



Newsletter 2022

Dear RailHope Friends

In the first centuries after the resurrection of Jesus, the Gospel spread at a breathtaking pace throughout the Mediterranean region. The followers of Jesus had hardly any social influence, money or even sophisticated methods of communication. What they did have was the Christian message of hope, which is why, in the midst of adversity, lived and shared their hope with others. This message was their most precious treasure, the "bright light of the Gospel" from which shone a message that is persuasive and beautiful, that touched people in their innermost being (see 2 Corinthians 4:4-7). It is a message passed from one to another in an unbroken chain to this very day.

As RailHope International, we want to encourage each other to spread hope; taking every opportunity to conveyance the message of the hope of Jesus Christ into the railways and public transport systems. We do this through pastoral care, the distribution of calendars, magazines and above all prayer. Prayer is the key that can unlock the resources of heaven so that the Church to reach the world. Prayer pushes the kingdom of darkness back. This newsletter contains good news and wonderful answers to the prayers of the RailHope network.

RHI Calendar 2022

Last year we had the idea of increasing the number of languages in the railway calendar from three to four languages in each version and to make the calendars work both as a wall calendar and with the stand as a desktop calendar. The format has become a little smaller but this makes the calendar usable in more locations. For the year 2022, more than 4,500 copies were printed and distributed to our worldwide RailHope International partners. About one-third of the calendars were provided free of charge. In addition, print files were provided for RailHope South Africa and India, because they print and distribute their calendar versions locally. Of course, the printing and distribution of the calendars have a cost, so we had a loss of more than 5000, - Euros. So we made an appeal for donations and praise God who is our provider and we thank everyone who donated and helped us to cover the deficit. **Hallelujah!** So, we can plan the calendar project for the year 2023 and so also Mission possible. **Here is some feedback from a RailHope partner in Belgium:** *"I feel so well supported. You know it is quite forbidden to "talk about religions" at work. But I felt that I had to share the calendars with my direct colleagues. Most of them jokes about me because of my faith. I hesitated and then received encouraging words, felt bold by your examples and your prayers. I exposed an open sample with a list for ordering. I brought 5 more calendars for sure two Christian colleagues and I did hope that 2 or 3 would be interested too. Miracle: Everybody found the pictures so marvelous that a few of them immediately wanted to get one ... Let us continue to pray for each other!"* ✚ 🙏



Events 2021

There was a strong desire to see each other face to face or at least "digitally" in the umbrella organisation RailHope International (RHI) during the pandemic. At the beginning of September 2021, eighteen participants from Norway, Germany and Switzerland were able to experience the "Fit & Fun, Bike and Hike Week" in Davos. Later, a "Livestream for Encouragement and Prayer" was organised for all RailHope partners worldwide.

A Livestream, a RailHope International Video program was broadcast; this was new territory for me. Without a great deal of knowledge or experience and insufficient infrastructure and technology in place, as well as a lack of technical staff, the prospect for a successful program was slim. I felt helpless, probably similar to the Apostle Peter, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14, who, when he left the safety of the boat, found that he began to sink... But Jesus stretched out His saving hand to Peter - as I feel he did for me as well.

The initial plans for the "live-stream" failed to get any further due to the lack of capable people to take the idea forward. Then I spoke to the head of technology in our church in Rheinfelden (FEG), who said: "We can do that." In the meantime, a musical director was also found.

A lot of planning and organisation followed in order to find the right people for the planning process and for organising the appropriate content. On Saturday, 25th September, the first "live-stream" of RailHope International was broadcast for over two hours. Besides musical highlights, it also contained many encouraging contributions from RailHope partners from all over the world, and we were left with the lasting impression that *God will not let you down!* Here are three quotes from three continents and speakers:



From Africa

«Trust with all your heart in the HEART and do not rely not on your mind. Think of him whatever you do, he will show you the the right way.»

Hazel Govender, RailHope South Africa

From Asia

«Thanks be to God and glory! I am speaking today for the first time after my COVID 19 disease in the Spring again as a speaker.»

Rev. S. Arulraj, RailHope India



From Europe

«Through faith in Jesus Christ we are rooted in God's unconditional love. This enables us to live in any situation and circumstances make a difference.»

Stephen Rowe, Railway Chaplain (GB)



Events & Prayer Request 2022

We are planning to join the Chaplains' Training from **May, 25-27 and 27-29** the RailHope International Meeting (including General Assembly) Northampton, GB.

Information: liam.johnston@railwaymission.org or Stefan Frey secretary@railhope.net

RailHope Netherlands will have a stand at the Rail Exhibition "RailTech" in Utrecht on **June, 21-23** and distribute RailHope Calendars and other print media.

July, 22-24 the 120th Anniversary celebration of RailHope Finland will take place in Rautiala near Vesilahti. Welcome! Information: tuulia.passila@pp.inet.fi

RailHope America National Convention will be held on **August, 22-26** in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Information: www.RailHopeAmerica.com

You are welcome to join our FIT & FUN, Bike and Hike Week on **September, 4-10** in Krattigen Switzerland. Enjoy a warm welcome and experience Christian fellowship while visiting our fantastic mountains. Information: www.railhope.net



International Rail Fair "InnoTrans" in Berlin is on **September, 20-23**. RailHope Germany will have a stand and will be distributing RailHope Calendars. You are welcome to come and strengthen the team!

In Christ, we are one –
Maranatha!

Ulrich Berger

RHI President

