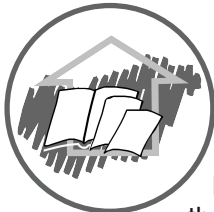


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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ

This is a contracted prayer letter of the year 2019:

During the year of 2019 I would have been talking about the theme of community a few times. I would like to share a short summary of these services below with you.

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body. 1Cor 12:12-13

Besides joy, our personal connections are usually bring with difficulties, problems, conflicts. Today, these move many not to take on deep, enduring personal connections. 'Oh, I'm living my own' they say.

Although, what is undeniable, a human being is not a single creature. Grinding feeling of solitude of those people left alone painfully confirms that. Community is a basic need and desire of mankind. Beyond being in living connection with people in different kinds of relationship, and different means of communication, community also means one's need and desire to belong to others.

How clearly the importance of the human relationship is presented in Eden, when in the midst of the original, undisturbed community between God and Man, God himself declares that, something is 'not good' – 'It is not good for the man to be alone.' Man was created having an innate need to be in connection and communion with others, and obviously, its foundation, driver and lifeline can be found in our connection with God. We are different, however not accidently, it has a certain meaning and goal. Just like each part of our body has a certain role, place and task, each of us has also. Though, we can realise and activate our specialities in community, when we live and act together. That is true in case of Christian communities, churches as well.

Although, anybody becomes (or not) a follower of Christ individually, in the same time he starts to walk in Christ's footsteps would find himself in a community. Or even earlier, since sharing the Gospel, the work of mission was dedicated by God to fellowships. Good news is told us through a fellowship or a member of a fellowship, or maybe by reading the Bible – what was retained (translated, issued) by a fellowship.

When Jesus started his public service, He called the disciples. Not one or two, but twelve in the same time. After that, those men – with a few exceptions – were always together in a bigger or smaller group. They were different indeed, but walking with Jesus they became a team, within a time.

Today, it is more and more trendy to be a 'single' Christian (not in the meaning of being unmarried). These brethren do not belong to a fellowship or a church, they appear and disappear here and there. However, Christ calls his children to be in communion – with Him and with other believers. And indeed, we need each other – we complete and help and besides, we correct and mould each other. Even our weaknesses are used for this purpose by the Lord. We would not be able to learn several things without each other. It works similarly in mission work. To be fishers of men is a teamwork, as well as fishing naturally.

If we take a closer look at Paul's letters, we can see that, he starts and finishes them with greetings where we read a list of names. His work was rather not a personal mission, he worked in team and in his letters he delivers greetings of fellowships. People of God means a communion, living its life in fellowship. The Lord's prayer taught us is also a common prayer. Reading the Bible it worth to notice plural forms:

- *This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven...*
- *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. [It is in plural form in the original version, too.]*
- *...there before me was a great multitude... and they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.*

Where we served in 2019? A short summary about our acts in the last year

At the beginning of May we visited 850 homes in 9 villages, in Kovácshida and nearby and invited people for a common service. At the end of May we knotted on the door of 1.200 homes in Sajóbáony, and gave service at the evangelisation where we invited them. At the end of August we spent a week in Pusztaszabolcs and spoke to appr. 2.300 families, and invited them to the Church's Day held at Reformed Church. In September the good news was preached and distributed on paper among 770 families in Bokod. They were invited for an interdenominational Family Day. We visited homes in Szokolya in mid-October to give testimony to 675 families and to invite them for an evangelisation serial. On three weekends in November we went to Siófok where we invited 5.340 families for the Advent evening evangelisation serial held by Reformed Church.

