

1 | Introduction EMW at a Glance

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Preface

Having started its work in 1975, the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions celebrated its 40th anniversary together with its members and partners throughout the world in 2015. On account of this joyful occasion we now offer a volume containing contributions related to the celebration and others showing various aspects of our partnership community over four decades. The editor hopes that it will help those who have not heard of EMW, or only know of it from what others have told them, to get a deeper insight into its work and its international connections.

In the church context 40 years is not exactly a long time for an organisation. But such an anniversary, seen as one of God's gifts, offers us an opportunity to consider the importance of this number 40 in various parts of the Bible.

40 years seems to be a good age for looking forward to things - full of zest for life, agility and - even affection. For whoever is 40 years old is considered mature enough to fall in love and to marry, as Isaac and Rebekah did and Esau and Judith (Genesis 25, 20; 26, 34): or to be experienced, cunning and flexible as Caleb was, when he served God's people as a spy in the Promised Land (Joshua 14, 7). Others, such as the lame person who Peter and John encountered in the temple in the early days of Christianity, (Acts 4, 22) were even able to experience healing in their lives at the age of forty.

Those responsible for the work of this association decided to use the occasion to look back with thanks on what has been achieved so far, to determine policies for present tasks and to dare to consider what the future may hold. However from the beginning, it was to be organised as a dialogue process together with our members and partners throughout the Christian world.

First an invitation was sent out to two main meetings: on 18th June 2015 trusted friends and others who are new to our work, were invited to a celebration evening in the Ecumenical Centre "Die Brücke" in the Hamburg Harbour City. Prof Dr. Fernando Enns (Amsterdam/Hamburg), gave the opening lecture, followed by a discussion with ecumenical guests and several words of greeting. The next

day was a study day in the EMW central offices, mainly for colleagues from member associations and churches. The workshops and plenary sessions on that day concentrated mainly on subjects that brought together the context of our ecumenical partners and the EMW's fields of work.

The second event was the EMW members meeting in historic "Herrnhut" in September 2015. The General Secretaries of the three worldwide church organisations, the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, and the World Communion of Reformed Churches were present, and they inspired exciting debates on the work of the EMW, which in turn provided important stimuli for the three dimensions: 'ecumenical, multilateral and worldwide'.

The wide range of participants at both events made it possible to talk about current challenges for the ecumenical movement from different perspectives, and provided fruitful interaction.

The administration also decided to inform partner organisations and friends about the approaching anniversary and request them to send a word of greeting. Although this could not be considered a complete or representative sample, one of the lovely anniversary surprises was that many reactions arrived in Hamburg during the requested period of time. We are grateful for all of them in their impressive richness and variety. It is well known that on birthdays or anniversaries one emphasises what is good, and criticism or reservations are not considered appropriate. And yet: those who were and are responsible for the work of the EMW in the administrative offices and management felt that the many contributions of visible appreciation were like presents for them. The responsive gratitude of the partners encouraged them to value what has so far been achieved and draw consequences from it for the future.

In this way the project gained a clearer profile, and chosen contributions were put together for a publication pre-eminently intended for interested readers in Germany. In September 2015, a book with the title „Ein Geschenk an die weltweite Kirche. 40 Jahre Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland, Stimmen aus der Ökumene“ („A Present for the Worldwide Church. 40 years Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany. Voices from the Ecumenical World") was produced and published in Hamburg. It contains many words of thanks describing differing contexts and naming many things that have been achieved, while also pointing to important issues in the situation of Christianity in the world today where the EMW is at work. The texts also formulate

clear expectations for the future work of the EMW and for a continuation of this dialogue. One such example is that South-South cooperation and communication lines between EMW partners should be strengthened. Also a desire for a more qualified, more recognisable contribution of the EMW in strengthening the church and mission in Europe, preferably including some of the many experiences of EMW partners from the Global South. The EMW should continue to be willing to take risks and be prepared to cross ecumenical borders in its cooperation, as well as maintaining its strength in the spiritual dimensions of exchange in local encounters with its partners.

