



Evangelical Mission  
in Solidarity

WITH ONE  
ANOTHER FOR  
ONE ANOTHER



Annual Report 2017

## IMPRINT

### EVANGELICAL MISSION IN SOLIDARITY (EMS)

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## PROVEN COOPERATION – NEW CHALLENGES

December 2018 will mark the end of the first cycle of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) as an international fellowship. Over the past six years, delegates from 28 member churches and missions have reached decisions on an equal footing regarding EMS programmes, projects, staffing and finances. Now the task is to carefully examine the right steps to take in a new term of office, true to the slogan “Backwards into the Future” based on the firm ground and solid foundations of a rich EMS history.

There’s one thing we have learnt: we can rely on the long-standing relationships with members. Networking is functioning better, whether it is between committee members, project leaders, young adults or in the extremely active gender work. It is not only functioning better, but it is also bearing fruit. One example is the exchange in diaconal work, such as a partnership established between a retirement home in Waiblingen near Stuttgart and a home in Beirut. Two international workshops for co-workers in PR work help make the flow of information much faster. In December 2017, the EMS together with the Women’s Information Centre in Stuttgart and Mission 21 in Basel organised a

workshop on the topic of human trafficking. It provided insights into the plight of victims and showed us all how important joint action is.

An intensive look at the past, enquiring and evaluating also bring forth something new. An evaluation of the international study programme in Kyoto showed us that we should give greater support to intercultural educational work for young people and young adults, in this case, theology students. The booklet “Let’s share our faith: Friends around the world” for children’s services and children’s groups also started up in 2017. I would like to sincerely recommend it to you.

It was a moving moment when General Secretary Jürgen Reichel decided to seek new challenges and leave Stuttgart after almost six years as head of the EMS. We are grateful for his intensive work in networking which has become an excellent hallmark of the EMS in the past few years. Meanwhile, the relationships which he built up have formed a solid basis for joint projects and programmes within the international EMS Fellowship as well as for co-operation with German partner societies and ecumenical organisations.

This annual report can only present extracts from the diversified work of the EMS. It will provide insights into the long-established collaboration between member churches as well as new topics and challenges which have required our attention in the previous year. It is a witness for how mission in solidarity takes up the mission of the Bible and transfers it to everyday practice in an Evangelical context.

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

**Dr. Kerstin Neumann**

*Acting General Secretary EMS*



Foto: EMS/Lohnes

## BREAK-DOWN OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY

**Many elderly people in India find themselves entirely on their own today. The Church of South India (CSI) takes in elderly people and looks after them in retirement homes**

“Come on in, look how nice everything is here!” Esme Robert Benjamin sits on her bed and beams at her visitors. She is 78 years old and has lived for several years at the Anbagam Old Age Home in Chennai. The home is run by the Church of South India (CSI) and offers a home to 43 female and 13 male residents between the ages of 65 to 95 years.

Esme has been crippled since she contracted polio as a child and she is now entirely reliant on a wheelchair. When her husband died, she was unable to look after herself and she moved to the home. Her former job with the YWCA, the Young Women’s Christian Association, provides her with a small pension.

Richard (74) and Margret (76) also live at the Anbagam Old Age Home. In the past, they worked for the Indian Army; he was a soldier and she was a nurse. Their son and daughter live with their families in

Dubai. They rarely come to see Richard and Margret. A few weeks ago, Richard had to go to hospital and has not recovered yet. As nobody is there to look after them, they both moved into the home.

Many of the residents there have experienced a similar fate. Their children and grandchildren have found work in other regions of India, in the Gulf states or in the USA. 3.5 million Indians of both genders live and work in the United Arab Emirates. Many send money back to their families but not all look after their parents from so far away. When the parents have to stop work, they often find themselves alone. Old people’s homes are still a rarity in India. At present, only 214,000 people live in homes.