Reports

Kovácsida and nearby areas: This area with its mostly Hungarian reformed habitants once was a blooming region with rich folk art, but now it looks discouraging. The buildings of the reformed churches are still there, but much less attendees visit the services, moreover, there are much less habitants –

appr. 2 000 people live altogether in 9 villages (state statistics). The situation of spirituality is similar – we found that many people were burdened with different kinds of occultism, besides, conflicts and harms in the deep was present, as well as envy, poverty and hopelessness. We also experienced that many hearts hardened against God and the Bible. Thanks God, we also met people who were open and seeking for God,



EHC team with local church members

moreover who felt God was seeking for them! There are some persons who reads the Bible and pray, and it was a great joy to meet an old woman who had living faith – and that was her joy, as well! What a privilege we could bring them good news of reconciliation with God and with their neighbours. We could encourage the discouraged and motivate the seekers, comfort who mourned and tried to help those longed to be freed from the abundance of dark power. Although not as many came to the common service on Sunday, we believe the Words, like sowed seeds are planted in the hearts. Let's pray for this area, too! Let's ask the Lord to give those people rain, growing, blessing! P.Sz.

At the weekend of May 4-5, it was the first time for me when I participated in an action when we visited people in their homes, called them to get to know God more deeply or to meet with Him truly. For a long time, I had been thinking about how to serve people more intensively, and when I heard about EHC, I immediately became enthusiastic. Spending this weekend with them turned out to be a good decision. At the beginning it seemed to be uncomfortable and a bit bizarre to contact people in this way, but within a short time I caught on it. Honestly, I expected it would be much worse. Assumingly, my impression was that, people felt in the deep of their hearts we told them the truth, they just didn't want to face it. They need somebody to help them breaking the shell they grew around their hearts. Besides, it helped me to see my brethren's commitment to serve others, and I could find a community of people committed to Christ. May God be blessed for this weekend! T.F.

Outreach in Sajóbáony:

In the middle of May we served together again in a common outreach (Hungarian and TransCarpathian EHC). We arrived with 8 people from TransCarpathia, and after the introduction and common prayer session we were distributed, and on the same day, Friday we went to invite people to the evangelisation event on June 1. Saturday morning devotion was held by the local pastor Mrs. Erzsebet Bányi. After that, we went out and reached the whole town. Our Lord went ahead of us and opened the doors, and I believe He is the one who opens the hearts, as well to receive the mercy of God. Besides, we also

found closed doors and experienced refusal. There is darkness, and people live in it! Some told us which denomination they belonged to, but then admitted they did not practice their belief. On Sunday we sang some songs as a gift for the congregation after the service, and two of us told their testimony about the grace, freed and caring love of Jesus Christ. Brethren, let's pray for that congregation, since they are in a difficult situation! There are few active members, however they are blessed children of the Lord. Although, it is hard for them to support the church, but still they teach the Gospel for the children in kindergarten and primary school, prepare them for confirmation, besides Bible courses are held and devotional meetings for people in the local elderly home. I ask the Lord to bless these ministries and let be awakening in this town! P.E. (Csongor - TransCarpathia)

I would highlight two interesting conversation. One of them I had with an English speaking Hindu person. I tried to lead him through the fog of syncretism to the fact that, Jesus Christ is not a god among gods, but He is the only God. When I told this story to the leader of EHC he said something I contemplated – ‘You see, God sent you to that place not accidently, your English is good enough you were able to talk to him in a deep way.’ And that is true. There are no accidental meetings. God sends us and when He entrusts us a task, we are to fulfil it. Maybe, there is something he heard remains in this young man's soul, or maybe he was judged by that conversation. But this is not our case. Our task is to preach the Gospel.

The other conversation is still in my mind now. A young lady opened the door. Later it turned out she attended to a reformed secondary school. I thought she would close the door immediately, but she called her mother – ‘Hey, Mom, come here!’ A horrible life-story. She reads occult healing books and those thoughts covers her mind like a smog, and it becomes more and more thicker as she goes on reading them, necessarily. This woman mostly couldn't think clearly. Lastly, she started to cry during her talk. It was not the surface, she had a deep pain. Jesus' love didn't touch her. Sin didn't touch her. She thought she was a good man... Thus, I tried to convey her just one message by asking where she would get if she died the following day. And I advised her to sit down that night and ask God about where she would get after death. And I begged her not to settle down until she knew it for sure. K.K.