One thing that has become very clear in these and other expectations: is that the partners of the EMW are willing not only to formulate their expectations precisely, but also to participate actively in dialogue processes to put them into practice. But how can - as was frequently suggested - the wealth of these contributions be presented also to a wider international public?

This book is an attempt to answer this. Besides a selection of the words of greeting we have received, the EMW also wishes to present the entire range of its work; on the one hand as an active partner in the ecumenical movement and on the other hand to be recognisable as an active umbrella organisation in Germany. This picture has so far not been shown in full view, but we consider it to be important, for - on account of frequent bi-lateral cooperation - many partners only know some parts of the wide range of the relationships of the EMW. In addition, the many voices and ideas expressed in the contributions contain surprises and interesting challenges for those, who so far and in future have and will accompany the EMW.

The book is set up in the following way:

Chapter One offers EMW at a Glance – a short summary of our work.

Chapter Two describes the EMW and its core work sections, from the perspective of those who are responsible at present for the work in the administration. Also represented here are the Academy of Mission in Hamburg and Bread for the World, two especially important organisations for our cooperation in Germany.

Chapter Three presents chosen contributions from the two anniversary celebrations.

Chapter Four presents an overview of the global, continental and national partner spectrum of the EMW. Here again it is only a selection, most of them contributions to the anniversary. In this selection we have also taken into consideration that a large number of our partners focus on the field of theological training and further training.

Chapter Five brings together a selection of voices from friends in the ecumenical world, who have accompanied the EMW during various stages of its development.

Chapter Six gives a systematic overview of the partners of the EMW over the last five years. It has to be conceded that this time limit is somewhat arbitrary, but had we taken a longer period of time it would have been very difficult to present it in a meaningful way.

Chapter Seven shows the EMW as the umbrella organisation for various churches, mission agencies and missionary organisations, as the work of its members is presented to some extent in their own contributions.

Throughout the book websites and other forums are referred to, where additional information can be obtained if there is a deeper interest. On the EMW website you will find further contributions that we were not able to include in the written publications.

Thank you to all those who reacted to our requests for a contribution, to those who took care of the translation work, who prepared the texts further and then brought them together in this publication. We wish you a fascinating read, hope for your reactions, and request that you accompany us and pray for us. This will strengthen us in our attempt to fulfil our ecumenical missionary task, and to set out with confidence on the road for the coming decades.



Bishop Jan Janssen
Chairperson of the Board



Christoph Anders
Director

EMW at a glance

When EMW was founded in 1975, Germany was still a divided country, and the new organisation was given a long title, which remained valid until 1990: *Evangelisches Missionswerk im Bereich der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Berlin (West)* – Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West). With the founding of EMW, the West German Protestant missions and churches created a joint umbrella organisation to facilitate their involvement in world mission.

In East Germany, the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Missionen - AGEM* (Association of Protestant Missions) had also been founded. After unification, the EMW and the AGEM were joined together in 1990, and the association was at that time renamed the *Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland* (Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany). It brought together the churches and missions from the East and West of Germany, regional mission societies and churches, as well as missionary organisations as members and associates under the umbrella of a registered association. The members are:

Churches:

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Mennonitischer Gemeinden in Deutschland (Association of Mennonite Congregations in Germany)
- Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden (Union of Evangelical Free Church Congregations in Germany)
- Evangelisch-altreformierte Kirche in Niedersachsen (Protestant Old-Reformed Church in Lower Saxony)
- Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche (Evangelical Methodist Church)
- Evangelische Brüder-Unität - Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine (Moravian Church)
- Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (Evangelical Church in Germany)

Missionary Organisations:

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Missionarische Dienste (Association of Missionary Services)
- CVJM-Gesamtverband in Deutschland e.V. (YMCA Germany)

- Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft
(German Bible Society)
- Deutsche Evangelische Missionshilfe
(German Protestant Mission Publishers)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Missionswissenschaft
(German Society for Mission Studies)

Mission Societies:

