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EMW Members and Associate Members

This chapter shows the EMW as the umbrella organisation for churches, mission agencies and missionary organisations. The member organisations present themselves in their own words. Associate Partners only cooperate in certain areas with the EMW and are not full members of the EMW.



BERLINER MISSIONSWERK

Berlin Mission

Profile /Mission Statement

The Berlin Mission is an agency of the Evangelical Church Berlin–Brandenburg–Silesian Upper Lusatia; other partners are the Evangelical Church Anhalt (in Saxony Anhalt), the Jerusalem Society and the German East Asia Mission.

The agency originated in the Protestant Mission movement of the early 19th Century. It draws on the positive and the critical experiences of its history and introduces them into the current discourse on Mission.

Today Berlin Mission initiates and accompanies encounters and partnerships throughout the world, so that people can become aware of each other, learn from each other and share with each other. The Berlin Mission is committed to peace and justice, overcoming violence and the integrity of creation. Together with the partner churches, the Berlin Mission stands for a living Christian witness throughout the world. It gives a voice to the voiceless and always tries to meet all people with understanding, sensibility and openness.

The Berlin Mission is committed to a respectful but at the same time critical dialogue, both in ecumenical and in inter-religious contexts.

Select Fields of Work

Exemplary for the work of the Berlin Mission and its ecumenical approach is the School Centre Talitha Kumi in Palestine. “Girl stand up!” – is the English translation of the Biblical quote (Mark 5, 41) – and is the name and motto of the school. This was founded 150 years ago as a school and hostel for Arab girls, and under the administration of the Berlin Mission (since 1975) has developed into a large educational centre on the edge of the town of Beit Jala near Bethlehem. From Kindergarten to “A” levels and beyond that to a College of Hotel Management, the educational centre offers young people a perspective for the future,

whether in an academic profession or vocational training. Learning with head, heart, and hand in Talitha Kumi means education in peace and ecology, learning tolerance and respect for the members of different confessions and religions and encouraging girls and boys to become self-confident, self-determined personalities. The school is one of the 140 German Schools Abroad, supported by the German Government. Since 2013 it is possible for the students not only to take the Palestinian Final Certificate, but also the German International Abitur Examination (DIAP).

Partner Relationships

As the Ecumenical Centre of the Evangelical Church Berlin –Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia and the Evangelical Church Anhalt, the Berlin Mission today not only looks after their relations to the former mission churches in Southern Africa and in Tanzania, but also to the many other partner churches – from Sweden to Taiwan, from Cuba to the Volga. The agency is involved on almost every continent in this way, whether in development projects, with volunteers' programmes or in theological exchange.

Within Germany the Mission agency supports active ecumenism with its long-term expertise. This wealth of experience from over 190 years benefits today both the inter-religious dialogue and the fields of migration and integration, tasks which the Berlin Mission successfully carries out as the Ecumenical Centre of the two Regional Churches.

www.berliner-missionswerk.de



EV.-LUTH. MISSIONSWERK IN NIEDERSACHSEN

Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony

From soul-fishing to net-knitting – The way of a mission-society

It is the middle of the nineteenth century: “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” These words from John 17, 3 grabbed the attention of the young theologian Ludwig Harms and became the center of his thinking. For in reverse this sentence meant in Harms’ mind that there were Millions of heathens in Africa, Asia and America screaming for salvation since he understood: There is no eternal life without knowing Jesus.

Something had to be done. Christians were challenged: Go therefore into all the world ... And the world had become huge and was full of unsaved alien peoples. Thus were the news brought from the colonies across the oceans. To Harms and to the listeners of his stirring sermons this was an urgent call for action. And Harms plea was heard – not only in Hermannsburg the small village near Celle in the Luneburg Heath where Harms served the congregation.

But the young men who subsequently heard the call into Mission, were a problem to Harms. For the peasant’s sons of his congregation were lacking proper schooling and could not enroll for theology at the universities. But without a theological degree Harms would not have his missionaries in Africa. Therefore he founded in 1849 the “Missionseminar” in Hermannsburg which educated young men (and as from the 1970s also women) to become Missionaries: pastors with the special task to work overseas.

In 2012 the Missionseminar was transformed into the Fachhochschule für interkulturelle Theologie (FIT – University for applied science in intercultural theology). Young people from Sibiria to South Africa, from Chile to China are studying here in the fields of intercultural theology, Diaconia and religious sciences.

And the Missionsanstalt Hermannsburg of the 1850s was in 1977 transformed into the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony (ELM), a charitable foundation carried by the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Hannover, Braunschweig and Schaumburg-Lippe.

Today we Europeans have to complete the commandment “Go into all the world” by remembering, what Jesus said about his commission: I send you like the father has sent me: to preach to those in jail that they shall be free; to tell the blind that they will see, to release the burden of the oppressed (Luke 4,18). For today baptizing and preaching are the jobs of indigenous theologians.

From parent to partner

Today the mission societies in Europe have become “partners in mission” to independent churches. The ELM is affiliated with Churches in Africa, South America and Asia. This affiliation is laid down in contracts clarifying that ELM supplies personal and financial resources for project of the partner churches. These projects have a wide range of topics. Thus ELM organizes its work in three categories:

“Crossing borders”. This includes the assistance of congregation- and parish partnerships; a volunteer program sending more than 50 young men and women each year into overseas partner churches, including five young people from Africa or Latin America who come to live and work in German institutions; the exchange of knowledge of church workers by organizing conferences and exposure journeys and the “Mission to the North”-concept inviting artists, scientists and theologians to come to Germany.

“Experiencing god’s love”. This theme covers projects of infrastructure support to churches. It includes the exchange of pastors for a long term work in congregations of partner churches and the support of theological training worldwide through personal and finances.

“Working for a just world” is the third area of ELM’s work. Here we find medical, ecological and climate projects but also lobby- and advocacy-work in Germany. Through its work ELM is part of a huge network of churches, affiliated with 23 evangelical churches in 19 countries.

www.elm-mission.net



Evangelisch-Lutherisches
Missionswerk Leipzig

EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHES MISSIONSWERK LEIPZIG

Leipzig Mission

Mission Service of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany and the Lutheran Church of Saxony

Guiding Principles

Since 1836, the Leipzig Mission (LMW) has been an internationally operating service enabling spiritual, intercultural, and interreligious exchange.

- For more than 150 years, the Mission House in Leipzig has been a site of encounter, education, and spiritual life. Hence it has been an important source of identity for us and our partners.
- Mission today unfolds through encounter and cooperation of worldwide Christianity within the context of different cultures.
- Dialogue with people of different beliefs opens up one's own horizon for new views and enables joint commitment.

Hence we understand mission in the sense of a theology of encounter that faces the challenges of the One World together with its partners.

LMW advocates global learning in an ecumenical perspective. This brings the manifold spirituality, themes and perspectives of the partners in India, Tanzania and Papua New Guinea to bear in the Evangelical Church in Central Germany and the Lutheran Church of Saxony. This way LMW makes a concrete contribution to awareness for global interconnectedness in the One World and the One Christianity.

It is within this context that we develop, design and support partnership programmes in coordination with the relevant departments of the regional churches through

- Preparation, support, and follow-up of encounters and partner church relationships within an intercultural and interreligious context
- Dispatching and exchange of theological and other specialists as well as volunteers
- Networking and qualification of honorary and full-time disseminators in the fields of mission and development in the One World
- Competence building seminars in the fields of intercultural communication and development policy

Together with its partners, LMW designs, promotes, and supports projects and programmes aiming at sustainable improvement of all participants' living circumstances in the following action fields:

- Theology and preaching
- Education
- Health
- Environment and development
- Emergency aid

In order to achieve these goals, we actively ask for donations in addition to the funds of the responsible churches.

www.lmw-mission.de



EVANGELISCHE MISSION IN SOLIDARITÄT

Evangelical Mission in Solidarity

Mission moves – connects – opens.