Evangelistic event in the local school building

About 20-25 people of us gathered together for the evangelistic event held in the building of the local school at the beginning of June. We focused on two sentences of the story of Bartimaeus - **What do you want me to do for you? – Rabbi, I want to see!**

After the message we listened to Mrs. Márta Németh-Csiszár who gave

her touching testimony. After that we had opportunity to talk to participants, who especially rejoiced to the gift from a fellow spouse - they presented them with a number of collected sermons of Kálmán Cseri (well-known reformed preacher).

We are thankful for the possibility to participate in this reaching out and preaching the Gospel. Let's pray for the congregation and the visited families. Let's pray for those were touched by God's Word, so that they became encouraged to take a step toward the Word, the church and especially Christ. Let's cry out for the bounded – included the ones we could here about in the reports.

Pusztaszabolcs – Mission week

During our mission week in the mornings we studied the Word together. In that we were led by the local pastor Edit Szeréna Tverdotá-Vass. We read some paragraphs from the beginning of the book of Acts and tried to understand the situation and the way of thinking of people of that time, and realize the background of their decisions. We tried to explore God's purpose and His will in those events, and then to apply all these for our life, church and mission. For me these were inspiring, useful and blessing occasions.

In the afternoons and all day on Saturday we went about the town, knocked



A good conversation at the gate

on doors, invited people, and had conversation with them. We all took memories of interesting meetings and deep talk – some of the families declared their will to join to the church, their children to be baptised, in some cases the parents would also join to them. We met people seeking for God and open to continue the conversation in the future. Unfortunately, we heard about occult activities as

well, and met loaded, bounded people. In case of about 30 families it seemed to be possible to continue relationship with, and among them there were some awaiting the visit of the pastor, definitely.

The plan to reach homes in Szabadegyháza - as they belong to the same church – failed because of an unexpected obstacle. Our discouragement was compensated by the possibility to talk to people in Pusztaszabolcs deliberately, as we could spent more time with those who claimed it.

This week was finished with a thanksgiving sermon, where we invited the inhabitants of the town. Thanks God, the small building of the reformed church was full on Sunday morning. Thus, we could listen to the message, songs and the two testimonies together with them. We gave thanks to God together with the congregation for keeping



Personal testimony at the church

the community along with the difficulties, and for the new start He gave to them some years before, through the ministry of the new pastor who is a resident of the town. Besides, we gave thanks for the opportunity that a new community building was being built in the near future, starting in the autumn.

We are grateful for the attendees out of the church, and moreover those never attended to any church at all. We are thankful for the hospitality of the local community, the commitment and brotherly love of the fellows and the pastor. We are especially grateful for those spent time and committed their energy to join us to serve together. It was good to see what a joy this common mission meant for them, too. P.Sz.

After mostly two decades I participated again in distribution of EHC tracts in **Bokod**. On the one hand, it was a bit odd, but on the other hand it was a joy



Family event in Bokod

to be there and recall old memories of such movements. The settlement is nice and ordered, although its inhabitants are rather closed spiritually. Actually, this was the reason we went there, to help the pastor in his work based on his saving love towards these people. I must admit that, in my age it is more difficult for me to deal with refusal coming from the window in the form of crying and cursing. In the same time, I'm sure our reaching out was not vain.

This statement is proven by those conversations I participated in. Among them, I believe it was not an accident to meet a man denying God's existence, with whom we had a well-mannered argument, and also, a mother grieving for her daughter's dead in her 30s who absorbed comforting words of our God. We sowed the seeds in Bokod, and the rest is in God's hands. Mrs. K.Sz.

Szokolya

Together with some fellows we arrived to the village situated at the foot of Börzsöny hill on Friday afternoon, and after a short discussion and prayer time we left to visit as many homes as we could until dark. On Saturday other fellow volunteers and local fellows joined us and we left to invite people and give testimony.



EHC volunteers with local pastor

Thus, we could visit all homes in the village until Saturday night, except for the connected recreational area. However, on Sunday afternoon a presbyter of the local church distributed invitation cards and EHC tracts in that area.

Just like in other mission fields, we experienced in Szokolya also the reluctance to search for the local churches of those moved to live there lately, even if they belonged to a congregation earlier. We met such kind of families, and we encouraged them to start to do that, and also to read the Bible, listen to

preaching, and to join a local communion. A good opportunity to do that was given at evangelisation evenings held at the week followed our outreach.