Many old people also have financial problems as just under 2 per cent of the 120 million Indians

receive a pension. It is the same at the Anbagam Old Age Home where only every fifth resident receives a pension. Many can only pay part of the 75 Euro a month it costs for accommodation – or not at all. This is where the CSI steps in. The home is also financed by monetary and material donations. Money also comes from rentals for premises and from organising birthdays and weddings at the home.

An enormous problem is the lack of staff. Many people refuse to wash and care for other people. At the moment, there are 14 full-time female and male staff at the Anbagam Old Age Home. Young care workers are also trained at the home. They wash the elderly, help them eat, go for walks with them in the afternoon and put them to bed in the evening. Esme really appreciates this: “The girls are our angels!” she says. ■



Foto: EMS/Lohnes

## GERMAN-LEBANESE COOPERATION IN ELDERLY CARE

The Waiblingen Nursing Care Foundation near Stuttgart and the Moadieh Centre in the Lebanese capital of Beirut will be working together in future. This was concluded in a Cooperation Agreement between the two elderly care institutions in June 2018. Dr Habib Badr, Senior Pastor of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut and member of the Presidium of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) initiated the exchange which was moderated by the EMS.

The agreement was preceded by exchange visits. The Lebanese partners were mainly impressed by the German nursing care insurance and the detailed documentation of the Nursing Care Foundation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wuerttemberg. There are no binding guidelines for nursing care in Lebanon. The German delegation from Waiblingen was mainly impressed by the organisation of meal times and the way in which people from different cultural groups and religions lived and worked together in Beirut. The two institutions intend to remain in close contact, continue reciprocal visits and work together in training and education. ■

## STRENGTHENING PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK

### EMS communication network proves successful



The EMS communication network is growing and bearing fruit. After the two joint workshops in Stellenbosch, South Africa, at the end of 2016, and in Chennai, India, in March 2018, a pool of news, reports, pictures, video clips and worship service resources has been generated. All those involved constantly in India, Indonesia, South Korea, Ghana, South Africa and Germany add to this pool, which has been made available to media workers of all EMS-members. Even if they all have totally different conditions, work tasks and aims, they all have one thing in common: the mission to attract people's attention to the work of their churches and contribute to proclaiming God's word.

The question of where money should come from and how to secure funds through improved

public relations work is vital to all EMS member churches and is answered in many different ways. But there are also other joint topics which preoccupy the communicators. For example, climate change, unfair land ownership and human trafficking. This could spark off joint campaigns in future.

In the meantime, the EMS communication network is not only spreading, but it is also trickling down to the grassroots. Under the leadership of professional photographer Thomas Lohnes, more than 30 female and male photographers from 24 dioceses and other co-workers from the Church of South India (CSI) learnt new skills in portrait, group-, street- and project-photography and in image processing. Their expertise is now available not only to the CSI but also to the entire EMS Fellowship. ■

## SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### Third round of the international Bible reading project “Through the eyes of another” successfully concluded

“For me, the project was a source of encouragement,” says Reverend Abraham Emmanuel Oppong from Ghana. Here he is talking about the International Bible reading project “Through the eyes of another”. 240 groups from various member churches of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) took part in reading selected Biblical texts and then discussing them in tandem groups and workshops. The aim of intercultural Bible reading is to develop a wider scope of knowledge and understanding for the other from a distant land, to share experiences in the faith, to acknowledge this as an enrichment and to sound out possibilities of action in solidarity.

The EMS Bible project started in 2004. Each of the three rounds was devoted to a particular topic – such as peace, solidarity and finally “a life in fullness for all”. The participants came from all age groups and social classes.

An international project group led by Gabriele Mayer, Head of the Intercultural Learning Unit at the EMS and coordinator of the Bible reading project, defined a selection of Bible texts on each topic. After the pairings were decided with the help of the EMS, the participants discussed the texts in their groups, summarised what was said and then sent their report to their partner group, usually by email.