The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) is an association of 23 churches and five mission societies on three continents – in Indonesia, India, Japan, South Korea, Jordan and the Lebanon, in South Africa, Ghana and in Germany. The German East Asia Mission (DOAM), The Evangelical Association for the Schneller Schools (EVS) and the Basel Mission – German Branch (BMDZ) are also members of the EMS. Just to count the members of the direct member churches of EMS brings the score to approximately 23 million members.

Since 2012 the EMS is an international association with equal rights for all the 28 members. The bodies of the EMS are made up of international members; working language of all bodies is English.

The EMS gives witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed as Lord and Saviour of all people. It is part of his Mission. EMS promotes attentive and respectful encounters across cultural and religious borders and is an advocate for life, especially for the rights of those who are vulnerable, poor and disenfranchised. The EMS is an expression of a living partnership of reciprocal strengthening and solidarity, mutual learning, joint planning, deciding and acting as well as sharing of resources, gifts and abilities.

Our Mission

The EMS lifts the commitment that all Christians have onto an international level: “God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2, 4). That is our calling. That is our mission.

This means in detail:

- We run joint missionary programs.
- We support the local member churches.
- EMS stands by its members in times of crisis.
- It raises its voice for its members.
- We send co-workers for missionary or diaconal service in other churches.
- We accompany the partnership work of our members.
- We promote ecumenical learning.
- We promote cross-cultural exchange.
- We give financial support to missionary and theological projects of our members.
- We support diaconal and educational programs.

The EMS raises funds for programs to fight poverty and to promote justice, peace and the integrity of creation in the member churches.

Cooperation

The EMS consciously seeks to cooperate with others. This includes the umbrella organisation of mission societies, the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW) in Hamburg.

Bodies

In the General Meeting every two years the 51 delegates of the EMS community decide on the direction in the work of the association and its long-term strategy.

The international board, the Mission Council, with 17 members meets twice a year. It takes policy decisions on current programs of the EMS. A three-person presidium chairs the General Meeting and the Mission Council, and makes sure that decisions are implemented. The Management Board of the Secretariat comes to an agreement on important issues with the Presidium.

The Secretariat in Stuttgart works on behalf of the EMS Association as a centre of competence on consultation, networking and coordination, information and education, exchange of personnel, the funding of programs and projects as well as joint action. General Secretary since 2013 is Pastor Jürgen Reichel.

www.ems-online.org



Mission EineWelt

Centrum für Partnerschaft, Entwicklung und Mission
der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Bayern

MISSION EINEWELT

Mission OneWorld

Centre for Partnership, Development and Mission for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria

Mission OneWorld (MEW) is an institution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, based in Neuendettelsau (Franconia) in 1846 Wilhelm Loehe founded a formation Institute in Nuremberg, where pastors were trained for their service among settlers from Franconia in North America. The Mission and Diaspora Seminary that later developed out of it, existed until 1985 and during its almost 140 years history trained more than 800 pastors and missionaries. On 15th April 1853 the institution was moved to Neuendettelsau. In 1852 already missionaries had been sent out to Eastern Europe and in 1875 to the emigrant congregations in Australia. In 1886 Johann Flierl began mission work in Papua New Guinea (then still Kaiser Wilhelms- Land). Today it is the oldest partner church of the Bavarian Regional Church.

On 1st April 1972 the Bavarian Mission Agency was founded as the agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria. The work of the Society for Inner and Outer Mission had become a task of the Regional Church. The mission agency took over the work that had been done so far in Papua New Guinea and that of the Leipzig and the Berlin Mission in Tanzania. On 1st January 2007 it finally came to a merger of the mission agency, Church Development Service and the Latin America work of the Bavarian Church - and Mission OneWorld was formed.

The partnership centre has its own conference centre, the exhibition "einBlick" ("take a look") and a Fairtrade shop. The Pacific Information Desk has its office here and the MEW is also in charge of the Erlangen Publishing Company for Mission and Ecumenism with its offices in the house.

Today Mission OneWorld looks after partnerships with 22 Lutheran churches in Asia, in the Pacific region, in Africa and in Latin America. The partner churches are supported in close cooperation, both financially and with personnel, projects

receive long-term support and the exchange of staff from the South to the North is being increased. Beyond that Mission OneWorld supports many congregations, church districts and church institutions in Bavaria in their partnership work overseas, and informs about its work and promotes it throughout the regional church. Campaigns and education work - often with international links - communicate the themes of worldwide cooperation.

Besides the partnership cooperation with churches overseas, which are organised in three departments, the centre maintains close working relations with mission organisations throughout Germany and in the Lutheran World Federation, as well as with campaigns and initiatives in the field of global church and development work.

Mission OneWorld is connected in many ways with the EMW in Germany: participating in the Board and General Assembly, in commissions and professional discussions, in campaigns, in having a joint stand at the "Kirchentag" and at other public relations projects.

www.mission-einewelt.de



NORDDEUTSCHE MISSION

Bremen Mission

Since 1847, Bremen Mission constitutes a dependable bridge establishing solidarity between Northern Germany and West Africa. Today, it is an international ecumenical mission and partnership organisation, consisting of six partners having equal rights: four German evangelical churches (Bremische Evangelische Kirche, Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Oldenburg, Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche and Lippische Landeskirche) as well as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana and the Eglise Evangélique Pres-bytérienne du Togo.

Church grants are the financial basis for the work of Bremen Mission and for many programs of the African churches. Donations and offerings are directly used for financing projects in Ghana and Togo.

In variable circumstances which are sometimes culturally, economically or politically difficult, Bremen Mission supports churches and congregations in their task of proclaiming the Christian message of peace and justice for all people. The mission is comprehensive and integrated and follows the motto: for God's sake and for the benefit of the world: the whole Gospel for the whole person.

In actual practice, this objective is realised

- in lively church services
- in the exchange program "changing perspectives"
- in ecumenical interconnectedness
- in theological consultations.

The task of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, to witness this message in word and deed, these objectives were taken over a long time ago from European or American missionaries by the West African churches which are connected with Bremen Mission. Today it is understood that mission is part of the life of the African churches, in the same way as it is the task of the German churches.

The programmatic slogan “The whole Gospel for the whole person” was created by the Evangelical Church in Togo as early as in 1964.

Social, educational, agricultural, medical work, promotion of women and village development are understood as tasks associated to the evangelisation. Keeping this in mind, the congregations and their members are on their way to visit near and far neighbours, to have personal talks with them, to invite them to church services, and to establish working groups for grown-ups, young people and children. Even in regions which are predominantly non-Christian, employees of the church are endeavouring to establish holistic encounters with people. They are requested, again and again, to set up schools, to help them with the development of their villages, to build churches and to assist with the establishment of congregations. In Togo, the Evangelical Church has installed its own radio station. Bremen Mission supports its partner churches in all these enterprises.

All these projects are sustainable development programmes. Among these programmes are:

- agricultural projects
- health stations and HIV/Aids campaigns
- wells and water purification
- work with women and young people
- handicraft training
- education and vocational training

Furthermore, we strive for intercultural encounters between people of different cultures, following the motto: “Learning from each other and with each other, learning to shape one’s life and learning to celebrate together”, and containing:

- Ecumenical missionary volunteers’ programme
- Women’s consultations
- Youth encounters
- International choir projects

www.norddeutschemission.de



DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ÄRZTLICHE MISSION

German Institute for Medical Mission

Since its founding as an organisation for worldwide Christian health work in 1906, the Difäm –German Institute for Medical Mission - has advocated for health in the One World.

Our vision is a world where health is a reality and God's healing activity can be seen. It is a world, where all people receive the best possible health care. With this vision we support our partners and partner organisations in their work of promoting health, especially for disadvantaged people.

