also be a challenge for us to play our part in providing such encouragement. In an international association, this is certainly achievable across borders and cultures. And we are investing funds in this project.

Rudolf Bausch

Income and expenditure are shown on the opposite page. ►►

EMS REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES 2018

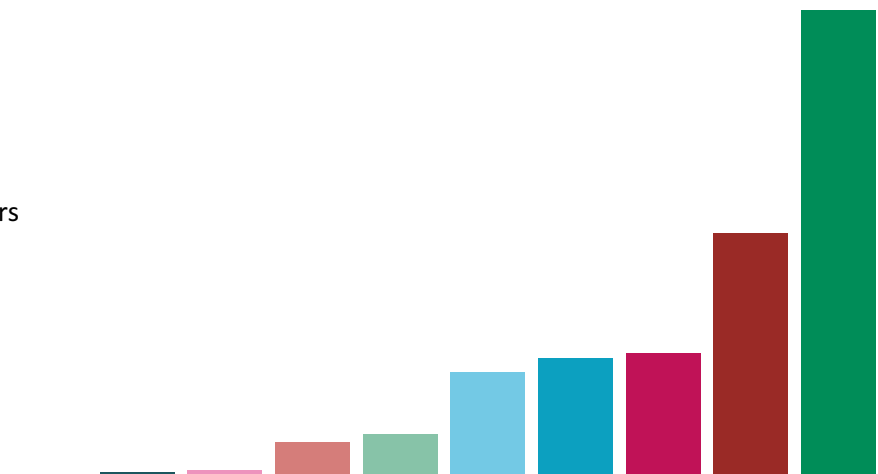
Revenues 2018: 8.125.520,04 €

Contributions from member churches	4.009.650,73 €
Donations, offerings	3.100.146,03 €
Project refunds and subsidies	454.131,14 €
Withdrawal from free reserves	213.000,00 €
Interest, dividends	107.919,83 €
Reversal of project accruals	99.988,96 €
Rental revenues	96.991,42 €
Sale from projects	42.874,92 €
Annual surplus	817,01 €



Expenditures 2018: 8.125.520,04 €

Project donations to partners	3.325.682,73 €
Staff costs, programmes	1.730.795,31 €
Staff costs, administration	878.956,77 €
Material costs, programmes	842.865,96 €
Material costs, administration	739.127,80 €
Allocation to reserves (pensions)	300.000,00 €
Staff costs, ecumenical co-workers	240.208,60 €
Write-offs	41.292,42 €
Costs of product sales	26.359,09 €
Annual surplus prev. year	231,36 €



EXPERIENCES THAT LEAVE THEIR MARK

In 2018, 24 volunteers travelled abroad with the EMS Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme (EYVP). Sophia, Felix and Milena were among them. For six to twelve months, they worked in social institutions belonging to EMS member churches. There, they gained new impressions and experiences and faced new challenges every day. The quotations below show what they expected before they left and their views of how they see things now. More details in their blogs at www.oefp-blogs.ems-online.org



SOPHIA

(India)

Before: "I'm taking part in the EYVP because I am hoping to gain a better understanding of local culture and the world as a whole and to learn about religions, especially Christianity in a foreign country. I want to discover what other sides, traits and passions I have in me. But I also want to test my limits and even step outside my comfort zone."

After: "During my period abroad, I learnt to question what I observe and meet and not simply accept everything I am told because very often there is a lot more hidden than it appears."



FELIX

(Jordan)

Before: "I'm taking part in the EYVP because I want to work in development activities abroad and widen my horizons, both socially and culturally."

After: "I realised how unfairly luxury and money are distributed and how we often live in a cocoon of love, peace and harmony in Germany. My awareness of the environment and sustainability was strengthened."



MILENA

(Indonesia)

Before: "I'm taking part in the EYVP because I'm hoping to have many experiences and moments, make new friends and change my perspectives. I'm looking forward to living in a congregation in Indonesia because faith is lived differently there."

After: "I was impressed when I realized that people don't need to have been brought up the same way to understand one another."

The EMS Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme is an educational service for young people who want to gather experience abroad and be part of an international fellowship in solidarity.

For more information, go to oefp@ems-online.org or call **tel. +49 711 636 78-26**.

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