

# MASA

## Project list

### 2008



#### Children's Projects

Project name	Situation	How we help
<p><b>MANNA</b>  <b>25,000 €</b>  <b>Project no. 129</b></p>	<p>Probably every church in Latin America is in touch with children whose home is hell, where they experience neglect, maltreatment, sexual abuse, where they are simply deprived of a normal life.</p> <p>These children grow up without any chances, and it will be no different for their children and so on – a vicious circle.</p> <p>Are most of the churches really as helpless as they feel when faced with these social needs?</p>	<p>The <b>MANNA Programme</b> has been developed in Argentina; the acronym stands for „<b>Charity for neglected children</b>“. The assumption is that in every church, there are couples who are willing to accept God's call into a special ministry among children. These couples could take in one, two or three slum children during the day, feed them, monitor their schooling, care for their health and many other things. At the same time, they are in a position to show the children what life is when moulded by faith in Jesus and by the church. This is a real chance for the children to find a new orientation.</p> <p>While the church identifies with this ministry and supports it, MASA provides for basic supplies and for qualified mentoring, and has created a network where the families are integrated.</p> <p>The first <b>pilot projects</b> are already under way.</p>
<p><b>PEPE</b>  <b>25,000 €</b>  <b>Project no. 322</b></p>	<p>„What do you do for the community, apart from proselytizing? Just have a look at the misery everywhere!“, was the indignant comment by a passer-by in</p>	<p>The <b>PEPE Programme</b> is a scheme which enables even small churches to provide a <b>pre-school programme</b> by specifically training honorary staff. Via a network, all pre-school initiatives are monitored by qualified professionals.</p>

	<p>Brazil when she was interviewed about the church. In the favelas, as the slums in Brazil are called, there are, e.g., countless children who cannot attend a pre-school. But, without pre-schooling they cannot follow classes when they are in school, as everyone is supposed to have been to pre-school. So these children are at a disadvantage from the beginning, They are put on the road to marginalization.</p>	<p>The experience made so far, particularly in slums, has been a very positive one. Not only did the children have no problems to follow classes when they entered school; they have often developed confidence in the church, and quite often this has rubbed off on their parents, too. Currently, MASA supports <b>three projects</b> in Southern Brazil. PEPE promotes the social witness of the churches and strengthens their authenticity.</p>
<p><b>Diadema Day-care Centre</b> <b>40,000 €</b> <b>Project no. 306</b></p>	<p>For some years, a church has been developing in the <i>favela</i> (slum) of Diadema. Time and again, the question has been asked how to break the vicious circle of children virtually growing up in the streets. As the parents normally have to work in order to provide for the family, the children are left to themselves. In many instances, this situation pushes them into drugs, crime and prostitution.</p>	<p>In the <b>Diadema Day-care Centre</b>, the „Projeto Social“, as it is called in Portuguese, some <b>130 children</b> aged 5 to 15 are taken care of during the day; they get two meals a day, homework tutoring, Biblical teaching, social care, and music lessons; all kinds of courses and sporting activities are also provided. The staff mentoring them have been trained in educational and social work, and the results achieved since 2002 have been very encouraging. In the wake of this social involvement and their evangelistic witness, the church has experienced sudden growth in recent years.</p>
<p><b>MASA Children’s homes</b> <b>Project no. 88</b></p>	<p>There are millions of them: the family disasters when children are the victims. When mothers are abandoned by their husbands and don’t have the strength for their children, when young mothers don’t want to have their children, when parents disappear for some reason or another or are unable to raise their children, when children are abandoned or unwanted eaters. Where can the children go?</p>	<p>For such children, MASA provides <b>children’s homes</b>, each with its own history and its own characteristic. One in Argentina, two in Brazil, one in Bolivia and one in Portugal. This is not the best solution for these children’s lives, but the second best. In our homes in Latin America, all the children live in a family with up to 12 boys and girls. Here, they receive everything they need for their development, including a religious education with the invitation to believe in God and the Gospel. You can assist us by <b>sponsoring one particular child</b> or by directly supporting one of the homes.</p>