We support

- training and further training of professional personnel
- building and equipping healthcare facilities
- improving the supply of medicines
- setting up structures for supervision of the local facilities
- funding local health facilities.

The main focus of Difäm's health work is the prevention and treatment of infectious and non-infectious diseases as well as chronic and mental illness. Of particular importance is the promotion of health for mothers and children, and the active participation of local people in setting up basic health care in their community. Difäm offers advisory as well as financial support for projects of our partner organisations.

The work of Difäm focusses on the aspects of quality, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. It is an expression of solidarity with disadvantaged people and a contribution towards more justice in the field of health care. Christian values form the basis of our work.

Difäm is the body responsible for the Paul-Lechler Tropical Hospital, a non-profit organisation, and also the Academy for Global Health and Development (AGGE).

We are also actively involved in Action against Aids Germany (AgA), in the Association of German Development NGOs (VENRO) as well as in various church networks. The Difaem is a member of the “Diakonisches Werk Württemberg”, a charitable organisation of the Protestant Churches.

As a Medical Mission Service we are closely linked to the EMW in Germany. We are looking forward to hosting the next General Assembly of the EMW in Tübingen in 2016. Within the framework of the 100 years Anniversary of our Tropical Hospital we will have the opportunity to illuminate the historical contexts and also to talk more about future cooperation and current subject overlaps in our work.

www.difaem.de



GOSSNER MISSION

Gossner Mission

Profile /Mission Statement

Mission with heart and hand: the Gossner Mission advocates that people who live in poverty and are marginalised should be able to experience justice and live their life in dignity and self-determination. In this way the Gossner Mission follows the tradition of its founder, Pastor Johannes Evangelista Gossner (1733 - 1858), who helped to found the church social work (Diakoniarbeit) in Berlin and at the same time sent out missionaries into the world: farmers and craftsmen, who proclaimed the Christian Gospel and also provided practical assistance and fought for the rights of the poor. The work was characterised from its beginnings in 1836 as a holistic understanding of mission, which its founder passed on to his followers.

Today the Gossner Mission works in five countries: in India, Nepal, Zambia, Uganda and in Germany itself. Since 2011 working in close cooperation with the Berlin Mission, the Gossner Mission nevertheless remains an independent mission agency that is supported by many individual friends, groups of friends and congregations throughout Germany. In addition it also receives funds from several Regional Churches. Among the supporting churches in Germany are: The Evangelical Church Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, the Evangelical Church in Hesse and Nassau, the Church of Lippe, the Evangelical Church in Rhineland and the Evangelical Church of Westphalia.

Partner relations

The main focus of the partnership relations is the connection to the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (GELC) that has grown out of the work of the early Gossner missionaries. With 500,000 members it is the largest Lutheran Church in India. Over 90 percent of its members are indigenous people of India, Adi-

vasi, who even today are marginalised and deprived of their rights in India. In addition the Gossner Mission has partnership relations to the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) and to two dioceses of the Anglican Church of Uganda.

The Gossner Mission also works together with many other partner organisations, in Nepal for example with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). This organisation has contributed to improving the situation of the people in this extremely poor country since the 1950s.

Selected fields of work

Based on its holistic understanding of Mission in India, the Gossner Mission supports the training of young men and women as theologians and as village deacons of the Gossner Church. After successfully completing their training they not only work in the congregations in the countryside as pastors and chaplains, but often also offer lessons in reading and writing, in market gardening and animal husbandry, as well as in questions of hygiene and health.

The Gossner Mission also works together with its partners in India in the fight against hunger and poverty; it supports health projects, education projects and village development projects. Over the last few years young volunteers have been sent out into the partner church, where they play an active part and return after one year with intense ecumenical experiences.

Expectations on future cooperation in the EMW-community

As a small mission society the Gossner Mission profits especially from the work of the umbrella organisation EMW that links the missions with each other and supports and enables an intensive exchange of ideas. The Gossner Mission is very grateful for this. We hope that the EMW will continue in future to particularly support the small societies and to strengthen their autonomy.

www.gossner-mission.de

MORGENLÄNDISCHE FRAUENMISSION

Oriental Women's Mission Society



The Oriental Women's Mission Society was founded in 1842 and was the first women's society in Germany that promoted education and mission for women in Indonesia (Nias and Sumatra), India and Africa (Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa) as well as later in Germany.

In 1892 they founded their own small Bible School as a training seminary. However very quickly it became too small for all the many interested young women, and so they moved and bought a former mission home of Friedrich von Bodelschwingh. There they offered training for women in church service in congregations and schools overseas and in Germany. However difficult times were ahead. In 1939 the Bible School was closed under Nazi rule and could not be opened again until 1945. Then young women were again trained for biblical-missionary service. But after the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, that was to divide Berlin for almost 30 years, the number of students was severely reduced.

It was therefore decided to close the training school; in 1969 it was opened again as a place of encounter for Christians from all over the world and for East-West exchange. Many Christian groups from West Germany stayed in "Haus Morgenland" when they came for partnership visits. At that time there was a close cooperation with the Berlin Mission. Innumerable mission events were held on the compound. In 1997 the responsibility for Haus Morgenland was transferred to the Protestant Youth and Social Care Association, who ran it as the "Hotel Morgenland". The existing old people's home was extended, with a modern seniors' residence in 2010. Today people with and without handicaps work together for the welfare of the guests. A small chapel with a bell tower calls people to come to devotion and to find quiet every day.

The friends group of the Oriental Women's Society is today no longer independently active in mission on account of the age of its members. They meet every month however for devotion and special events. Individual members still have contact to the former mission areas and to the former mission sisters who now live scattered throughout Germany. Some mission projects, partly in coopera-

tion with other Mission agencies, have continued to be supported by the MFM up until today. From the beginning, the school Talitha Kumi in Beit Jala / Palestine was a main focus, as well as for many years projects in Indonesia (Nari Nari on Nias) and an Adivasi project in India. Today the MFM supports mainly three projects: the school Talitha Kumi in Beit Jala, and an emergency centre for refugees run by the Protestant Youth and Care Association in Berlin. Furthermore they offer spiritual care and counselling for four residential groups of people suffering from dementia.

In 2017 the MSM will celebrate its 175th anniversary and be able to look back on a moving and committed history.

www.frauenmission.de



VEREINTE EVANGELISCHE MISSION

United Evangelical Mission

UEM congratulates the EMW on its 40th anniversary. UEM acknowledges the role of the EMW in forming a network of the different mission societies and other partners and bringing together and strengthening our work in the areas of mission, ecumenism and global responsibility.

Within UEM for nearly 20 years now, finances, control and supervision have been taken care of and shared as brothers and sisters among the 36 members from Africa (13), Asia (16) and Germany (7). The cooperation with the Altreformierte Kirche in Deutschland (Old-Reformed Church in Germany) and the Indonesian Church Council (PGI) as an umbrella organisation, is governed by association contracts. There has been a consequent expansion of the international structure initiated in 1996. This is consistent with the African and Asian presence in the membership structure. The General Assembly meets every two years. Delegates from all three regions decide together on the use of funds, regardless of the fact that the majority of donations still come from Germany.

The fact that some of the UEM members in the South are acquiring increasing financial power as a result of economic globalisation, has been taken up in the campaign „United Action“. This is about fundraising in Africa and Asia, where a number of member churches together fund specific projects in a region, such as projects for children in need.

The trilateral networking is significant for the work of UEM among the members in all three regions. Thus exchange of staff and young volunteers does not only take place North to South, but also South to North and South to South as well.

The Council, which has equal representation from the three regions, exercises supervision and decides on organisation policy. The office of the Moderator is in

turn filled by a representative from Africa, Asia and Germany by the General Assembly.

The staff in the two regional offices of UEM in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Medan (Indonesia) are responsible for implementing the programs in the regions. The regions Africa, Asia and Germany are each supervised by a Regional Council and hold a Regional Assembly every two years.