- Deutsches Institut für Ärztliche Mission.
(German Institute for Medical Mission)
- Berliner Missionswerk
(Berlin Mission)
- Evangelisch-lutherisches Missionswerk in Niedersachsen
(Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony)
- Evangelisch-Lutherisches Missionswerk Leipzig.
(Leipzig Mission)
- Evangelische Mission in Solidarität
(Evangelical Mission in Solidarity)
- Gossner Mission
(Gossner Mission)
- Mission EineWelt - Centrum für Partnerschaft, Entwicklung und Mission
der Evang.-Luth. Kirche in Bayern
(Mission OneWorld)
- Morgenländische Frauenmission
(Oriental Women's Mission Society)
- Norddeutsche Mission
(Bremen Mission)
- Vereinte Evangelische Mission
(United Evangelical Mission)
- Zentrum für Mission und Ökumene - nordkirche weltweit
(Centre for Global Ministries and Ecumenical Relations)

Associate Members

- Christoffel Blindenmission
(CBM)
- Christlicher Hilfsbund im Orient
(Christian Aid in the Orient)

- Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für evangelische Gehörlosenseelsorge
(German Association for Evangelical Deaf Pastoral Care)
- Deutsche Seemannsmission
(German Seamen’s Mission)
- Hildesheimer Blindenmission
(Hildesheim Mission to the Blind)
- Lutherische Kirchenmission
(Mission of Lutheran Churches)
- Verband Evangelischer Missionskonferenzen
(Association of Evangelical Mission Conferences)

According to its statutes, EMW serves to facilitate “cooperation between its members, especially in the fields of missionary proclamation, mission theology and missiology, training and further training for missionary service, in respect to both inter-church relationships, as well as between regional and also continental church federations overseas”.

As a professional and umbrella organisation, its aim is to support its “members and associates in their tasks in the world missionary, ecumenical and development-related collaboration with Christians and Churches abroad”. Towards this end, EMW offers advice and the coordination of tasks, projects and programmes, professional discussions, consultations and ad hoc working groups, to bring together the special competencies of its members and associates and to make available the expertise of EMW to all its members.

Organisation

At the General Assembly, where the delegates of the members and associates meet once a year, the work accomplished and the work planned are presented and discussed. Here the Board is elected, the budget for the EMW is decided, and the Financial Statement received and accepted.

The Board, consisting of fifteen members elected by the General Assembly as well as appointed members, supervises and guides the work of the office. Various elected commissions, before which experts and specialists are called, give advice to the Board and the Head Office on questions of theology or other special issues.

The direct link to the Board is the Director, who represents the association in national and international church committees, and reports to the Synod of the EKD. The power to make policy on the governance of EMW lies within his remit. The Director exchanges ideas regularly with the heads of EMW's members and with friendly missionary organisations about current work issues and joint plans. Within the work context of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), he or she brings not only his or her professional knowledge, but the interests of the members of EMW as well, before various different committees.

The staff of EMW's head office in Hamburg at present comprise a little over twenty theologians and lay people, both men and women, who are employed in eight departments. The Director, the Head of Administration and one elected member from the heads of the various Desks make up the governing team (*Kollegium*).

The personnel and administration costs are funded through contributions from the members and associates, and income from the renting out of our own properties, for example the main office in Hamburg. In 2015 the volume of the budget was around 1.9 million Euros.

In contrast to that, the programmes and project work on the "Statement of Needs" (*Liste des Bedarfs*) is financed mainly by means from the churches. The amount of money which the regional churches contribute to the Statement of Needs is calculated as a percentage of the income from church taxes. The free churches (Baptist, Moravian, Mennonite etc.) define their contribution themselves. In addition, EMW receives funds for theological formation from the church development service, so that in 2016 more than 5 million Euros were available for us to support this work.

In contrast to its members and associates EMW does not raise funds from donations.

