

EMO-Circular

2020 October

1445 Budapest, Pf. 356 Tel./Fax: (1) 314-1302 E-mail: emoalapitvany@upcmail.hu
Bank Account: 11991102-02117573 Tax Number: 18002320-1-42

121



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ

We have not published any newsletter for a long while. Although our activities at EHC have been limited by the epidemic and restrictions, our work has not stopped. We would like to update you about these last few months. Let me quote from our new publication, which deals with the epidemic (about the booklet see below):



The epidemic and disease are real dangers. Even though they might not affect us directly, we should take them seriously. We might catch the disease and become ill or even die of it.

We must not forget that we also face another, much bigger risk if we are far away from God.

Those who shut God out of their lives and decisions and ignore his order and his rules, might go astray and be ruined here on earth. These people must face both death and God's judgement alone, even if they do not believe in him or even deny that he exists.

"... it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement." (Hebr 9:27)

However, those who accept Jesus and give their lives to him, will be led and carried by him through all difficulties, even through death, into eternal life.

Jesus said: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life."*

(John 5:24).



Gönyű

At the beginning of this year, we were planning to organise an evangelical event in May at Gönyű, a village close to the city of Győr, in the northwestern part of Hungary, and invite people to this event. However, our plans were upset by the epidemic. When the restrictions were eased, we started to think and pray again. Maybe we could do it in September instead. Thanks to our Lord, in the end we managed to visit the village at two weekends, together with a few dedicated EHC co-workers. We invited the local inhabitants to a lecture about the family. A week later, about 25 people had gathered to listen to our lecturers, Gábor and Katalin Draskóczy, at the local church. Afterwards we had tea outside and talked to the participants. Let me share some thoughts with you about our outreach programme.

At last, we could go and share the gospel. I had been looking forward to this for a long time. I thought that people would be afraid of us because of the virus, but noone was afraid. Rather, the villagers looked at us as if we were aliens when we turned up wearing masks and thread gloves. Most people were really nice. Even those who were not interested in talking to us were polite. Unfortunately, we met a lot of people who are indifferent to the gospel.

Especially in the afternoon, we were harassed by gnats. Interestingly enough, it seemed as if the locals were not bothered by them.

We talked to people, but not everyone was interested to find out about Christ. Several people just wanted a chat. We talked to an elderly man, but when we mentioned Jesus, he did not say anything. It seemed as if he had not heard us. I feel sorry for him.



With masks and gloves...

I also had an unusual experience. I gave a man our invitation and our brochure, and he started to talk about everything else: "The world has really gone to the dogs. There is environmental pollution, politics, the health care system, the Arabs" and so on. I barely remember any of it. At first I thought that he would tell me to leave, and that even if he did not do that, nothing would come of it anyway. I wanted to take my leave but I could not, because he was just going on and on. Sometimes he asked me what I thought. I agreed with most of what he said, but he would not say anything at all about the most important thing, the issue of God. I was wondering how I would be able to help him to see Jesus. I was beginning to feel uncomfortable because he was so upset.

I started to pray and asked the Lord to help me. Then I realised that God was in charge of our conversation. Although I could not explain the gospel to this man, I told him that Jesus can change people. The Lord made me remember testimonies that I had heard recently. At the end of our chat, this man had calmed down. He was even smiling. Praise the Lord.

I was glad when I found out that EHC would visit Gönyő. Please, pay attention to the order of the following points now.

- *I checked a map to find out where this place is.*
- *I was glad that it lies by the river Danube. I like to watch water.*
- *I was hoping that we would have mild weather, as it was early autumn.*
- *Hang on, there is a pandemic raging, right?*

And then I started to think and God also talked to me. He said:



We stayed by the beautiful river Danube.

– All right, but what is wrong with this picture? Why would you like to go or not like to go? About your list: All that is fine. There is nothing wrong with you preferring to be outside and the Danube is a lovely river, I created it. But have you not forgotten something, or rather, someone?

– You are right. Your commandment: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ..."

*Have you also been ashamed before God? There is nothing wrong about thinking about these things, but how about the order? I may enjoy God's fantastic creation and the sunshine, I might be worried about the epidemic, but I must not forget about our goal. **Our goal is to proclaim to souls in bondage that there is redemption for them because there is a Redeemer.** The inhabitants of Gönyő were expecting us. They were not mean to us and some of them were even willing to talk to us.*

Something unusual happened to me. In one street, three elderly ladies were sitting outside on a bench. I was afraid that they would go inside, but they waited for us. We gave them the invitation and exchanged a few words with them and then continued on our way. When we were coming back, they were still sitting outside and I thought: I wish I could stay. They will be left here with a leaflet: "Even when I'm growing old ..." I would like to stay and ask them what they make of it. Maybe I came to think of this because there is no resident pastor at Gönyő, which means that it cannot be easy to provide pastoral care.

This is my conclusion about the right order. God showed me who is important and why I live in this world. Soli Deo Gloria!



Let us pray for the inhabitants of Gönyő, for the activities of the church and the pastor. We believe that the seeds we have sown will grow, whether we see it or not.