In 2008 UEM gave itself a corporate identity that bases on the five pillars

- Advocacy
- Diaconia
- Evangelism
- Partnership and
- Training & Empowerment.

This is translated into planning, coordinating and implementing numerous different programs and projects in all three regions.

In Germany relationships with other mission societies, such as the EMS and the „Norddeutsche Mission“, but also with partners in the field of development cooperation, such as Bread for the World, has been maintained and expanded.

On an international level, UEM cooperates with ecumenical organisations such as the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the West Papua Network and with International Mission Societies such as Cevaa and the Council of World Mission. Its membership in the ACT Alliance is that of an observer.

With a view to the future cooperation in the EMW community, UEM expects that EMW will fill its role as an umbrella organisation in such a way as to promote cooperation and exchange between members, and show the results of that in the fields of mission and development to other protagonists

www.vemission.org

ZENTRUM FÜR MISSION UND
ÖKUMENE – NORDKIRCHE WELTWEIT



Centre for Global Ministries and Ecumenical Relations

The Centre for Global Ministries and Ecumenical Relations shapes and supports the relationships of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany to churches and non-governmental organisations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, the Americas and Europe. Together with global partners the Centre is committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and stands up for justice, peace and integrity of creation. In collaboration with its partners the Centre is getting involved for joint issues and concerns. Cooperating with others, it supports global learning within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany and offers lectures, seminars, conferences, workshops, projects with schools, exhibitions and consulting services.

Ecumenical Relations:

The various desks are connected with churches, ecumenical institutions and non-governmental organisations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, America and the Pacific. Together with its partners, the Centre for Global Ministries and Ecumenical Relations works towards the strengthening of the worldwide network of churches. Together, they develop and represent positions for theological and development policy issues. They coordinate and shape ecumenical partnerships through encounters, exchange of personnel and financial support, including donations. They develop and promote projects in order to eliminate poverty. They also encourage climate justice, education, health care and the work of women's and youth groups. The various desks are the points of contact for the partner churches and the people within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany who are engaged in the field of global ecumenism.

Interreligious Dialogue

Interreligious dialogue is inspired by the certainty that the respect for the unknown and the learning from and with each other are the base for a peaceful coexistence of the religious communities. The desks for Christian-Jewish and

Christian-Muslim dialogue support relations between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany and Jewish and Muslim parishes and organisations. The desks initiate and support interreligious education and exchange projects. They cooperate with numerous church and non-church institutions and organisations. They also provide contact information for Jewish and Muslim speakers and communities, offer advice for events and provide information and materials.

Political Actions

Development policy education in the Centre for Global Ministries and Ecumenical Relations aims to change processes in our own church and society. Global issues and impulses from international cooperation are examined for their impact on our life and work. As part of our advocacy work, we commit to a lifestyle of solidarity and sustainability. We work for a fair distribution of power and resources. The desks “Human Rights and Migration,” “Theology and Sustainability” as well as the “Information Centre for Climate Justice” represent our current focus on global development education

Scholar and Volunteer Programms

The Centre enables young people to make for three to twelve months experiences in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Europe or America. Within this period of time the young people have the opportunity to work with the partners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany and within their institutions. The volunteers learn to view reality through someone else’s eyes and to critically reflect on their own lifestyle and thought patterns.

Ecumenical Education

The Centre for Global Ministries and Ecumenical Relations has developed a wide range of educational offers. Their aim is to convey issues related to mission and worldwide ecumenism within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany. Together with the “Christian Jensen College“ the Centre offers perspectives from society, politics and culture for the discussion in church and theology. The field “Ecumenical Spirituality” deals with faith and its forms of expression in a wide ecumenical way. It offers, for example through meditation and retreats, impulses and spaces of experience for spirituality.

www.nordkirche-weltweit.de



EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE IN DEUTSCHLAND

The Evangelical Church in Germany

The Evangelical Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland - EKD) comprises of 20 Lutheran, Reformed and United regional churches (Landeskirchen). German Protestant church structures are based on federal principles at all levels. Each local congregation is responsible for Christian life in its own area, whilst each regional church has its own special characteristics and retains its independence. Without in any way detracting from this autonomy, the EKD carries out a number of joint tasks which have been entrusted to it by its members. The EKD has the following governing bodies, all of which are organised and elected democratically: the Synod, the Council and the Church Conference. They are responsible for fulfilling the EKD's duties as laid down in the constitution of the EKD.

The EKD is fully committed to the ecumenical movement, the goal of which is Christian unity. Through its Department for Ecumenical Relations and Ministries Abroad, the EKD co-ordinates the participation of its member churches. It is itself an active member of the following ecumenical bodies: The World Council of Churches, The Conference of European Churches, The Community of Protestant Churches in Europe and The Council of Christian Churches in Germany (ACK). It considers these bodies to be the organised expression of the churches' joint effort to engage in Christian service through meeting humanitarian needs, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace, and upholding the integrity of creation.

Moreover, the EKD actively participates in Christian-Jewish Dialogue and is a member of various interfaith committees such as the Roundtable of Religions in Germany and the European Council of Religious Leaders.

The Church Office of the EKD is in contact with many churches around the world, organising bilateral visits, theological dialogues and consultations.

The EKD maintains close links and covenant relations with churches in:

- Europe: Italy, Great Britain, France, Finland, Sweden, Netherlands, Austria, Czech Republic, Romania
- North America: Canada, USA
- Latin America: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile
- Africa: South Africa, Namibia
- Middle East: Jordan, Israel
- Asia: Korea, Japan, China, Indonesia and Thailand (with both churches and national councils of churches)
- Australia

For more information, please see: <http://www.ekd.de/english/1589.html>

The EKD is also leading bilateral theological dialogues with the Russian-Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), the Romanian-Orthodox Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

There are more than 100 German-speaking congregations worldwide which are related to the EKD. They invite tourists, business travelers, expatriates and emigrants to worship in their native language, learn about other faiths and cultures and enjoy a time of Christian fellowship in a familiar atmosphere.

Furthermore, the EKD church office maintains ecumenical relations with migrant churches in Germany. Through the Intercultural Ministries Conference, the EKD is in vital contact with over 50 different churches from various cultural and denominational backgrounds.

The EKD has been in close relationship with the EMW since it began: In 1975, the Synod of the EKD opted for the foundation of the EMW. The EKD is, of course, one of the EMW's members and the EMW steering committee includes at least one deputy of the EKD. Both institutions co-operate in the fields of mission and ecumenical relationship.

www.ekd.de



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT MENNONITISCHER GEMEINDEN
IN DEUTSCHLAND

Association of Mennonite Congregations

The AMG is the umbrella organisation of 56 Mennonite congregations with around 5000 baptised congregation members. The roots of these congregations go back to the Baptist movement of Reformation times in the 16th century. Some of the congregations have existed in Germany for 300 to 400 years. Their rejection of too close links of state and church has remained to the present day. The church should always be able to raise its voice independently - even against the government and those in power. In the congregations there is no overall doctrinal authority and no church hierarchy.

Right from the beginning, the Sermon on the Mount was of great importance: working for peace and being able to live free from violence has therefore always been an identifying characteristic of Mennonite congregations and Christians. Today there are 1.3 million members in the Mennonite World Conference throughout the world, of whom 55% live in countries in the South.

Partnership and project relations to foreign partners are mainly realised through independent committees and organisations, which are linked through the network on the platform "AMG" www.mennoniten.de. Most important here are particularly the mission committee (DMMK), the peace committee (DMFK), and the two organisations "Mennonite Aid Organisation" (MH) and "Mennonite Voluntary Service" (CD).

Under the auspices of the AMG, the individual priorities are determined and the relationships brought to life: The DMMK www.mission-mennoniten.de takes up mission initiatives from congregations, bundles them together and implements

them, particularly among the world-wide Mennonite sisters and brothers. A priority is seen in support for indigenous congregations in Africa, Asia and South America in the fields of evangelism and the founding of congregations.