Study Desk

What mission is today and what role it should play in churches and communities – a subject which cross-cuts all departments of the EMW – is a question considered by the Theology of Mission and Ecumenism desk. The Study Desk is part of a global network that takes up new concepts and ideas from the ecumenical

world and prepares them for publication. For instance, the Mission Declaration of the WCC, “Together towards life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes”, was treated in a book which succeeded in giving easier access to this comprehensive document in the German language.

A number of times in the past, EMW has proved itself as a competent organiser of international congresses. Together with other inter-confessional partners, theological conferences both in Germany and abroad were held. In these instances, the excellent connections to regional church councils, Christian councils and local churches and their organisations paid off. One example was the international twin consultation “Reformation-Education-Transformation” in Brazil and Germany (2015 and 2016) on the theme, “Reformation and the One World”, which fell within the framework of the Reformation Decade.

EMW is one of the sponsors of the Academy of Mission at the University of Hamburg (*Missionsakademie an der Universität Hamburg*). Students – both male and female – find a short-term home there when studying for their doctorates in theology. The Academy of Mission is also known, way beyond the region, as an important place for ecumenical conferences on various subjects, as well as for study courses on leadership for migrant congregations in Germany.

Theological Formation

The Desk for Theological Formation is in close dialogue with the Regional Desks of the EMW, committed to strengthening theological training in Latin America, in Africa and the Middle East, in Asia and the Pacific. It focuses on a wide variety of programmes, such as providing scholarships, setting up libraries, supporting conferences, and giving advice for study programmes and to regional and international theological associations.

Together Towards Unity

The partners with which the various departments of the EMW cooperate, can be described as worldwide, continental, regional and ecumenical church associations and federations, such as councils of churches and Christian councils and their organisations, ecumenical institutions for theological formation and education and grassroots organisations. Many of these partners are bilaterally or multilaterally connected to each other. The World Council of Churches (WCC), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the World Communion of Reformed

Churches (WCRC) play a special role, but also organisations such as the United Bible Societies (UBS), the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) or the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC). Believing in a holistic mission, subjects such as evangelism, spirituality, health, justice, the integrity of creation, advocacy and education are equally integrated into the working profile of the EMW.

Ecumenism within Germany

Under the umbrella of the EMW a wide span of Protestant ecumenism is encompassed, consisting of regional churches (*Landeskirchen*) and other mainline churches, such as the Moravian, Baptist, Methodist or Old Reformed Church. Beyond this, EMW has traditionally had a good relationship with missionary institutions of the Roman Catholic Church.

A particularly effective public relations outcome which resulted from this trusted cooperation was the Congress "Respectful Mission" held in August 2014. Organised by the EMW and Missio Aachen, the members of the Association of Christian Churches (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen - ACK*) and the Evangelical Alliance in Germany together discussed the ecumenical document entitled "Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World". The Congress was viewed as a highly respected contribution towards the introduction and acceptance of this ground-breaking declaration by the WCC, WEA and the Vatican.

Regional Desks

Partners of the three Regional Desks for Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and for Latin America, consist mainly of the regional and continental church councils and Christian councils. The Regional Desks work in dialogue with their partners on their respective applications to the "Statement of Needs". The outcomes of this collaboration are regularly presented at different levels to the national and international ecumenical bodies where they are reconsidered. The challenges which the churches and communities throughout the world are facing at present, make it necessary for EMW to strengthen its networking, and support multilateral, international and ecumenical exchange through the platforms that have been created for this.

After years of informing the German public about events under the apartheid regime in South Africa, EMW spoke out loudly for China's Christians and churches

and also for India's marginalized population of Dalits and Adivasi. In 1996, the China Information Desk (China InfoStelle) was formed, and in 2014, the Desk for Dalit Solidarity in Germany, the latter being part of EMW.

Management and Administration

The Department of Management and Administration, besides being tasked with the administration of the head office, has the role of advising the members and associates on organisational and legal issues. The "Statement of Needs", the instrument for funding programmes and projects, is supervised here; the department furthermore handles the international transfer of funds for some members and associates. This Desk is in charge of developing transparency and anti-corruption guidelines for mission societies and their overseas partners, and of the development of modern instruments to improve and secure quality in the funding process. As a bridge between state authorities and members, it is a contact point for questions on visas and labour laws, and it often lobbies different state authorities, and applies for funds from the culture fund of the Foreign Office.

