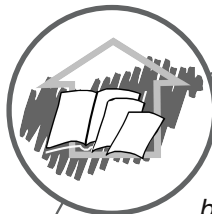


EMO-Circular

2022 August

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...you are... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
Eph. 2:19-22

Dear Brethren,

Last summer we could no longer put off rebuilding a wall that is part of a fence. Our neighbours also helped us, we laid a new solid foundation and then we started to build the wall itself. We reused old bricks, one of them was a little bit crooked, another one a little thick, a third one a little bit chipped. We used several different tools so that the wall wouldn't be crooked and it wouldn't tilt. We laid one row at a time until the wall was finished. I was reminded of this episode when I was preparing for a service and thinking about the verses above from the Bible. I know that we can't interpret a Biblical image in all its detail, but I would still like to share some of my thoughts with you.

The church of God, the community of those who believe in Christ, is a spiritual church. It is a building which consists of many stones. A couple of stones don't make a building, only a lot of stones together, and only if they are joined together, if each and every one is in the right place according to the Master's plan, and is joined to the other stones. **I am not a church, but we together constitute a church.**

The most important thing is the foundation and the cornerstone, that is, Christ and the prophetic and apostolic testimony about him, the Bible. Whatever is not built on this foundation is not a Christian community.

The stones are laid down on the foundation, not dead but living stones, the children of God, his children before us and his children today, one after the other. In another place, the Bible says, *"you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house"*, which means that **we are not passive objects of the building process but active co-operators in it.** We are responsible for the building, for our well-being, both as individuals and as a community. We are also responsible for being in the right place and being closely joined to the others.



The stones are not identical, just as old, re-used bricks are not identical. There are smaller and bigger ones and also slightly damaged ones. **However, each and every one has its place and role**, and each one that is not in the right place is simply missing. Our Lord uses even those stones that others consider useless and would throw them away, to build his church. He cleans them and prepares them and then he puts them in the right place. This is surely a comforting and encouraging thought?

The new rows are laid on the ones below. We have heard the gospel from our forebears and we pass it on to the next generation, don't we? We have already received so much from the Lord. We have a printed Bible in our language, we have a creed, a community, a church and a pastor, we have hymns, spiritual books and missionary organisations. All this was made possible by those who have walked before us, by their work, their sacrifices, their fight, their faith and their lives. This is not the foundation, just the previous rows of the wall. However, it really is a treasure, isn't it?

Every single row and every single stone also carries its weight. **Am I carrying my weight, am I doing my part?** Sometimes, I need to take over the weight of a weakened stone, other times those around me help me to carry my weight or even carry me.

Last but not least, every building has a function, a goal. **What is the goal of the Christian community in general and what is the goal of my own community in particular?** Do I see what it is? Do I agree with it? Do I work towards it according to my strength and abilities? Let us pray and try to answer these questions.

We have visited Miszla

We organised a retreat for our volunteers in **Miszla**, in the administrative district of Tolna in Southern Hungary. We had several purposes in mind. We wished partly to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of Hungarian EHC, partly to spend some time together after a long break. We also wanted to reach the inhabitants of Miszla with the gospel. Therefore, we organised an outreach programme for Saturday afternoon to distribute a brochure about Jesus and to invite people to the Sunday service. We also hoped to be able to share our testimony personally, wherever this would be possible.

I would like to share some thoughts from three of the participants. Laci has been a part of our EHC team since the mid-1990es, while his fiancée Ildikó was participating for the first time. Mrs Ildikó Sz. accompanied her husband to an ECH event for the first time.



