

# EMO-Circular

2021 February

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

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## After the holidays

*"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40)*

*"... and when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son." (Acts 7:21)*

*"... but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem." (1 Samuel 17:15)*

The holidays marked in the calendar for the year 2020 are behind us and also its dates that are important to us. Often, photos are made of the events of these important dates and they become part of the family memory.



We can read about many events in the Bible which have a special significance, and whose small de-tails have been recorded by the authors of the Bible. God has seen it as impor-tant that these should be recorded since we can get to know him and his work in the world, among peoples and in hu-man beings through these.

At the same time, there are periods and events of which the Word does not say anything. There are centuries about which there is no information in the Bible, nothing about events or the actions of our God back then. Nor do we find out much about the lives of the people of God, unlike our lives, which are documented by the family chronicle.

Is it possible that these times and events, or, to put it another way, our everyday lives are not important to God?

Of course they are important. The person of Jesus is extraordinary, but we still do not know all the details of his life on earth. There are only a few words in the Bible about the children of God who were destined to perform great deeds, such as Moses and David. At the same time, these periods and years were very important in their lives.

Moses received the education of the elite at the court of Pharaoh. He was given everything that a human being could learn at the time. The young Moses obviously did not know what kind of life, what kind of tasks he would face. He was just living his everyday life, getting experience and studying. God was guarding him from the time of his birth and preparing him for his great mission. We could ⇨

say the same thing about David, too. While he was guarding and pasturing the flocks of his father, he learnt to fight and he could use his skills to defeat even Goliath. Even those days where seemingly nothing happens are important, not just in the lives of people mentioned in the Bible, but also in our lives. It is possible that we cannot express what we have learnt or how we have changed on an ordinary day. However, God is raising us and preparing us for the tasks ahead of us, for our life situation and in the end, for our meeting with him. Let us regard our ordinary days with gratefulness and consciousness.

## ***Outreach in my neighbourhood***

After our outreach programme at Gönyü in September last year, we could no more organise any outreach programmes because of the pandemic. At the end of October, we suggested to EHC volunteers that some of them could probably reach people in their immediate neighbourhood by putting EHC brochures into mailboxes. So far, ten people have expressed an interest in this idea. Let me share the stories of three of them below.

*I had often considered what will happen to people in the same neighbourhood where I live. I wanted to warn them of the dangers of life without God, but until recently, I had no idea how to go about it. The EHC initiative in October made me and another sister take the first step and we bring brochures to those who live in our neighbourhood. It is true that we only put the brochures into mailboxes so we cannot talk to anyone, but through the brochures, God can talk to people whose hearts he has prepared and many of them might now turn to the Lord.*



*I can see and feel why the Lord sent out the apostles in pairs. It is not good to go alone. However, the Lord is always by my side and meets my inefficiencies. When I went on my own, I did not feel like ringing the bell of the house in order to ask someone to let me in. Instead, I asked the Lord to help me and send someone to let me in. This has happened so far and it makes me feel that I am not doing this on my own.*

*During our outreach, we like to talk to people because we are energised and renewed, and we also feel that we are doing something important. But this is also important. It does not take much to put the brochures into mailboxes, but it might change the lives of people. When I will stand before God, I cannot tell him that I did not feel like serving him if all I had to do was to put brochures into mailboxes. M.K.*

*Our "village outreach programme" continued last weekend. At first it seemed as if it would be cancelled because my brother who would have given me a lift in his car did not have time, and it would have been quite difficult to get there by public*

transportation. I prayed and the Lord made me think about asking another brother and he said yes. On Saturday morning, our Lord also encouraged us through our daily reading of the Bible: "The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." (Psalms 121:5-8)

With the car of my brother, we left for the small village that we had in mind. When we arrived, it was snowing and we had the wind against us, but after a prayer we still set out and put 44 brochures into mailboxes. On our way back, we also stopped in another village and put brochures into 63 mailboxes. By the end of our action, the Lord gave us a gift as the sun was shining on us. Thanks be to God for everything. I would also like to thank my brother for his help and perseverance. I would like to continue to participate in this kind of outreach programme if it is possible and if it is what the Lord wants. A pastor I know has already told me that he would like to accompany me next time.