Public Relations

A special task of the EMW is to promote a commitment to mission and ecumenism in the German churches and the general public. The EMW produces material for congregations and groups, and publishes several series, among them *Weltmission heute* (World Mission Today), of which eighty volumes have been produced since 1987.

If one looks at the forty annual reports published since the founding of EMW, as well as the texts and publications that have been printed, one gains an oversight of the many subjects that have been studied. Some things have (thankfully) over the years resolved themselves, such as the struggles against apartheid in South Africa.

EMW supports its members at conferences and events, as for example at the *Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag* (bi-annual Protestant assembly in Germany).

General Assembly



Evangelisches Missionswerk
in Deutschland

elects
↓

Board

appoints Director and Heads of Desks
↓

EMW Office

Staff Executive Group*

Staff Conference

Directorate

Rev. Christoph Anders

Director

Elisabeth Mussig-

Heban

Administrative Assistant

Administration

Olaf Rehren

Executive Secretary

Silke Kunert

Administrative Officer

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Dagmar Heblig

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Latin America Desk

Brigitte Kainz

Administrative Assistant

Studies/ Theological Education

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Maureen Troit

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Public Relations' Desk,
Press Officer

Petra Jaekel

Administrative Officer

Birgit Regge

Administrative Officer

Publications

Martin Keiper

Head of
Publications' Desk

Editor-in-Chief

„EneWelt“-magazine

Sandra Lütje

Administrative Officer

Missionshilfe Verlag

Editorial Assistant

EneWelt

Viviana Stockem

Administrative Officer

Library



Jan Pingel

Coordinator

Oceania-Dialogue

*The Staff Executive Group serves as the management of the Head Office of EMW. It's "born members" include Director and Executive Secretary; a third member is elected of and by the Staff Conference for three-years-terms.

The EMW Board

The board of EMW consists of up to 15 members. 11 are elected by the General Assembly, four are named by the churches. The Board elects from among its members the chair person and his (or her) two deputies. The members of the Board (as of May 2017) are:

Bishop Jan Janssen

(Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Oldenburg), Chairman

Barbara Deml

(Berlin Mission), Deputy Chairwoman

Pastor Wolfgang Bay

(Evangelical Methodist Church), Deputy Chairman

Dr. Erhard Berneburg

(Association of Missionary Services)

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber

(Evangelical Church in Germany)

Bishop Kirsten Fehrs

(Evangelical-Lutheran Church of North Germany)

Superintendent Rev. Hans-Georg Furian

(Synod of the EKD)

Rev. Christoph Haus

(Union of Evangelical Free Church Congregations in Germany)

Pastor Raimund Hertzsch

(Moravian Church)

Rev. Hanns Hoerschelmann

(Mission OneWorld)

Dr. Beate Jakob

(German Institute for Medical Mission)

Rev. Dr. Jochen Motte
(United Evangelical Mission)

Prof. Dr. Andreas Nehring
(Mission OneWorld)

Rev. Christian Reiser
(Gossner Mission)

Rev. Christian Michael Thiel
(Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony)

Theological Adviser to the Board:

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Dehn
University of Hamburg, Faculty of Theology



The members of the EMW Board (as of September 2015). First row, from left to right: Pastor Raimund Hertzsch, Dr. Beate Jakob, Barbara Deml, Pastor Wolfgang Bay, Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, Superintendent Rev. Hans-Georg Furian, Uwe Michelsen (in 2016 retired from the board, new member is Bishop Kirsten Fehrs). Prof. Dr. Andreas Nehring.

Second row, from left to right: Dr. Jochen Motte, Rev. Christoph Haus, Christian Michael Thiel, Dr. Erhard Berneburg, Hanns Hoerschelmann, Christian Reiser, Bishop Jan Janssen.