

Newsletter 2021



Christmas 2020 was different. While we could not come together closely due to the pandemic situation, we celebrated our GOD who came very close in Jesus Christ to us. You might feel or be alone, but we are not orphaned in this world. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 "**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"

In the following chapters of this Newsletter, you will find various expressions of faith and hope, which is found in the relationship with the Holy Spirit, that lives in you.

RailHope International Meetings 2020

This year 2020 was kicked off in February with an awesome continental RailHope Festival for Africa in Durban SA. Sister Hazel Govender (RHI Representative of RailHope South Africa) says: "**Delegates from 11 countries were represented. It was a huge success. The good news of victory resounded over Africa. Many prophetic declarations were decreed, little did we realize we were sowing Gods word at such an important time, as at that moment Corona Virus was gaining momentum and its impact was unbeknown to us and the world at large.**" In view this "RailHope Festival for Africa" was pathbreaking for the future because it was focused on the continent Africa and very powerful.



Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel the RailHope International Meeting in Northampton (GB). Instead, the RH-Board met online in September and the RHI-General Assembly (GA) in October. Almost all RHI Representatives could take part in the GA. For 2021 we are planning to have a RHI Meeting (Board and GA) in Northampton in 2021. It will be held either on **September 16-19** or **September 23-26**. It will be combined with a chaplaincy training of the British Railway Mission. **Please, save the dates!**

In case a face-to-face meeting is not possible, we will have the meetings online.

railhope.net

Since 1926 RailHope International has been connecting Christian railway personnel worldwide. On the new website www.railhope.net you may find the appointed coordinators for the RHI-Network to maintain the areas in the different continents. I would like to thank Liam Johnston (GB, Webmaster), who has developed the new railhope.net website. For updates and suggestions please contact Liam. The network of the umbrella association RailHope International (RHI) does have twelve full members and twenty-two associated members (Local groups and Contacts). Brother Rev. Milton Lazarus (Patron of RailHope Singapore and Network Coordinator for Malaysia and Indonesia) wrote the following: "**The RailHope Indonesia Team consists of Reverend Yoseph Kumar (Chairman) and 3 members. There are Christians employed in the Rails in Indonesia. Reverend Yoseph has contacts with some officials in the Rails and are able to use the facilities of the Rail stations for their gatherings. RailHope International is in our daily prayers. We hope and pray that we will gather in person soon to encourage one another.**"

Calendar 2021

In December RailHope India launched their calendars project for 2021. With the help of RailHope International (RHI) and Daniel Saarbourg (D, RHI Designer) they were able to fund and develop a print file to produce 20'000 wall- and pocket-calendars 2021 in India.

RHI prepared four multilingual calendar-versions and printed 3360 copies for nine RHI members and sent these also to Slovakia and Hungary. For distributing the Swiss Calendar edition an "Calendar Easel" was set up for six weeks in the break room for rail staff in Basel SBB main railway station. This way over 350 copies found a thankful recipient. RHI offered RailHope South Africa and their partners like RailHope Eswatini, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe to develop an African Calendar version for 2022.



Charity

Charity is not only the name of a Christian of RailHope South Africa, who shared an encouraging testimony in the RailHope Magazine of RailHope Germany, Austria and Switzerland. For some Christian associations obtaining the status of a charitable organization comes with tax reliefs. At the end of 2020 RHI received a donation from an RHI member, which motivated me to research what criteria RHI would need to meet to obtain the status of a "Charity". We are still in contact with the tax authorities regarding this matter. I am convinced that obtaining this status would facilitate gaining more sponsors for RHI. This in turn would perhaps allow us to reduce the membership fee, to disclaim bills for calendars or to appoint several persons for fundraising. Just read ... **"Mission happens with feet, which go. With knees, which pray and with hands which, they give."**

Prayer

The Chinese preacher Watchman Nee, a man of God, said: **"Our prayers lay down the tracks on which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails."** Thank you for all your prayers which lay down the tracks for God's mission work among the rail industries and public transport worldwide. Thank you to Steve Rowe (GB) for bringing out the RHI-Prayer letter regularly.

Last but not least

The former RHI-President (2001 -2007) John May (GB,92) conveys love and greetings to all of the RailHope International family! He caught COVID-19 and spent terrible six weeks laying in the hospital. Now he could leave the hospital and is getting better. He told me on the phone at the end of December: **"Soon I will move to other residential place, where God will have opportunities for me to share my hope in Christ with other people."**



**Every blessing for 2021
in the most precious name
Jesus Christ!
Yours Ulrich Berger, RHI President**