Possibilities for International Mission experience are being created everywhere. The opportunity to make this kind of learning experience is offered by “Christian Services” (CD) www.christlichedienste.de/. Christian Services is supported by the cooperation of Mennonite organisations in diaconal services, peace services, and Mission, and works as a branch of Mennonite Voluntary Service. CD arranges voluntary service opportunities abroad in different fields of work, which are always run by the local project partners. For example the volunteers work with street children, handicapped people, old people or people with a drug problem, single mothers and refugees. They build houses for the homeless, mediate in conflict situations and campaign for fairer market prices for the products from the poorest countries.

The main focus in the projects of the DMFK (www.dmfk.de) are peace and non-violent conflict resolution. Individuals and congregations should be strengthened to promote peace and justice. To live together as a church of peace, to name the complexity of global problems that lead to conflict, and to show possible ways of action, is how we summarise our understanding of our role as a church. As a recent example in Summer 2015, we can name the support for newly arrived refugees on the island of Lesbos. An essential field of work of the MH www.menno-hilfswerk.de/ is to support refugees and asylum seekers. A team of our staff is there for the refugees in the Human Rights Centre (Karlsruhe). They offer visits, German courses, computer and cooking courses, and are available for questions and problems in daily life.

The MH also offers aid in global catastrophes and development work with partners. Over the last few years our main focus has moved to work with partners in Africa (Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya and others). As a small church we are thankful for the support and networking that is possible within the EMW. We know that we often profit from the experiences of the large agencies and churches. But as a small peace church we are also willing and ready to bring our share and our particularities into the EMW.

www.mennoniten.de

BUND EVANGELISCH-FREIKIRCHLICHER
GEMEINDEN IN DEUTSCHLAND

Union of Evangelical Free Church Congregations in Germany



BEFG is a Free Church and consists of approximately 670 Baptist and 130 Brethren congregations with a total of 82,000 members. The motto of Johann Gerhard Oncken, who founded the first Baptist congregation in Hamburg in 1834, is today still the motto for the BEFG: „For the glory of God and for the well-being of the people“. Oncken also stated: „Every Baptist is a missionary!“ In this sense Baptist and Brethren congregations take up the principle of the Reformation of the „Priesthood of all Believers“, which does not restrict tasks of the congregation and in missionary service to Special Ministries. At the same time characteristics of the BEFG are its commitment to the separation of Church and State, and to Freedom of Religion, which are rooted in its core congregational principles. The early Baptists, who suffered under repression, not only claimed Freedom of Religion for themselves: „But we claim religious freedom in absolutely the same way for All, be they Christians, Jews, Muslims or whatever.“ (Julius Köbner, 1848).

The headquarters of the BEFG, which amalgamated in 1941/42, is situated in Elstal near Berlin. In addition to the administration and service departments, it is home to the Congregational Youth Services and the training institutions of the Union: the Evangelical Free Church Academy and the Elstal Theological Seminary.

Just like its partner organisations, the BEFG understands Mission as bringing the Gospel to people in word and deed. The pillars of the work in the service department Mission are Evangelism, Congregation Development, Diaconal Work and World Mission. The department assists the congregations of the BEFG to become involved in evangelism and diaconal activities in their area. Part of the Diaconal work of the BEFG are the regional Diaconal Services of the Central Diaconal Services (Mutterhausdiakonie) as well as many congregational initiatives and institutions committed especially to serving children, elderly people, socially disadvantaged families and refugees. In many countries in Europe and the Middle East, the BEFG supports diaconal projects through its coordination

office German Baptist Aid. In disaster relief BEFG cooperates with Baptist World Aid, the aid organisation of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). It has long-term partnerships with Malawi, Cameroon, Haiti and South Africa.

In World Mission and Development Aid the BEFG is active through the European Baptist Mission (EBM INTERNATIONAL) in Africa, Latin America, India and in Turkey. In 1954 the Baptist Unions of Germany, France and Switzerland founded this institution to enable them to pool their mission activities, which in Cameroon go back as far as 1891. Up to now church planting and theological training are a central focus of the work of EBM International.

The German Baptist pastor Horst Borkowski founded MASA (Missionary Action in South America) in 1979; it has since merged into EBM. The „Hans-Herter-Indienhilfe“ (Hans Herter India Aid) founded at the initiative of Under-Secretary Hans Herter in 1960, also became a branch of EBM in 2009. In 2011 the church planting initiative in the Turkish city of Izmir also became part of EBM.

In all its locations EBM acts according to the motto: Listen and lend a hand, plan together and act together – in school work, in orphanages, in counselling and care of sick people, in organising building projects, in financial issues and in the training of pastors. EBM does not send a missionary or a volunteer as a know-all: European and local staff work together as partners and helpers – and always only at the request of the local church leadership.

„Local ownership“ is very important to EBM: it is not the headquarters in Elstal that decides on new projects, but the leaders and experts of the regional unions. EBM INTERNATIONAL does not initiate any more projects, but rather supports local initiatives. EBM INTERNATIONAL consists of 29 national Baptist Unions with equal rights worldwide, among them the BEFG. Its Board has 17 members from 13 countries and four continents.

www.baptisten.de
www.ebm-international.de

EVANGELISCH-ALTREFORMIERTE KIRCHE

Protestant Old-Reformed Church

Such a large organisation with so many very different members and we, the Protestant Old-Reformed Church (Evangelisch-altreformierte Kirche) right in the middle of them! It was a wise decision when in 1976 our synod officially requested membership in the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW). For a church that was at that time still part of the „Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland“ (GKN) this meant consciously opening up to church life in Germany. When in 2004 the two big Reformed Churches in the Netherlands merged with the Lutheran Church there to become the „Protestantse Kerk in Nederland“ (PKN), this meant a new organisational challenge for our small Free Church (approximately 6500 members in 13 congregations in Northern Germany). The German contacts and especially our contact to the EMW have become even more important as a result.



For our mission work this means that on the Dutch side we cooperate with „Kerk in Actie“ and on the German side with the EMW. More recent are our contacts with the United Evangelical Mission. Thanks to our cooperation with “Kerk in Actie”, the Mission Department of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, we have been able to maintain our long partnership with the Christian Church of Sumba (Indonesia). As the language barrier towards the Netherlands becomes greater, we are increasingly dependent on German publications to keep the topic of Mission alive in our congregations in future. Here the EMW is a great help with all its publications. I would especially remind us here of the materials and magazines that were published between 2008 und 2011 as part of the action „Mission.de. Um Gottes willen – der Welt zuliebe“ (Mission.de. for God’s sake – for the world’s sake). The annual reports also help us to reflect on our missionary responsibility as a church. Contact with various mission agencies, associations and other churches under the umbrella of the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany widens our perspective concerning the importance of Mission.

So another big thank you to all of you who promote the issues of Mission in our churches, associations and mission agencies with such commitment and dedication. I wish you all and us God’s blessing for the work in the future.

www.altreformiert.de



**EVANGELISCHE
BRÜDER-UNITÄT**
HERRNHUTER BRÜDERGEMEINE

**EVANGELISCHE BRÜDER-UNITÄT -
HERRNHUTER BRÜDERGEMEINE**

Moravian Church

The European Continental Province of the Moravian Church is one of currently 28 provinces of the worldwide Moravian Church. Its structure is that of a Free Church. In Germany it is affiliated to the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and is a guest member of the Association of Evangelical Free Churches (VeF). The confessional documents of the other evangelical churches are also accepted by the Moravian Church.