Siófok

Our pastor got a calling from God to organise evangelisation events during Advent and to approach people in Siófok. During a Sunday sermon he told us about Hungarian EHC Foundation which would help our church in that. He called them 'experienced inviters', but I didn't know what it meant, actually. We visited homes throughout three weekends before Advent. From the first time when we had a meeting before leaving for outreach, and we listened to a preaching together and prayed commonly, we experienced joy and fulfilment.



Rev. Béla Bartha organizes the outreach

During the three occasions we were in pair with different persons. I got a lot from each person I was brought together by God – through Peter. Each of them came from different background, town and even country. I think their commitment revealed them, as they took on coming to our country, to our city, to bring the Gospel to the homes in Siófok, what needed it so much.

At the first occasion me and my pair had to face a moving and in the same time uplifting situation, when a mother talked to us desperately about her own and her children's lives. It was really moving, since we were strangers for them standing before their door. We went there to bring the good news and this woman needed the Lord, above all. My pair Kinga put the question if we could pray for them. At this point my heart was moved totally and I just admired the Lord's work. We were sent to this woman who needed exactly this 'bell' and Kinga whom God called to pray for her. This was the point when I realized what meant to be an EHC-worker and to serve Him. Our day continued and there was a miracle before us in the evening. It was the last house for us where two young gipsy girls arrived at home. When we told them the reason of our visit, they immediately invited us to go in. An intimate conversation started about the Lord, faith and they closed it with their request for a Bible. And they received a New Testament on the same night – thanks to EHC.

After finishing the outreach that day, we gathered together at the church building and we gave reports about our experiences. We heard about some positive and also a lot of sad situation we got to know during visiting people. It was an indescribable experience and joy to hear my fellows as they prayed for those they met that day, how they interceded for the fallen people who needed God, and also the praises they offered to the Lord. I am glad for and enriched by the possibility to get to know them, and to serve together with them even if it was just a short time. A.T.

Postal distribution

We use this way in those settlements where is no working protestant church. We sent 4.700 tracts throughout Baranya county and about 17.000 to Győr-Moson-Sopron county. In July another 21.600 evangelical tracts reached the homes in this way in Győr-Moson-Sopron county. In October mostly 11.000 families received EHC-tracts in the settlements in Komárom-Esztergom county, and lately we posted 16.600 tracts to mainly small villages in Nógrád and in Heves county. Let's pray for these families that they would use this possibility and answer God's call, start praying, reading the Bible and that they would ask for help of EHC and search us for our written material. During our control visits of postal distribution we could have some good conversation first of all with post-workers. Let's pray that our Lord would approach these people – post-workers as well as the addressed families, anybody who would read these cards!

Remembrance with thanksgiving...

We all were astonished hearing the unexpected news that uncle **László Kuluncsits** was called Home by the Lord. Uncle 'Laci' has started to come near to God through an EMO-tract. First he asked for books, then he came to a Christmas event held by EHC, later he joined to the local church. After his conversion he became a co-worker of EHC and other Christian mission organisation, and served his Saviour in different ways. Many of us will miss him!

We have some co-workers serving in the background, 'invisibly'. We are thankful for faithfulness of them all, and now I would like to remember three of them who went to their heavenly Home in the last year.

Mrs. Ildikó Asztalos together with her husband – who was one of the founders of EMO - supported the work in the background with their prayers and donation. Aunt **Erzsike Tatár** who earlier took part in distribution of tracts, later served with her faithful prayers and donation, as well. **Dr. Mária Virág** besides her prayers, helped EMO-workers, (and others) as a doctor and a counsellor. May our Lord be blessed for their lives! Let's pray for their loved ones are left behind.



8 Mission Calendar 2020

In the middle of December 12.000 calendars we ordered were printed. Approximately 150 churches, EMO-prayers used this possibility of mission, and asked more or less pieces to distribute them among their relations, relatives or people out-of-church. Let's pray for this 'mission', too.

We wish for all of you blessed work for the future as well!

Péter Sztanó and the Hungarian EHC staff