The insights were often surprising: “In a different cultural context, being a Christian can mean something totally different than what we understand in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wuerttemberg,” says Gitta Klein, relating her aha experience. Her group worked on the texts with a Bible circle in Japan. A fairly liberal German Bible interpretation came face to face with the rather “strict” version of their Japanese partners.

To work out these cultural differences, the international project team recommended using the South African method of “Bible sharing”. In this method, the group reads and listens to the Bible text twice. Gabriele Mayer appreciates this method in particular because everyone can have a say after listening. “Discussing the Bible text should also give the impetus to start acting in solidarity with the partner group,” explains Mayer. For example, a pairing from Argentina and Stuttgart started to work intensively on the topic of human trafficking and intend to maintain contacts with each other in future. ■



Foto: EMS/Mayer

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

### Project work of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS)

The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) is a fellowship of 23 churches and mission societies in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Its members support each other in their Christian witness, projects and programmes. The fellowship provides money for this and collect donations from its supporters.

The International Executive Board of the Mission, called the Mission Council, approved a sum of 1.366 million Euro for a total of 52 new projects for the two-year project period from 2019 to 2020. There is an additional 150,000 Euro for

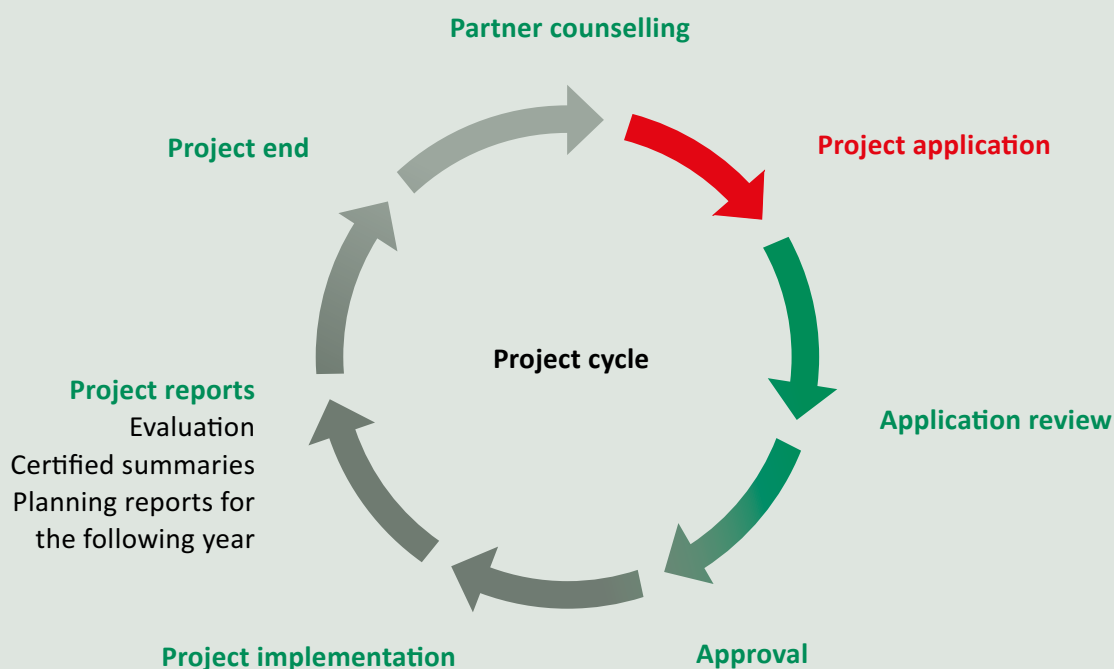
the EMS small projects fund and 30,000 Euro for emergency aid purposes. During the current project period (2017-2018), the EMS is funding 59 projects costing a total of 1.531 million Euro.

#### Focus on missionary and diaconal work

Most of the funds are channelled into community development and the diaconal work of member churches. "There are more and more applications to fund projects for caring and nursing elderly people," says Christine Grötzinger, Head of the Support of Programmes

and Projects Unit. In addition, project work is gradually shifting from rural areas to the cities since many people are leaving their rural homes to work in metropolises.