"I am grateful that I could meet brethren face to face after the long period of the pandemic, when we had to make do with online prayer meetings and services. An online prayer meeting can never fully replace a meeting face to face, the fact that we are doing something together." (Laci)



"This was the first time that I participated in an EHC outreach programme and I was glad that we prayed together before we visited the inhabitants of the village. We prayed for our lives and asked for the Lord Jesus to lead us. We also asked him for Holy Spirit and that he would call people through us and even walk before us. I think that this was an important part of our preparations." (Ildikó)

"The lecture was about the importance of the Christian community, and I shortly experienced just how strengthening it really is. I saw how patient our brethren were to each other. It was uplifting to realise that people of different ages and from different backgrounds were united in one goal, to share the gospel. Our brethren took this task seriously." (Mrs. Ildikó Sz.)

"Our Heavenly Father also led us in the sense that the right brethren went to the right villagers. Several of us found empty, abandoned houses, and met people who seemed to trust their false images of God. The people we met were open-minded and received us and our brochures and invitation and we talked to them for a while. Sometimes, we shared our own experiences with them and they turned out to be quite similar to those of the villagers. We told them how we had received comfort, guidance, fellowship with our brethren and a hope of heaven in a similar situation. For example, we told a young man how important it was for us to belong to a spiritual community, and encouraged him to seek fellowship with other Christians." (Laci and Ildikó)



"It was a pleasant surprise to me how well I was received by other EHC volunteers. They are kind not just to those we visit and talk to, but also to other Christians. Thank you for the warm welcome that I received." (Ildikó)

"I was encouraged when I saw that although our brethren were sad when someone chose not to listen to them, they were not burdened by this because they are all aware of the fact that God is doing his work, and we are only tools in his hands. This is the only way forward. I was surprised that we discussed our experiences and that everyone paid attention and we also prayed together afterwards. When I had joined an occasional online service earlier, I also noticed that our EHC volunteers listened to each other patiently, and that everyone could share their difficulties and temptations. No one looked down on anyone else." (Mrs. Ildikó Sz.)

"When we celebrated the 30-year anniversary of Hungarian EHC, we were grateful when we saw those who from the beginning have received a commitment, love and a willingness to make sacrifices from the Lord so that they could share the gospel fearlessly. At the same time, we were also sad because the younger generation was not present. The number of those who serve actively is diminishing, and it is more and more difficult for them to travel and to distribute our brochures in the villages. We pray that the Lord would call young people who will willingly serve with EHC for at least another thirty years." (Laci and Ildikó).



Let us pray for the villagers and for the local pastor and his wife!



EHC employees



As the Russian-Ukrainian war went on and on, it became obvious that our brother Zoltán Szabó wouldn't be able to return to TransCarpathia for a long time, so he needed to find employment in Hungary. The leadership of Hungarian EHC thought that he should of course work for us and use his commitment and experiences in the activities of EHC. From the beginning of June, there are two of us at the office again. Zoltán helps us above all by planning, organising and leading our outreach programmes.

We have been praying for the Internet presence of EHC for a long time. In the spring, our new missionary webpage was launched, and we are also present on Facebook and Instagram. At present, we are looking for the person whom God will call to continue this work. We have talked to several potential candidates and we hope that God will lead and guide us.

Although we are sad because of the war in the Ukraine, we are grateful that we can work with Zoltán. Let us pray for Zoltán and pray for someone who can continue our digital activities!

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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.

Outreach programmes

We hope that after the long break, it will again be possible for us to share our testimony with people face to face. For details of our outreach programmes in the autumn, please see more information below.

Tuzsér, 1100 families, 18-19th August
Nyírkércs, 310 families, 9-11th September
Alattyán, 910 families, 7-9th October
Nyírlövő & Lövőpetri, 470 families, 21-23rd October

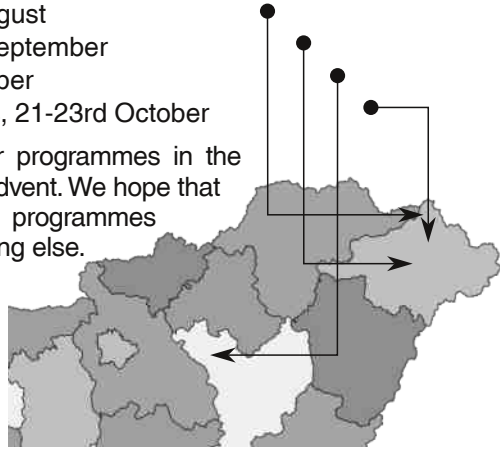
We also hope to organise further programmes in the autumn and possibly also during Advent. We hope that we will not have to cancel these programmes because of the pandemic or anything else.