Worldwide network

The over 20,000 members of the European Continental Province of the Moravian Church live in Albania, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. Administrative locations, where the members of the Provincial Board live and work, are in Bad Boll (G), Herrnhut (G) and Zeist (NL). Most members of the European Continental Province of the Moravian Church live in the Netherlands. In Germany there are currently 16 Moravian congregations. Half of the members are also members of an Evangelical Church. The Moravian Church is considered to be the first church to gain the insight and put it into practise that mission is not merely a job for specialists but for the whole church. As early as 1732 the first missionaries were sent from Herrnhut to Caribbean plantation slaves. Within the next ten years attempts to do mission work in a dozen more countries followed. A church with about 1,100,000 members in 50 countries has developed from these small beginnings.

Branching out to individuals

In order to pool the forces required for mission work, as well as to enable members of other churches to participate, the Moravian Mission Society (Herrnhuter Missionshilfe) in Germany was founded almost 100 years ago. It sees itself not as an organisation to which all missionary activities are outsourced, but as an

organisation providing services for churches, congregations and groups that are actively doing missionary work (partnership groups, fair trade shops, schools). The Church's Provincial Board Member, who is responsible for missionary work and external relations, is always also the Chair Person of the Mission Society's Board of Directors. The activities of the Moravian Mission Society are based on partnerships within the worldwide Moravian Church, which are mutually agreed upon. Currently contacts are maintained especially to Tanzania and Palestine, but also to Albania, Latvia, Malawi, Nicaragua, North India, South Africa and Suriname. Patronisation is not a part of these relationships, but rather cooperation with local churches and initiatives. The Moravian Mission Society in Germany sees itself as part of a network of various mission societies and relief organisations within and outside the worldwide Moravian Church, in particular the European Mission Council of the Moravian Church and the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity.

Rooted in faith

With a small team of staff members and a large circle of friends the Moravian Mission Society in Germany helps in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Besides doing project-related development work, the Moravian Mission Society in Germany focuses on helping to build new churches, promoting theological studies, finding placements for volunteers and organising encounter trips. With its fair trade products "Moravian Merchandise" it supports economic initiatives in many countries and one-world awareness in Germany and Europe. Its Mission Statement makes it clear that its work is based on the Word of God and the Love of Christ. It knows that its work can only be blessed as long as it is blessed itself. It rejoices in the wealth and colourfulness of faith, as it is to be found in the many churches and countries it has to deal with.

Mission today

Mission is no one-way street. Christianity, which is dwindling in old Europe, needs impulses from the young, growing churches, which are mainly to be found in the South. In times of globalisation, fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ has to be a joint task. In these efforts, preaching the gospel is as important as taking a stand for justice, peace and the protection of God's creation.

www.ebu.de

www.herrnhuter-missionshilfe.de



EVANGELISCH-METHODISTISCHE KIRCHE

Evangelical Methodist Church

The Evangelical Methodist Church (EMK) is the German branch of the United Methodist Church (UMC), the largest internationally based Methodist Church. The UMC is present on four continents and has a joint organisation and constitution.

EMK World Mission is in charge of the international relationships and contacts of the EMK in Germany. At present the EMK in Germany has partnership links with 10 Methodist churches and two Methodist organisations. The partner churches are in South America (Brazil and Uruguay), Africa (Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone und South Africa) und Europe (Albania and Russia), the two organisations are in Kenya und India. Aim of these partnerships is the mutual assistance and support of church work. This is done by funding projects, mutual exchange of personnel (short and long-term), joint consultations and encounters to learn from each other, and other activities.

The work of EMK World Mission is based on our understanding of Mission. Five points define the different dimensions of our work. A short summary of it shows its scope:

- „Mission means Sending.“ This makes clear that God commits us to Mission and everyone is part of it.
- „Mission is love in action.“ This shows the theological base of our Mission and its practical scope.
- „Mission overcomes borders.“ This defines the global character of our call to Mission and shows that many borders have to be overcome.
- „Mission needs people.“ This tells about people being the focus of Mission, both as actors and as recipients, in both directions.
- „Mission is practical.“ This shows for example the many possibilities for participating and contributing.

We concentrate our work on five main programmes that receive special support.

- Evangelism, strengthening congregations and theological training
- Children and Youth
- Health and HIV/Aids
- Women and Girls
- Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

This list shows the wide range of the work of EMK World Mission. More detailed information and in-depth descriptions of our partnerships, projects supported, and personnel exchange you can find on our website.

www.EMKweltmission.de



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT MISSIONARISCHE DIENSTE

Association of Missionary Services

To talk about belief and to invite others to believe are core tasks of the church. The AMD makes a specific contribution to this as a network of people committed to Mission. The AMD stands for a Mission that awakens faith, for growth and development of congregations and a church committed to Mission and to missionary diaconal work. The AMD supports the missionary work in the Regional Protestant Churches, agencies and associations.

Bound by tradition

The AMD stems from the missionary movements of the 19th Century, the Revival Movement, the Fellowship Movement and in particular from the work of the Inner Mission – for this reason it is still a member of the network of social welfare work “Diakonie Deutschland” today.

From 1920 onwards the Regional Churches in Germany recognised the missionary challenge as their responsibility and created the required structures to support this task. In 1928 the “Deutsche Evangelische Verband für Volksmission” (German Evangelical Association for Evangelism) was founded to coordinate the Regional Churches’ Offices for Evangelism, and in 1934 the “Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Volksmissionare” (Association of German Evangelist Preachers). Both joined together in 1946 to found the “Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Volksmission” (Association for Evangelism). Out of this developed the Association of Missionary Services.

Today all the Offices for Missionary Services and Offices for Evangelist and Congregational Services of all member churches in the EKD, and more than 70 independent agencies and associations in Germany, belong to the AMD. For all the members it is their greatest concern that congregations should become places where people entrust their lives to Jesus Christ.

Practical Steps

■ for example: courses to strengthen belief

On behalf of the EKD and with support from it, the AMD has started the project ADULT BELIEF. Courses to strengthen belief are being extended step by step so that they are offered regularly and as a matter of course at many different church venues, and they are being expanded to become a recognised trademark (www.kurse-zum-glauben.de).

■ for example: Bible Weeks

In round figures, 180,000 people in almost 6,000 congregations took part in a Bible Week event in 2012. In 2015 the Bible Week celebrated its 80th anniversary. The AMD prepares the study- material for the Ecumenical Bible Week together with partners such as the German Bible Society and the Catholic Bible Association.

■ for example: diaconal missionary profiling

The AMD does not only itself develop projects for diaconal profiling, such as courses on faith issues in diaconal institutions, it also puts together bundles of good ideas: under www.diakonisches-profil.de for example, there is a large collection of materials, texts and project ideas for diaconal profiling in institutions and in church congregations.

■ for example: new forms of congregations/Fresh X

Climbing Church, Gospel Church, Caf  thral, Social baking, Services in a Bar and Christian-Football-Fanclubs are just a few examples of Fresh X. A Fresh X is a new form of congregation for a culture in a process of change, which was primarily founded for people who have no previous links to church or congregation. The AMD is a partner in the network Fresh X. it also supports and accompanies processes of congregation development, e.g. special conferences on evangelism, house groups/small groups, the work of congregation councils and works with lectors and lay preachers.

Furthermore the AMD organises regular conferences and consultations on current questions about missionary theology and practice.

www.a-m-d.de



CVJM-GESAMTVERBAND IN DEUTSCHLAND

YMCA Germany

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is the largest ecumenical youth organization in Germany. With more than 2,200 local YMCAs, it is a venue for more than 330,000 young people.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, Christians belong to a worldwide community. Within this worldwide community we are appointed and commissioned to spread the good news of God's saving propitiation in Jesus Christ and His act of love as inseparable components of God's mission on this earth. The YMCA regards itself as belonging to this community of the Kingdom of God (Paris Basis). Within it, the YMCAs are linked regionally, nationally and internationally. This YMCA network offers young people the opportunity to take part in fulfilling the Great Commission, to learn from each other by getting to know and interacting with each other, and finally to actively promote social justice throughout the world.