Key work areas also include education for children and young adults and projects in the field of human rights and peace. On the other hand, there are fewer projects to do with reducing poverty. "There are fewer poor people in our member churches," says Grötzinger. "On this point, we have made enormous progress in the past decades." ■



## THE RIGHT WAY TO HANDLE THE MONEY ENTRUSTED TO US

### Experienced solidarity and a worldwide Christian fellowship also live from the responsible use of collections, donations and contributions

In the Parable of the Talents in the Gospel according to St Matthew, the returning master reviews the earnings made by his servants. The courageous servants doubled their investments, but the fearful conservative servant did nothing with what was given him. We also ask ourselves the question: what should we do with the money entrusted to us? At the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) we must also give an account of the money entrusted to us by our member churches and donors.

This money is not a gift. On the contrary, the small and large donations, collections in church and from church campaigns and the contributions from our member churches and missions - all this was given to us on trust with the expectation that we use it carefully and effectively to fulfil our mission – with the aim of fulfilling Christian fellowship and experiencing solidarity.

#### Main sources of revenue: donations, collections and member contributions

The governing and controlling bodies of the EMS supervise our

use of the funds entrusted to us. Each and every co-worker must continually question the care and responsibility they utilise in the handling of funds.

In 2017, half the total revenues amounting to 7,760,370.68 Euro came from donations and contributions from member churches and missions. Another large part, almost 35 per cent, comes from donations, collections and project fund allocations made by member churches and their foundations. Further revenues consist of subsidies and financial contributions for the Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme, for study programmes, the Schneller schools in Lebanon and Jordan and for individual staff positions. Then there are participant contributions and subsidies for seminars and events. This list of the main sources of revenue in per cent has remained largely the same over the past years.

#### Projects and programmes of the member churches

There are three major items on the expenditure side. About 42 per cent of funds are used for worldwide projects and programmes.

Staffing costs account for a further 36 per cent of expenditure. These costs are mainly channelled to the work of the solidarity fellowship and are therefore apportioned to project costs. The remaining 22 per cent of funds are used for work in Germany and general material costs. In a comparison over several years, there have been few changes in this respect.

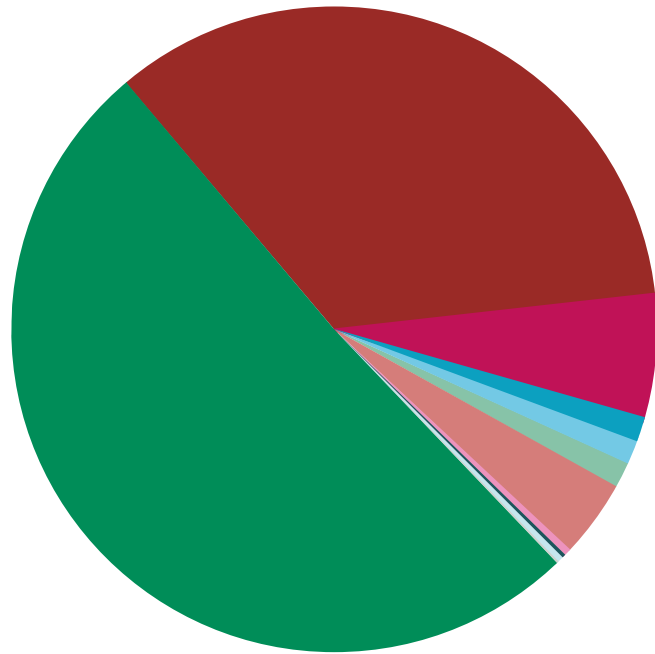
#### Digitalization – the challenge of the future

Extending networks, acquiring and promoting skills, working out answers to questions of the future and harnessing the rapid spread of digitalization to meet the aims of the EMS: these are the challenges we are facing in the years to come. As far as digitalization in many ways of life is concerned, the so-called 'South' has long since left the so-called 'North' behind. Social changes are noticeable, communication is simpler and also better to control.