A.Sz, an "unworthy servant"

The virus has been around for almost a year, whether we like it or not. At EHC I saw that I had to continue our work, our distribution. How? I was thinking and praying and asking myself: What do people make of this? What does Jesus make of it?



Then I asked for brochures about the pandemic and started to distribute them in our block of flats. I rang the doorbell, said a couple of words and handed over the brochure. Some people accepted them. I put some in mailboxes and saw some of them again in the rubbish bin.

I felt that it was my task to take some brochures when I went for my daily walk and try to talk to some people. After a few words, I handed over EHC brochures. I received mixed reactions but I could do something, and I was always glad if someone accepted them. In a park, I talked to an elderly lady who lives in a nearby nursing home. I only said a few words because the most important message was in the text. I handed out leaflets in a parking lot and a beggar received a brochure instead of coins. A child who was waiting at a bus stop reached out to receive a leaflet and some people told him to say thank you. Our evangelical leaflets were even displayed at a library after I had asked the staff to make them available. Several times, I had to explain to people that I am not one of Jehova's witnesses ...

I gave away our calendar at my workplace and in some shops, where it can be put up so that the shoppers can see it. I hope that I can continue our distribution in some way and that those who read the Word will consider it, and think about the message of these texts.

K.K.



Thanks be to God that he makes our volunteers take a step. Let us pray for them and ask the Lord what we can do in this situation so that those around us will approach Christ.

# ***EHC during the pandemic***

Last year brought extraordinary challenges also at EHC. In spite of restrictions, we could distribute our brochures in the usual way in three villages. In one village, the members of the local church distributed them. In another village, EHC volunteers did this work, while in a third village, the two groups did it together and were also joined by some brethren from Transcarpathia. We reached almost 2,500 homes this way. In the county of Heves in northeastern Hungary, we mailed our leaflets to 10,000 homes in 27 villages. Our brochures related to the pandemic were distributed by local church members in 27,500 copies at 100 locations. We also printed 10,000 copies for Transcarpathia, which were used by our brethren there. One thousand copies of our brochure for elderly people were distributed by Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. Through our outreach programme in our neighbourhoods, approximately 3,000 families received brochures, while 17,000 copies of our calendar were made and distributed.



Thanks be to God, who has carried us faithfully. While some doors were closed to us, he opened other doors. Let us pray that the difficult situations caused by the epidemic will make people pray and seek the Lord.

## ***Calendar 2021***

At the end of last year, it was the third time that we made an EHC mission calendar. Through churches and our volunteers, 17,000 families received it in Hungary, Transcarpathia and the Hungarian-speaking parts of Slovakia and Serbia. Those who have received it can read a short text every month, which is based on a Hungarian proverb and ends with the gospel. Several churches gave every family a copy of this calendar in the village. Let us think about this. It is there on the wall in every home and gives the family a new spiritual message every month.



Some of the calendars in the office



In a dressmaker's salon

A pastor at one of these villages writes: "We would like to thank you for the 700 copies of the calendar, which we distributed to every home of the village. We are grateful to God. Where there are no mailboxes, we prepared hooks so that the calendar would not fall down to the ground, so we could hang it on top of the fence. The days before our action, there was fog and rain. When we started to deliver the calendars, it cleared up. We have received feedback and that is how we know that these precious calendars are much appreciated."



Let us faithfully pray for those who have received the calendar, especially those who have received it through us. Let us not forget those who have received it last year and the year before that.



As every mission, EHC is team-work. There are those who organize, then those who manage, control, go, testify, pack, clean, deliver, pray (hopefully everyone!), and there are those who help the work with their donations. We would also like to thank all members of the great team that we were able to serve together last year! Thank you that the epidemic situation did not mean a financial shortage for the EHC! And thank you so much for all the encouragement, phone calls, Bible verse – and especially for prayer!