As part of the fellowship of the World Alliance of YMCAs, we share the mandate for the YMCAs worldwide as worded in "Challenge 21". Challenge 21 constitutes a fundamental framework for the current collaboration and networking within the worldwide YMCA movement. Challenge 21 clearly sets forth the evangelistic and the social mandate for the YMCAs.

The work of YMCA Germany's international department contributes to the advancement of the Kingdom of God in a globalizing world, particularly among young people, thereby promoting social justice and peace throughout the world. This is achieved via evangelization, education and social engagement. We aim to facilitate interaction among young people, promote evangelical, ecumenical, intercultural and development-political learning, and advance the contributing/sharing engagement for social justice and peace. Some YMCA initiatives that further this end are international interaction and connecting, partnership commitments, project funding and promotion, international voluntary services, events, campaigns and training measures. Thus, the underlying theme that pervades the international activity of the YMCA is: connect, educate, share.

www.cvjm.de


WELTBIBELHILFE

DEUTSCHE BIBELGESELLSCHAFT – WELTBIBELHILFE

German Bible Society

The Bible and the world: these are both the starting point and the goal of the German Bible Society's Weltbibelhilfe (World Bible Support) program. All Bible Societies around the world are working to make the Bible accessible to everybody in their mother tongue, in a format of their choice and at a price they can afford. The German Bible Society is connected with these Societies – 146 in all – through the worldwide network of United Bible Societies. Through its

Weltbibelhilfe program, it has been raising funds for more than 50 years and, via the United Bible Societies network, supports Bible translation and distribution projects, as well as literacy projects and initiatives to promote the relevance of the Bible in society.

More than 15 million people every year benefit from projects supported by Weltbibelhilfe. Christians around the whole world are strengthened in their faith when they can finally read the Bible in their own language. Many communities see their language written down for the first time as a result of Bible translation and thus gain a stronger sense of identity. Then they see that 'Now God speaks our language.' There is also an impact on people who have never come into contact with the Bible before: through gaining access to the Bible thanks to the work of Bible Societies, they find comfort, a sense of security and guidance for their life. Others who have had no access to education learn to read and write through Bible-based literacy courses run by Bible Societies and thus gain the opportunity for personal spiritual growth and for meaningful participation in society. This is the case, too, for blind people who – through Bible Society projects – learn to read Braille and receive Braille Bibles. Bible Societies also reach out to people in need, distributing emergency aid and Bibles to victims of natural disaster and war and offering them spiritual support.

Churches, too, benefit from the work of Bible Societies. Since Bible Societies are founded on ecumenical principles, they work with all Christian Churches and seek to meet their needs. They supply the Churches with affordable Bible editions and, at their request, translate the Bible into the languages in which it is needed. Where a translation has become outdated and difficult to understand, Bible Societies undertake revisions. For many Christian Churches, Bible Societies are a vital partner, allowing bridges to be built to other confessions and denominations.

Another important area of the work of Weltbibelhilfe is one which is closely linked with the concerns of Evangelische Missionswerk: promoting theological training worldwide and offering further training to full-time and voluntary workers. Bible Societies in poorer countries receive scholarly Bible editions which are developed and published by the German Bible Society's publishing unit. This allows students and teachers in these countries to work with editions which they would not otherwise be able to afford. Weltbibelhilfe also supports the production of Study Bibles, for example the recently-produced study edition in Mandarin, spoken by 1.2 billion people. Bible Societies are also involved with additional training for clergy and volunteer workers. This means that local churches benefit from well-trained young workers, which ensures high-quality preaching and biblical teaching and strengthens the Christian presence in that country, indeed often its whole society.

Weltbibelhilfe has an ambitious vision: it wants to see the Bible reach people everywhere and change their lives. The Bible tells of God's love and brings hope, comfort and faith, things that are needed more than ever in today's world.

www.die-bibel.de



DEUTSCHE EVANGELISCHE MISSIONSHILFE

German Protestant Mission Publishers

Founded in 1913, the DEMH is a foundation under civil law with its headquarters in Hamburg. The DEMH is a member of the EMW, the umbrella organisation of Protestant Mission Agencies, Churches and Missionary Associations in Germany.

The purpose of the DEMH foundation is “to awaken and to strengthen Mission responsibility among Protestant Christians, particularly in Germany, and to coordinate such work, mainly through the publication of magazines and literature.” This is carried out by its DEMH Publishing House, which among other things takes on publishing work for the EMW. The magazine “One World” and the annual book “Jahrbuch Mission” are published by them for the EMW. Further publications are the academic series “Studien zu interkulturelle Theologie an der Missionsakademie” (Studies on intercultural theology at the Academy of Mission) (SITMA), the series “Gebete aus der Oekumene” (Prayers from the Ecumenical Movement), the “Glossare des kirchlichen Sprachgebrauchs“ (Glossaries of Church Language Use) and the Peters Projection World Map (equal area projection). All this is possible thanks to the EMW. The foundation itself has only very limited capital, which has to be used exclusively for the statutory foundation purposes. Its publishing activities are supported by EMW both financially and with personnel.

The foundation is run by an executive committee of five persons, who are accountable to a Board of Trustees. Members of the Board of Trustees are publishing professionals, journalists and theological staff from mission agencies and churches. A business manager is in charge of the ongoing work, who is also employed as Secretary in the EMW. The only person employed by the foundation is responsible for accounting and publishing and as assistant editor for the magazine “One World”.

www.demh.de

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT | GERMAN SOCIETY
FÜR MISSIONSWISSENSCHAFT | FOR MISSION STUDIES

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT
FÜR MISSIONSWISSENSCHAFT

German Society for Mission Studies

The German Society for Mission Studies (DGMW) is a non-profit organization which aims to promote academic research into the history and theory of Christian mission in an intercultural and interreligious horizon

- holds conferences on current issues in the field of Mission Studies / Intercultural Theology
- sponsors research projects and publications relating to the pursuit of Mission Studies
- produces the publication series „Missionswissenschaftliche Forschungen – Neue Folge“ [which translates as „Research in Mission Studies – New Series”]
- publishes the journal “Interkulturelle Theologie – Zeitschrift für Missionswissenschaft” [which translates as “Intercultural Theology – Journal for Mission Studies”] and a series of associated supplements
- currently has more than 300 members in German-speaking countries, in Europe as a whole, and in the international community

The DGMW is composed of:

- elected members who are active in the field of Mission Studies
- its parent organizations, namely the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW), the German Protestant Mission Aid (DEMH), and the Association of Protestant Mission Conferences, as well as other organizations and
- individuals who support the DGMW with a one-time endowment contribution.

The History of the DGMW

The German Society for Mission Studies was founded in Berlin in 1918, shortly before the end of the first world war, by a small circle of specialists at the initiative of Göttingen church historian Carl Mirbt. It was the first association of its kind in the world. In the period between the first and second world wars, the society published two series of studies in the field of mission studies, and it also promoted the subject at university level.

After 1945, the DGMW was able to augment its activities substantially by awarding scholarships, sponsoring publications, and hosting conferences. The society played a significant role in the founding of the International Association for Mission Studies (IAMS). The chairpersons of the DGMW: 1918-1930: Carl Mirbt; 1930-1951: Martin Schlunk; 1951-1965: Gerhard Rosenkranz; 1965-1990: Hans-Werner Gensichen; 1990-2004: Theo Sundermeier; 2004-2015: Dieter Becker; since 2015: Henning Wrogemann.

www.dgmw.org

CHRISTOFFEL-BLINDENMISSION

CBM

With an experience of more than 108 years, Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) is one of the largest and oldest organizations of development cooperation in Germany. Its main aim as a Christian development organization is to improve the quality of life of the poorest people in the world who are disabled or in danger to become disabled. Since 1968, CBM's headquarter is located in Bensheim in the state of Hessen.