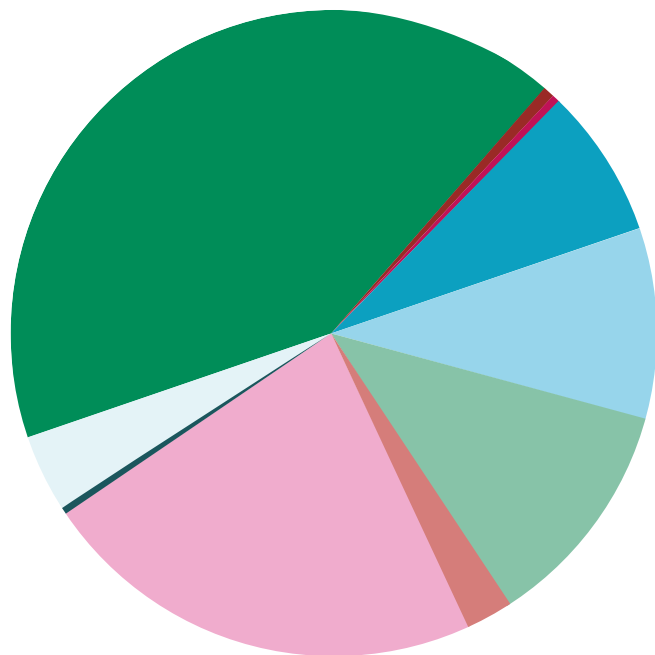


**Revenues 2017: €7,760,370.68**

Contributions from churches	€ 3,960,162.76
Donations, offerings	€ 2,677,774.63
Refunds and subsidies	€ 472,941.11
Interest, dividends	€ 97,266.09
Return on investment	€ 99,974.40
Rental revenues	€ 92,250.38
Withdrawal from free reserves	€ 300,000.00
Sale from projects	€ 43,178.62
Annual surplus prev. year	€ 222.46
Reversal of accruals	€ 16,591.33
Annual surplus, curr. year	€ 8.90

**Expenditures 2017: € 7,760,370.68**

Donations to partners	€ 3,232,758.85
Write-offs	€ 39,913.81
Product sales	€ 28,428.96
Administration costs	€ 576,237.32
Material costs, programme booklet	€ 746,432.29
Staff costs, administration	€ 910,458.28
Staff costs, ecumenical co-workers	€ 167,167.70
Staff costs, programmes	€ 1,758,742.11
Annual surplus (brought forward)	€ 231.36
Allocation to reserves (pensions, funds)	300,000.00 € 10





### **Preserving and promoting diversity**

The rich resources of the EMS result from its widespread network supported by its member churches and missions. Particularly noteworthy are the Schneller Schools in Jordan and Lebanon, sponsored by the Evangelical Association for the Schneller Schools (EVS), but also the widespread roots of the Basel Mission German Branch (BMDZ) and the close contacts and connections in Far Eastern countries through the German East Asia Mission (DOAM). For the past six years, this diversity has been firmly embedded in an international network made up of different churches in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The task now is to preserve and foster this treasure of rich diversity.

### **Highly promising networking in the field of micro-finance**

The field of micro-finance has developed enormously over the past twenty years. What were once niche offers by initiatives such as Oikocredit and other providers have now become established in large micro-finance funds offered by the international banking world. However, their aim is more to maximise their earnings than to promote cooperative soli-

arity networks. Many EMS member churches run micro-finance institutions – ranging from small savings and loan programmes through to registered micro-finance banks.

In 2017, the EMS member churches in Indonesia started a micro-finance campaign. Their aim is to group all existing church micro-finance institutes under one roof and so create a financially strong “church” bank. They are therefore cooperating with partner churches of Mission 21 and the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) in Wuppertal.