## ***E-mail address***

One of the e-mail addresses of Hungarian EHC stopped to work at the end of February: [emoalapitvany@upcmail.hu](mailto:emoalapitvany@upcmail.hu) Instead, you may use our new e-mail address which is already working: [iroda@emoalapitvany.hu](mailto:iroda@emoalapitvany.hu) **Our e-mail address used for international e-mails – [sztanop@freestart.hu](mailto:sztanop@freestart.hu) – and the address of our website and Facebook page have not changed.**

## ***EHC worldwide***

**AUSTRIA** Around 50,000 families were contacted through systematic distribution in the city of Kagenfurt (capital of the Land of Carinthia), in southern Austria. This region has only been slightly affected by the Coronavirus epidemic. But the economic consequences are already visible. "The people of Carinthia are more open to the Gospel than in other regions," notes the national coordinator. Quick to introduce it, the topic of faith finally became the heart of the conversation with questions and doubts. A large majority say they are "Christians" (68.1% are Catholic, 10.3% are Protestant). Muslims represent 2% of the population. Pray that every seed sown will produce much fruit.

**FRANCE** Over the past few months, 835,000 families received an offer of the Good News in metropolitan France and in the overseas territories (far from France). In addition to the thousands of website visitors, nearly 500 people wanted to go further by requesting or downloading a course about what the Bible teaches. EHC remains at the service of Christians and local churches who continue to share the Gospel. This is notably the missionary approach of a church community in Seine Maritime department (Northwest metropolitan France). Its objective is to reach the town of Elbeuf and surrounding municipalities. With thanksgiving, remember in prayer the efforts of this new year.

Many Christians have pledged to visit their neighbourhood house by house, apartment by apartment with the "What's going on?" gospel leaflet. In the region of Hauts-de-France (North of the country), in Desvres, a very active group of friends set off on the roads of his town to meet with its 5,000 inhabitants. "I've been living here for a year now and ... I can't wait to make Jesus known in this town which has no evangelical church," writes one of them. Several thousand

families in districts surrounding a local church in Caluire-Rillieux, in the Lyon region (South East of the country), were also reached recently with the message in a "gift envelope". Ask God to bless the seed as well as the sowers.

**UNITED KINGDOM** Since December, the evangelistic magazine published by EHC-HOPE has been helping to spread the Good News to many parts of the United Kingdom. Fresh from the press, 4,500 copies printed under the title "Christmas Hope" were reserved for an outreach in the town of Stafford, in central England. The gospel is also finding its way into the hands of children. About 20,000 cartoon books on the Christmas crib were given out. Pray that these seeds will be blessed by God and bear good fruit.

**PORTUGAL** After 30 years of activity and a prolonged interruption of as many years, EHC is again organizing a systematic evangelistic campaign in this country in Europe. During these years, four successive coverages took place. Under the coordination of a new team, the ministry is mobilizing churches for the vision of distributing Christian literature to all its inhabitants. Pray that many Christians will cooperate fully and that their efforts will bring blessings. A very large majority of the population claims to be Catholic. Protestants and Evangelicals are said to number 5%.

**ARMENIA** Three months to the day after the ceasefire, the world continues to uncover the horror of the war on the Armenian Christian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. "The inhabitants, forced to leave their homes, are devastated and without hope. Many have lost a father, son or are awaiting news," says EHC's national coordinator. Churches are committed to providing material and spiritual support. Christian literature is widely used with wonderful testimonies of conversions. Five new Christ Groups are currently being supported. Pray for unity, wisdom, the love of Christ and courage for all who seek the good of this country.

**RUSSIA** In north-east Siberia, the EHC missionary base is carrying out a new expedition into Yakut territory, which is very difficult to access. The goal is the town of Mirny where 35,000 souls live. "It's only now that a road in winter has opened up on the ice of the river, otherwise you can only get there by plane" explains the pioneer coordinator. They are taking great risks to bring the Gospel to this city and to make local churches aware of the mission. They will cross a frozen desert. With an average temperature of -40 degrees, a failure or the slightest error could be fatal. Pray for this courageous team inspired by faith.



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***"...in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."***

**2 Peter 3:13**

Péter Sztanó & the Hungarian EHC staff

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