Lecture at church

EHC publication about the epidemic



The cover page of the booklet...

When the epidemic reached our country in March and restrictions were introduced, we asked ourselves the same questions over and over again: What would God like to tell us through this? In this situation, what can we say to people around us? This made us prepare the above mentioned publication. We sent more than 26 000 copies of it to EHC volunteers and partner churches, so that they could distribute it. Several churches sent it to all families in their villages. Then we thought that it might be a good idea to make it available so that people could listen to it, not just read it, especially since a lot of people nowadays prefer to listen to something. Several brethren helped us to make a video version and we have already

shared it with hundreds of people. Both versions are available on the new website of EHC, and we can share the link or content with acquaintances, friends and family. There is a pdf file and a video. We would like to thank those who have read the text and the editor of the video for their help.



We are grateful that we could prepare this publication in two versions and that it has already reached a lot of people. Let us pray for those who have read it and watched it, that they might listen to the words of God and take steps towards him.



Help from young people

At the end of last year and at the beginning of this year, we visited young people at several churches to tell them about the activities of EHC and try to find those that our Lord is calling to help us out. In this way, we have received help with several tasks, above all IT-related jobs. We are grateful for our new contacts and for these committed young people. This was how we found the person who made the above mentioned video and who has done a lot in order to ...



... *renew our website*

During the last few years, we have tried several times to renew our old-fashioned website that was not working properly. In this period of isolation, we finally made it happen. Several brethren helped us, all of them with excellent IT skills. Today those who visit our website at emoalapitvany.hu can browse and explore the site, whose contents have been renewed. The form and structure of the website have also been updated. There you can find our reports and plans, and our publications that can be downloaded and purchased. The new website is easy to navigate and it works fine on personal computers, tablets and smartphones. At the same time, we have relaunched our Facebook page. We would like to thank those who have managed and edited these sites so far.

If you can, please visit our new website (currently only in Hungarian). We are grateful for all constructive criticism.



Plans for the autumn

We do not know yet whether it will be possible for us to do another outreach programme, because of the epidemic. While we are waiting to find out, we would like to use other channels to share the gospel. We intend to mail our brochures to new villages, and we have also started work on our calendar for the year 2021 (mission calendar with proverbs). We hope that thoughts inspired by the gospel will again follow several thousand families for a whole year.

We are also prepared to visit churches and tell them about our work and share our latest news. In this way, we could strengthen our contact with the friends of EHC.

Let us give thanks for the love of the Lord that carries us, for open doors, for those who help us. Let us pray that we might use all opportunities and that EHC might be a blessing for many of our countrymen.

EHC worldwide

When I browsed through international reports, I realised that our brethren abroad see crisis situations as an opportunity. It seems that people are more open to the gospel in times of crisis. Let us pray for this opening.

GERMANY The EHC team continues to marvel at the impact of Christian brochures given to open hands. "A 90-year-old woman wrote to us that she

prayed with other Christians for 32 years for their village, but the inhabitants had no interest in spiritual things," said the national coordinator. Faced with the ordeal of the pandemic, this Christian lady decided to respond to the growing concern in her village by offering each neighbor a gospel leaflet. *"We are now experiencing a great revival in our village. People want to know more about Jesus like never before!"* writes this friend. Thank God for his faithfulness which is enabling this ministry to help Christians share their hope.

NEW CALEDONIA Caledonians take advantage of All Saints' Day to honor their dead. In traditional Kanak society, the many events that punctuate social life are occasions for ceremonies and sharing around offerings and public speaking. In this period of contemplation, CMM is making the "Will you go to heaven?" gospel leaflet available to local churches. The end of life is often accompanied by questions that lead families to search for answers among Christian communities. They plan to offer this gospel leaflet to thousands of Kanak homes in order to share their Hope. Pray for this occasion to witness and that it will bear fruit.

BURKINA FASO Through gifts of food and hygiene items, EHC and churches are giving support to people displaced in Pazani, a suburb of the capital. Every day, more of them arrive in Ouagadougou. They have left their homes, driven out by violence in the north of the country. *"My family has had nothing to eat for two days"*, explains an old man from the village of Sollé. *"Who is this God who sends you to save us?"* Like him, 150 displaced people were touched by this outpouring of compassion, as well as the populations of three other neighboring villages. Pray for the churches there which are already supporting some forty new converts.

GUADELOUPE and MARTINIQUE As the world grapples with the coronavirus, hurricanes and cyclones are emerging. Experts already believe that the hurricane season is "active". Faced with these threats, preventive measures are essential. EHC is preparing along with local churches, after a long period of confinement, to launch a campaign of neighborhood witness - Operation "Tell your neighbor". Each Christian will be equipped with gospel leaflets to witness in his neighborhood. In fact, the "Cyclone Alert" gospel leaflet makes use of the vigilance procedure. It is also an evangelistic leaflet that challenges the reader as to his or her condition and invites them to consider the call of the Lord. Continue to pray for the transmission of the gospel message in the West Indies.



Let us take heart from God's message to the apostle:

"Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent ..."

Acts 18:9-10



Péter Sztanó and the Hungarian EHC staff

www.emoalapitvany.hu