**Rudolf Bausch**

*Executive Secretary*



Foto: EMS/Lohnes

## **OUT INTO THE WORLD, STEP INTO LIFE**

**The Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme (EYVP) seeks to help young adults gain new formative experiences in EMS member churches.**

It was a jump into the deep end for Johanna Berens and Paul Nuding. Straight after their arrival in South Africa in autumn 2016, the two volunteers got right down to work at Elim Home which is run by the Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA) for children and young adults with disabilities. They worked there for ten months as part of the Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS). “Wash, put on nappy, dress, give food, brush teeth,” says Paul, listing his tasks. There were also leisure activities such as going for walks, playing, singing or crafting.

After she had completed her Abitur (German school-leaving exam and university entrance qualification), Johanna simply wanted to get away, do something different and discover a new culture. “I felt at home right away with the EMS Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme,” says the 20-year-old. What she really wanted to do was to work for a Christian organisation: “I wanted to experience the church in a different way than I was used to at home.” Paul also felt he





really wanted to complete his volunteer service with a church organisation. When he attended the selection and preparation seminars, he quickly realised that this was the right choice.

The EMS has been sending young people to its member churches since the start of the 1990s. The EYVP is part of the “weltwärts” programme, a development volun-

teer service supported also by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Currently, 29 women and men aged between 18 and 28 years old are participating. They work for periods ranging from six to 12 months in schools, kindergartens, hospitals or children’s homes or in institutions for people with disabilities such as Elim Home.

What did Johanna and Paul expect before they went to South Africa? “To be honest, I was a bit naive,” says Paul. He absolutely wanted to go to South Africa to get to know the country, its people and its culture. But Paul was not quite so sure whether he really wanted to work with disabled people. Today, a good year after his return, the 20-year-old can hardly imagine a life without this type of work anymore. He likes to think back to

all the small moments he experienced during his volunteer year – a smile or a hug from one of his protégés and the gratitude shown for even small gestures of help.

Since his return, Paul has been working as a volunteer helping the disabled. He also spent a year as a mentor for a high school student suffering from Asperger’s syndrome. In autumn, he would like to start his studies in psychology. “As a volunteer, you have to be open and try out new things,” he summarises. “In South Africa, I gained a better understanding of myself and this helped me grow.” For Johanna, her stay at Elim Home was also an eye-opener. Now she is studying special needs education and later she would like to work in speech therapy.

[oefp-blogs.ems-online.org](http://oefp-blogs.ems-online.org) ■



## A GOOD CLEAN THING

### The Schneller schools in Jordan and Lebanon on the path to sustainable energy supply

Finally, it was ready on 9th May 2018. The photovoltaic system at the Theodor Schneller School in Jordan was connected to the grid. The 733 modules on the roofs of the boarding school building and the day school now produce well over 400,00 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year. This is enough to run all the electrical systems on the campus: air conditioning systems, lighting, refrigerators, computers, the machines in the workshops and the heating system. Everything now runs on green solar electricity. A good clean thing.

The system was financed by collections received during the opening worship service of the German Protestant Kirchentag in Stuttgart in 2015. The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, which is an EMS member and the sponsor church of the Theodor Schneller School, provided a sum approaching the same amount. This made it possible to completely finance the system costing 230,000 Euro without having to take a loan.

The photovoltaic system now saves the Theodor Schneller School electricity costs of over 9,000 Euro a month – money which can now be channelled to work with the



children. At the school, Christian and Muslim children sit side by side in class. They learn together, live together in the boarding school and spend their leisure time together. “This is how they overcome prejudices against the other’s religion and they make a direct contribution to peace and reconciliation in the region through their work,” says Uwe Gräbe, Executive Secretary of the Evangelical Association for the Schneller Schools (EVS).