## Mission projects

<p><b>Mission in Patagonia</b>  <b>22,400 Euro</b>  <b>Project no. 103</b></p>	<p>Patagonia has always been home to the <b>Mapuche</b>, both in Chile and in Argentina. When the whites penetrated into their homelands, they acted aggressively against the Indians. These were driven out of their ancestral habitat, often into the inhospitable parts of southern Argentina, into the pampas and into the mountains. Today, they live in the slums on the outskirts of the cities or in the seclusion of the pampas and the mountains. These uncommunicative Indians feel they are second class people. After everything they had suffered from the whites they could not be reached by their mission.</p>	<p>When <b>Pedro and Noemí Boretsky</b> moved to Esquel (Argentina), they had above all the white population in mind. But God's amazing guidance made things turn out quite differently. It all started with a Mapuche couple who asked the missionary to bury their deceased six-month-old child. The parents and many of those listening to the sermon were deeply impressed by the Gospel. So the Boretskys started to bring God's love in word and deed to these uncommunicative people, who are often very withdrawn. By now, their mission field covers an area of more than 600 km in length and 200 km in width! The lives and the ministry of this couple take the assurance into many a Mapuche hut that God has not neglected them, and this affects their whole lives.</p>
<p><b>Mission to the farmers on the Upper Uruguay River</b>  <b>7,500 Euro</b>  <b>Project no. 123</b></p>	<p>Their ancestors came from Germany, Poland, Russia, the Ukraine, Italy, Estonia, Latvia and other European countries. Here, on the Upper Uruguay River, most of them settled as farmers. Their Christian traditions which they had taken along were mingled with superstitious beliefs and ignorance. Faith in Jesus was not relevant to them, nor to their day-to-day lives.</p>	<p>We have been taken with the farming population in the region on the Upper Uruguay for quite some time. Ever since the dramatic conversion of <b>Luis Weiss</b>, a poor tobacco farmer, this people group has increasingly caught our attention. His testimony has left noticeable marks.  <b>Oscar Kunigk</b> has added to these marks and enforced</p>

		<p>them. God has been using his ministry: Time and again, there are impressive conversions, reminding of the one experienced by Luis Weiss.</p>
<p><b>Mission to the Guaraní Indians</b>  <b>10,000 Euro</b>  <b>Project no. 104</b></p>	<p>The <b>Guaraní</b> live in the virgin forests of Misiones in Argentina. They are delicately boned and mostly small. Their ancestors were already roaming this region when the Spanish arrived. The Jesuits taught them their Catholic faith and gathered them in protected villages, the so-called “reductions”. Nevertheless, the Guaraní have remained semi-nomads. The Christian faith has never struck roots. The white population of Misiones are widely contemptuous and distrustful of them.</p>	<p>The conversion of the Argentinian peasant <b>Luis Weiss</b> (of German origin) was dramatic. He had been notorious throughout the region. Now everyone could see how faith in Jesus had changed his life. Not only his white neighbours but also the neighbouring <b>Guaraní Indians</b> witnessed this change. They said to themselves: If faith in Jesus transforms a person in such a way, then we would also like to believe in Him. Thus Luis Weiss became their missionary. Since then, his radius of missionary activities has been greatly extended, to the benefit of many Guaranís. His vision: Each Guaraní village shall get to know Jesus Christ.</p> <p>It was a bitter setback when Luis Weiss very suddenly died in March 2006. Now a team has formed which includes his two sons <b>Juan Carlos and José Luis Weiss</b> and which is led by the Argentine-German <b>pastor Helmut Kluge</b>.</p>
<p><b>Mission in the southern Andes of Peru</b>  <b>23,000 Euro</b>  <b>Project no. 402</b></p>	<p>Formidable mountain ranges extend across the country, even dominate it. Cuzco and Apurímac Provinces were part of the heartland of the ancient Inca Realm. Quechua, the Inca language, is still spoken today in the villages of the countless side valleys. The religious world of these people is a mixture of Inca traditions and popular Catholic influences. The Bible,</p>	<p>The mission field <b>Adrián Campero</b>, our missionary, has to tend to is a jagged one. The roads in Apurímac and Cuzco lead over mountain passes rising to 4,000 m, into valleys at an altitude that is more than 2000 m below. Here, he visits the villages with their predominantly Quechua-speaking po-</p>