In lower income countries CBM is cooperating with local partner organizations. Together they provide health care services, enable children with disabilities to go to school and give adults with disabilities access to rehabilitation services and also work. Besides, CBM supports the inclusion of people with disabilities as equal members in all aspects of social life. In addition, the CBM partners overseas provide preventive, curative, educational and rehabilitation services of high quality. These aim at decreasing poverty and more independence of people with disabilities.

Currently, CBM supports 650 projects in 63 countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Together with its partners, in 2015 CBM reached a total of 38.9 million people worldwide. Member Associations in eleven countries are financing the common program work with an overall budget of almost 67 million Euro.

CBM is recognized as professional organization by the World Health Organization (WHO) and gained advisory status at the United Nations. In cooperation with WHO and other NGOs, CBM initiated the campaign "VISION 2020 - the Right to Sight". Its aim is to overcome avoidable and treatable blindness. In addition, CBM and other interest groups launched an international initiative in 2003, providing low-cost hearing aid for hearing impaired people in low-income countries (WWHearing).

www.cbm.de
www.cbm.org

CHRISTLICHER HILFSBUND IM ORIENT E.V.

Christian Aid in the Orient

The C.H.O. was founded in 1896 in reaction to the persecution of Armenian Christians in the Ottoman Empire.



Its mission is as follows:

- **To inform** about the situation of Christians in the Middle East
- **To cultivate** fellowship with Christians in the Middle East
- **To pray** for Christians in the Middle East
- **To mutually inspire** and encourage one another in the Christian faith
- **To offer practical help** through specific projects

The C.H.O. presently (2016) supports projects in the following countries:

- Syria: Support for the work in Church Fellowships in Aleppo and Kessab
- Iraq: Securing a means of livelihood for christian refugees in North Iraq
- Lebanon: Residential School for socially underpriveleged children and help for refugee children
- Armenia: Zatik Community Centre and associated projects
- Germany: Refugee relief and gathering and circulating information

www.hilfsbund.de

DEUTSCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT FÜR
EVANGELISCHE GEHÖRLOSENSELSORGE

German Association for Evangelical Deaf Pastoral Care



DAFEG is the association of persons working in the Protestant ministry for the deaf. The main issue of DAFEG is lobby work within the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and its member churches.

The topics DAFEG mainly deals with are

- training and further education of pastors for the deaf
- training of deaf workers in the parishes of the deaf
- communication between the deaf and the hearing
- developing religious texts and religious sign language
- socio-ethical topics (i.g. forced sterilization during the Third Reich; gene technology; cochlear implants)

In cooperation with the Finish Deaf Mission, the branch “Deutsche Gehörlosenseelsorge” supports three schools for the deaf in Eritrea and Tanzania.

DAFEG also publishes the monthly parish newsletter “Unsere Gemeinde – Zeitung für evangelische Gehörlose” (Our Parish – Newspaper for Protestant Deaf People).

www.dafeg.de

DEUTSCHE SEEMANNSMISSION

German Seamen's Mission

The German Seamen's Mission with its international headquarter in Bremen is one of the oldest branches of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD). For 130 years, the organization has been providing pastoral care and social work to seafarers from all over the world on ships, in seafarer clubs and seafarers' hostels on several continents. This is available for all seafarers in need of assistance regardless of their social, national, cultural or religious origins.



Today the approximately 800 persons of paid staff and honorary volunteers around the world want to counteract the board routine of isolation and alienation in the increasingly multinational crews with off-board leisure activities. We work closely together with other Christian maritime missions and organizations of the maritime world.

Together, we are committed to improving the living and working conditions on board. The Deutsche Seemannsmission maintains a network of 16 stations on four continents, for example in Durban, Valparaíso and Hong Kong. In Germany there are also 16 stations, which are supported by independent national associations. Among them are Hamburg, Rostock, Bremerhaven. The Deutsche Seemannsmission is also active in Duisburg, the largest inland port in Europe.

Internationally, the DSM has for some time placed particular emphasis on the psychosocial support of piracy victims and aid for seafarers in the Mediterranean refugee crisis. Unlike professional rescuers, there is no obligatory psychological follow-up for seafarers. The only contact persons are often the port chaplains of the Deutsche Seemannsmission. Again and again seafarers of all nations phone or mail to our stations or to the Bremen headquarter, because they do not cope with their experiences made in the Mediterranean and need help. The work is financed from church taxes, voluntary ship-owner-contributions and mainly from donations.

www.seemannsmission.org

HILDESHEIMER BLINDENMISSION

Hildesheim Mission To The Blind

Hildesheim Mission To The Blind Reg. Soc. (HBM) is a protestant charity NGO sponsoring and promoting special education schools for blind students as well as ophthalmological services in Southeast-Asia.

HBM was founded in the year 1890 by Luise Cooper and is the oldest blind mission society in Germany. Ca. 300 children receive a quality education and boarding in our special schools in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.



HBM assists partner organisations through the procurements of private sponsorships and project funds for blind, visually impaired and multiple disabled children and young people. Funds are provided until a student with special needs is proficient for self support. Integration and inclusion of blind and severely visually impaired children in regular schools through teacher trainings and early intervention programs is part of HBM's service.

www.h-bm.org

LUTHERISCHE KIRCHENMISSION

Mission of Lutheran Churches

The Mission of Lutheran Churches (“Lutherische Kirchenmission“, LKM or, in English, MLC) has its roots in the spiritual awakening under Louis Harms (1808-1865), parish pastor in Hermannsburg, (Germany), and founder of the Hermannsburg Mission Society.

A split caused by doctrinal controversy led to the 1892 founding of the „Mission of the Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Free Church“, also known as the “Bleckmar Mission“ after the village where, not far from Hermannsburg, its administration and a theological seminary were established. Then as today its main field of work lies in southern Africa. In 1967, the congregations planted by MLC formed the “Lutheran Church in Southern Africa“ (LCSA). This church continues to cooperate with the MLC.



Today, the MLC supports mission and charity projects in various partner churches. In addition to its engagement in South Africa it supports projects in Brazil (help for the elderly and for children), Mozambique (theological education) and in Germany. Some of today’s work in Germany began as initiatives among Germans from former Soviet Republics and East Germans who had become estranged from the church during communist times. A neighborhood center for refugees from the Middle East and local residents is being run in Leipzig.

The LKM/MLC is the Mission Society of the „Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany“ (SELK).

www.mission-bleckmar.de

VERBAND EVANGELISCHER MISSIONSKONFERENZEN



Association of Evangelical Mission Conferences

In the Association of Evangelical Mission Conferences (VEMK) have merged various mission conferences and their successors. Its aim is to keep awake the interest in the topic of mission and to contribute to a new understanding of mission. The Association is an associate member of EMW. VEMK and EMW are jointly issuing the *Jahrbuch Mission* (Mission Yearbook). In the individual conferences and at the level of the participating regional churches, the VEMK is working closely together with the regional mission agencies.

The idea of forming missionary conferences goes back to Gustav Warneck's suggestions. Thus, in 1879, a mission conference was held in Halle for the province of Saxony and Anhalt. Further founding in Brandenburg, Brunswick, Bavaria and Silesia followed. In 1900 there were 16 such conferences. The number went on to 26 conferences (1938). These conferences should arouse and nurture the missionary sense among evangelical Christians, especially among the pastoral ministers, to stimulate prayer and donations for missionary societies and to undertake mission festivals in the congregations. In addition, the members of the individual conferences met to discuss mission and religious studies.

As a consequence of the integration of mission and Church in the 1970s, regional mission agencies were founded. Some of them are continuing the tasks of missionary conferences and are members of VEMK. In the 1980s, the association had nine members, in the GDR there were five mission conferences. In 1991 both parts were merged with a new statute.

The VEMK provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences among the members and is devoted to cross-cutting tasks such as study sessions and literary work. This includes the critical accompaniment of the Decade of Reformation and the cooperation with Christians of other language and origin.

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