The Johann Ludwig Schneller School in Lebanon is also reducing its running costs by installing

sustainable power supply systems and improving energy efficiency. Winters can be bitterly cold in the Beqaa valley in Lebanon. Until recently, heating costs were astronomical. A heating and power generation expert from Waiblingen near Stuttgart spent several years at the school during his holidays. Over the past four years, he helped the school replace boilers and provide good insulation for the hot water tanks. Diesel generators and solar systems were connected to form an efficient network and new cables were laid. The “SCHNELLER FOUNDATION - EDUCATION FOR PEACE” provided about 80,000 Euro for this work.

The results are really impressive. Since the start of the project, consumption of heating oil and diesel has dropped by almost half. At the same time, the buildings are now warm and cosy in winter and nobody has to go cold. Electricity consumption has also dropped by over ten per cent. ■



## HOPE FOR PEACE

### Korean EMS member churches intensify their commitment to reconciliation and reunification

Autumn 1989. Every Monday, Christians in the GDR gathered to pray for peace. Almost 30 years later, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) organises Monday prayers based on the German model. Since 2013, Christians on the Korean peninsula have been praying for peace between North and South Korea and for the reunification of the two states.

The Christian churches in South Korea have been campaigning for peace and justice for many decades. Their peace work goes back to the political separation of the peninsula in 1945. For decades, churches on both sides of the border have kept contact with each other, even though the Korean Christian Federation in North Korea is not allowed to appear publicly.

But there is still a long way to go along the path of reconciliation between the two states. Nonetheless, the Deputy General Secretary

of the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK), SHIN Seung Min, is optimistic: "We have never been so full of hope that there will finally be peace between North and South Korea." The background is the current thaw in relations between the USA and North Korea and the meeting between representatives of the North Korean and South Korean governments. The last meeting was in September 2018 and this fuelled the hope for further rapprochement.

The two EMS member churches, the PROK and the PCK (Presbyterian Church of Korea) are working every day for peace and justice. They organise regular peace marches, congresses and seminars and call for a peace demonstration in the centre of the South Korean capital of Seoul once a month. Parish members pray regularly along the demilitarised border zone at places where their North Korean compatriots can see them.

With the support of the EMS Fellowship, the PCK is planning visits to the memorials along the inner-Korean border for victims of war and state despotism as part of the project "Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace". For several years, the PROK has also organised peace camps for adolescents and young adults, also with EMS support. The church also supplies child day care centres in North Korea with food. With these programmes, the churches demonstrate that they are currently one of the few bonds between North and South Korea. In March 2018, they organised an international conference in Seoul to celebrate the signing of the joint declaration 30 years ago between the churches of North and South Korea on peace and reconciliation. ■



## ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

### “The winds of freedom are blowing...”

Prayers, music and dancing from many countries - the Christian message in many languages. It is difficult to imagine more diversity in a single place and on a single day. About 1,000 Christian women and men from 30 communities of different languages and origins celebrated the “Day of worldwide church and mission” on Whit Monday 2017. The slogan was “The winds of freedom are blowing...” After a service at the Stuttgart Stiftskirche (Collegiate Church) with The Right Reverend Frank Otfried July, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wuerttemberg and international guests, the people marched in a “Freedom Parade” to the Hospitalhof where a diverse programme of workshops was awaiting them. Among them were also guests from EMS member churches, such as Ms Rima Nasrallah, a theologian from Lebanon, and Reverend Mega Kamase Sambo from Indonesia. ■

“People from all over the world celebrate their common faith. That’s what it’s all about at Whitsun!”

Mega Kamase Sambo, Indonesia



Foto: EMS/Karasch

### “DOORS OF FREEDOM” IN WITTENBERG

The Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) celebrated the anniversary of the Reformation with the “World Reformation Exhibition – Doors of freedom in Wittenberg”. The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) presented itself at a joint stand in the “Wuerttemberg Hall” together with other mission societies from Wuerttemberg. Another exhibition there was “On the way to others – 200 years of the Basel Mission and Wuerttemberg”. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wuerttemberg presented its view of the Reformation over a 16-week period. A total of 25,000 visitors attended the exhibition as guests in the Wuerttemberg Hall. “Maultaschen”, a type of Swabian noodle speciality, was the export hit among the culinary delicacies on offer. ■