	<p>God's Word, is widely unknown, and the Gospel even less.</p>	<p>pulation. Here he plants churches, and sows hope springing from the Bible, which has already helped many families.</p> <p>Here, he brings comfort when natural disasters have destroyed the crops, and also facilitates assistance. So, in the course of some years, a network of small churches has been founded, which turn to the Bible for guidance in their every-day lives.</p> <p>Adrián Campero's work has by now also won the respect and confidence of people from outside the churches.</p>
<p><b>Mission in den northern Andes of Peru</b>  <b>4,000 €</b>  <b>Project no.: 401</b></p>	<p>The mountainous region east of the coastal city of Trujillo has countless small villages and towns. Most of them can only be reached after troublesome bus rides. All of them are situated in 'La Libertad' Province. For quite some time, the churches in Trujillo have been concentrating their thoughts on this mission field, and they have been looking for ways of reaching the people in this region. Several efforts have been made, with varying success. Now, the Baptist Association of La Libertad has developed a mission strategy to reach the major centres in the region. The Association itself started work in San Pedro de Lloc. They have now asked MASA to assist them in reaching the next town, Otuczo.</p>	<p>The 'Virgin of the Door' (<i>La Virgen de la Puerta</i>) is really at the heart of this Andean town with its 5 000 inhabitants. It is behind a glass window above the pilgrimage church of Otuzco. Once a year, there are festivities in her honour, when thousands of people come to celebrate. The Virgin dominates the religious thinking of most of the Otuzco people. It is here that the missionary Carlos Garcia started with his mission work. This is hard ground to sow, but we would still like to support him in his mission work.</p>
<p><b>Mission Work in Cuba</b>  <b>12,000 €</b>  <b>Project no. 699</b></p>	<p>Cuba is experiencing a spiritual revival as never before in its history. The churches are growing as never before, and so is their missionary outreach. The State sets close limits but at the same time allows for some freedom of movement. MASA is in a position to boost this revival in several places.</p>	<p>The following projects are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission team on the Isle of Youth (<i>Isla de la Juventud</i>). Over the past 10 years, several churches have sprung up there.</li> <li>• Daniel González, our missionary on the Isle of Youth up to 2007, is now applying the experience he has gained there on the main island. MASA supports him in this endeavour.</li> </ul>

		<p>Through his project Cuba 2010, thousands of cell churches of up to 15 people are to be formed all over the country.</p>
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### Leadership training and theological education

<p><b>Itinerant Bible School</b>  <b>20,000 Euro</b>  <b>Project no. 108</b></p> <p>Leopoldo Castro          David Castro</p>	<p>Many of our mission fields are situated in rural areas. The local population there often has had <b>little education</b>, and the same is true of the people in the churches that are forming there. These are no suitable applicants for the major training institutes, and most existing Bible courses require a higher level of education.</p> <p>Should this mean that they do not qualify for responsible leadership? Must they remain dependent on missionaries for ever? We could no longer dodge these questions.</p>	<p>In recent years, we have developed a kind of „itinerant“ Bible School, which has proved a good investment especially in the rural mission fields of Argentina. It supports the training also of those indigenous leaders who have had only relatively little education. It provides them with the tools enabling them to give leadership to the mission churches on site or even to start new mission initiatives.</p> <p>The way it works: the individual students receive study materials to work on. Roughly two months later a teacher visits the region for one or two weeks and goes over the questions with them, one by one. Usually, this is a time when many things are talked about, and the students often go back home with a sense of fulfilment.</p> <p>The present course lasts two years. A further course (continuation) is being prepared.</p> <p>So far, hundreds of students have benefited from the present course, called <b>CEFOLI 1 (Centro de Formación de líderes)</b>, which means Training Centre for leaders. Just to give an example: This training has brought forth all the assistant workers in the mission field of <i>El Impenetrable</i> with its numerous churches in the rain forest.</p> <p>To monitor the course, a teacher of the Oberá Bible School, <b>Leopoldo Castro</b>, has been released; his brother, <b>David Castro</b>, who works in the Impenetrable, has also been made available.</p>
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<p><b>Faculdade Batista Pioneira (FBP) in Ijuí</b> (formerly Ijuí Bible School) <b>Total income</b> <b>35,000 Euro per year</b> <b>School Sponsorship</b> <b>450 € per year</b> <b>Project no. 322</b></p> <p>Dr Renato Gusso principal</p>	<p>Until 10 – 15 years ago, there was only a minor need for challenging quality theological education in Brazil. Many churches settled for pastors with a Bible school education. However, the general level of education there has risen, too. The thirst for education in Brazil cannot be ignored. As a result, theological education must not fall behind either.</p> <p>On the other hand, there are still workers in churches and in missions who attach less importance to upscale education.</p> <p>So the question arose whether it might be possible to establish an institution that could address both needs.</p>	<p>The <b>Ijuí Bible School</b> has developed from very simple beginnings. At that time, the aim was to provide opportunities in mission and church work for young men and women from the rural population, most of whom had had very little schooling. That has been successful; today still, there are young men and women who ask for this kind of training. In the course of 40 years, the level was steadily being raised, as would be expected. Yet in order to catch up with academic standards in Brazil and – contingent on this - to win accreditation, it proved necessary to found a faculty. In January 2006, the time had come and the school was given a new name: <b>Faculdade Batista Pioneira</b>.</p> <p>The basic orientation of the School remains faithful to the Bible and practice-oriented, and yet it does live up to academic standards. The School is thus in a position to offer a rather high standard of education but at the same time it satisfies lesser demands via correspondence and other courses. MASA's contribution is substantial when it comes to lowering the costs for the students</p>
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