However, we need a lot of help.

Where could you help us?



Let us pray for the programmes we plan, for the local churches. Let us ask our Lord for workers.



Instead of mailing

In the summer, we thought more about an old plan of ours, what we could do for villages without a local church or villages where we can't organise an outreach programme. If the Post office will not distribute our material, we will. If we use mail-boxes, we can surely cover a village in a day or two, provided that we have a carload of volunteers. We were going to do a trial near Szombathely in North-western Hungary in August and hoped to be able to share our experiences, but in the end, we had to cancel it because of illness. However, it will happen sooner or later. We will soon find a solution for these villages, too.



Let us pray for these families, that God himself might speak to them through our brochures. Let us ask for wisdom and volunteers so that we can carry on.

Continuing efforts in Trans-Carpathia

"In the present situation, it is even more important that the workers of EMOK share the gospel with our brethren", writes bishop Zán in a recent letter. Our brethren there are prepared to share the gospel in spite of all their difficulties. In the future, our activities will be coordinated by Tibor Zsendej, who has served with us faithfully for a long time.



Let us pray for the Ukraine and for Trans-Carpathia. Let us pray for peace. Let us pray for the work of EMOK, for the work of Tibor and our co-workers.



Tibor Zsendej and his wife

EHC worldwide

During the past few months, tension has increased in many places in the world. In the aftermath of the global pandemic, new wars and conflicts have erupted which directly affect us, too. We don't know how the current situation will develop, but we do know that the Lord determines world history. The human race will be destroyed in fire and blood, but only the Lord knows when exactly this will come to pass. Our Christian forebears have time and again felt that the end is near, but God gave them more time and mercy. We don't know what will happen this time, but we do know what we are supposed to do, pray and share the gospel while we still can, where we can and with those we can.

UKRAINE (41,1 million inhab. – before the war): Among enemies who fight and accuse each other, in the shadow of suffering, death and uncertainty, it is very important to preach the gospel. Let us pray for everyone who is engaged in this task. Let us intercede for the employees and co-workers of Ukrainian EHC and their work!

CROATIA (3,9 million inhab.): For several days, Christians from a local church in Koprivnica knocked on the doors of houses not yet visited. In moments of discussion and sharing, they handed over a gospel leaflet with an invitation. "The following Sunday, to our surprise, we had a full church!" the manager rejoices. Twenty people came to church for the first time. It was a blessing and an encouragement for this Christian community. Pray that the printed page will continue to find its way to many hearts. Several churches today are concerned with evangelism in the regions of Zagreb (in the North), Split (in the South) and Rijeka (in the West).

SPAIN (46,7 million inhab.): During these summer months, great efforts are being developed for the spread of the Gospel. About 120,000 families had the opportunity to receive an introduction to the Good News through a gospel leaflet. On June 17 and 18, EHC participated in a conference. Its purpose was to encourage and train Christians to serve daily in close neighborhoods. EHC is taking advantage of social media as well: Facebook, Instagram... In one month, more than 27,000 people viewed evangelistic content. Pray that every seed sown will bear much fruit.

SENEGAL (17,2 million inhab.): With 6% of Christians, the Gospel is a "real challenge" in this country where Islam dominates religious life. Since May, an outreach has been undertaken in a town near Dakar. All of Senegal's ethnic groups are represented in the suburbs of Dakar. And almost all of them speak Wolof. "Several people answered the call and some agreed to come to church" reports an EHC teammate. Pray for the need for workers in this field.

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NRSVA)

Péter Sztanó & the Hungarian EHC staff