Foto: EMS/Karasch

### Commemoration of the Reformation in Ghana

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) commemorated the 500 years of the Reformation with a festival service in the Osu Ebenezer Church in the Ghanaian capital of Accra. “People experience redemption by the grace of God alone through faith, not through good deeds or indulgences,” said the former President of the Trinity Theologian Seminary in Accra, Rev. Prof. Joseph Obiri Yeboah Mante, in his sermon. He called upon all church leaders in Ghana to focus continuously on this core belief of the Reformation.

## In the footsteps of Martin Luther

"It was a beautiful, creative and very diversified year," said Volker Jung, President of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau. Among other things, the EMS member church inaugurated the Luther Trail which is almost 400 kilometres long. It traces the Reformer's footsteps through Hesse and the Rhineland-Palatinate, following his journey to the Diet of Worms. The Protestant Church in Baden also participated in the celebrations marking the anniversary of the Reformation by joining in a campaign under the slogan of "I am so free". Based on Luther's ideas of freedom which he wrote in his pamphlet "On the Freedom of a Christian", Christians were called upon in a video message to express their thoughts on the topic of freedom.



Foto: © Lutherweg 1521

**"The Reformation has become a world citizen. It is a movement which has transformed hearts and souls."**

Jürgen Reichel, Germany

## Seminar on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in India

In December 2017, the ecumenical commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in India invited bishops from several confessions to a seminar on the topic of "500 years of the Reformation". The Bishop of the new diocese of Kollam-Kottarakara of the Church of South India (CSI), the Rt. Rev. Oommen George, also took part in the event. The CSI is an EMS member church. In his speech, Oommen emphasised that the church had to continue renewing itself even in our modern day and age.



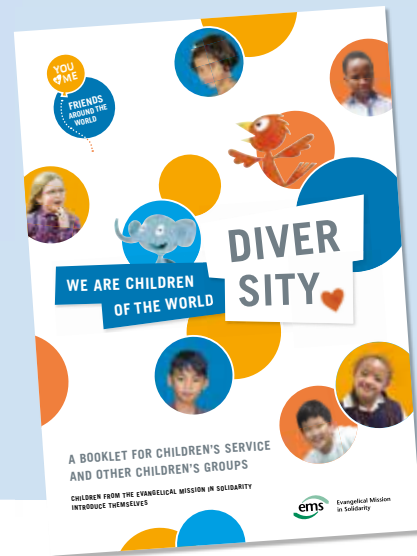
Foto: EMS/Karasch

## Anniversary of the Reformation in Korea

"500 years of the Reformation": Renewal and strengthening of the church in God's world" was the topic of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) in September 2017. Representatives of various churches in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America also attended the conference of the EMS member church. "The Reformation is a movement which has transformed hearts and souls. Christians are one in their faith in Jesus despite the fact that we often have different interpretations of the Bible and every person has his own way of worshipping," said the then EMS General Secretary Jürgen Reichel in his welcoming address. ■



Foto: EMS/Karasch



[www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en)

## YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

YOU+ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD is the EMS educational programme for children in Children's Services and in primary schools. Children get to know each other worldwide: at eye level, ecumenically and open to commonalities and differences. Emso, the Elephant, and Pipit, the bird, accompany the children on their journey worldwide. Together with children all over the world, they discover different countries, cultures and religions.

The new booklet **DIVERSITY: WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD** introduces six girls and boys from EMS member churches. They talk about their lives, what they do and about their faith. The booklet contains interesting methods for children's groups worldwide, beautiful illustration and photos. The DIVERSITY booklet is available in German, English, Indonesian and Korean and can be obtained free of charge from [www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en). Those who want to stay up-to-date can log onto the children's network blog. At [www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en), authors from all over the world write about children's topics and their experiences working in EMS children's groups.

## CONTACT

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