



Hoffnung schenken
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"Mission Intrusive" Jesus and Zacchaeus

In the last two newsletters we have been reflecting more closely on the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus. Today I want to conclude the series. In Luke 19: 5-10 we read that Jesus invites himself as a guest. "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today" (verse 5). He invites himself to a stranger. That's pretty intrusive. And yet it is a mission of a different kind. With this „intrusive mission“ Jesus challenges my idea of mission. Jesus wants to spend time, have fellowship with that stranger – Zacchaeus.



At first glance I would say, "you can't do something like that," but then I start wondering myself – somehow it seems so simple and yet not.

Somehow it's awesome, because the big "repentance speech" doesn't come. At least our passage doesn't describe any of that. Rather, people sit or lie down at the table. Instead of words calling for repentance, just a normal conversation takes place.

The person is being focused on in a different way, but without being put on the spot. Here Jesus shows his love in a different way by giving time and paying attention.

What can I learn from this „intrusive mission“? – First of all: Mission starts with everyday things, with very fundamental things. In this story - the food. What I have learned, is the attention that Jesus gave to

other people and to become more aware of these everyday situations. Also is sometimes time spent together a greater key to people's hearts than any other missionary format. It is a different way to bring across the message that we find at the end of our passage: Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (V. 9-10)

I would like to accept the challenge and be inspired by this mission that can even reach a person through their palate. It can just as well be a phone call at first: "Hi, I would like to visit you. When do you have time?" Or a WhatsApp message all Corona conform: "I just had to think about you, can I call you tonight?"



Let's spin this idea today: How would it change your church, if mission was to happen in terms of everyday fellowship over a plate of food and looking after one's neighbor? – Unusual? Maybe also unthinkable?

– Sometimes unthinkable things are the key to a whole new idea.

I wish you a blessed Passion and Easter time!

Sincerely yours,

Ulrich Mang
Director Social Missionary Services

By His Grace Alone We Have Hope

Loving greetings to you in the matchless name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

As I enter into another year 2022, I can only thank our Lord for having brought all our hostel girls and my family safe all through the last two years 2020 & 2021 in the midst of uncertainties. When I look back my heart is filled with deep gratitude for God's protection, provision, gratefulness and guidance. He is a faithful Lord who promised to be with us even unto the end of the age, wonderfully and miraculously keeping us safe.

But we looked ahead with HOPE and the former "routine of life" had to be adjusted to the new circumstances. Children had to attend online classes and all the activities to be within the hostel premises. The government child welfare department was very kind to us and sanctioned the below for the use of our girls, which helped them to attend the lessons online.

Our team had a lot of time for self-reflection, fun, playtime, devotions, fellowship and joy together as a family. The girls spent a lot of time on extra curricular activities such as competitions, debate, quiz time etc.

The JOY and HOPE multiplied when Indienhilfe came forward to give each child's family and the neighborhood a food kit with nutritious food items.

The girls are growing up well and work hard to do well academically. The photographs are an evidence of the life of Hope even in difficult times.



On 17th March 2020, I got a message that all Educational institutions all over the country will remain closed till further notice. The experience was very different, silence all over, no sound of the vehicle or the sight of human beings on the road. Then the words - quarantine, isolation & social distance etc. became frequently used, which we never experienced before. My prayer to God: never to have a situation like this again.

With regards

Srikanta Barik
Child facilitator



Srikanta Barik and her husband Subasini

! Please note !
Gift Money

So far sponsors could send additional gift money for Christmas or birthdays. On behalf of the children: Thank you!

Unfortunately, the transfer of these gifts within India has become more difficult.

We therefore ask for your co-operation. Please send from now on the "money gifts" for your godchild only once a year. We recommend for one larger amount of money instead of several smaller amounts. This single amount can easily be forwarded. Thank you for your understanding!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Do You Have Postage Stamps?

Every one of you gets letter mail! With the stamps on the envelopes you can support our work.

For many years a friend of CE has been collecting stamped Stamps. The proceeds of these brands flows directly into our work.

Our requests:

- Collect stamped stamps.
- Promote it in your communities and counties.
- Then send the stamps to us. We pass them on collectively.

Thank you very much!



YOUR SUPPORT HELPS CHILDREN AND STUDENTS IN OUR PROJECTS:

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or online via our website www.ec-indienhilfe.de



A Trip To Lithuania - December 2021



A group of volunteers from Saxony and I set off for Lithuania during the night. After a nearly 14-hour drive we reach on the eve of December 17th the children's home in Šakiai and are welcomed by the senior pastor Virginijus Kelertas and his wife Daina. After dinner we all unload around 80 Christmas packages, which we have brought with. In the children's home around 30 young people are accommodated in „families“. In reality, of course, these aren't families, but a kind of shared flats in which the young people feel at home. In addition, there are about twelve disabled people and 15 children in day care. This year, for the first time since I took up my duties, I am taking part in the annual trip to Lithuania. This trip always takes place during the Advent season to distribute Christmas presents to local residents and employees. In addition, this year a new van, which was also supported by a donations from Christian Endeavor, will be handed over. With around 500,000 kilometers, the old van was „getting old“.



The following day Johannes Kunze, who has been responsible for the practical work assignments, and I go to Kretinga to meet Rūta Šulskienė. She is a volunteer in youth work for the Lutheran Church in Lithuania. Over food we talk about perspectives of youth and Christian youth work in Lithuania. Protestant Christians in the country only make up 0.3 percent. After the meal, we visit a youth center that is in the process of construction. The

goal is to talk about a possible cooperation between CE and the Lutheran Church of Lithuania in the field of youth work.

The following day I am invited to preach at two services. The first service is at 12 noon in a small wooden church in Sudargas, a small town about four kilometers from the Russian border. This church was dismantled years ago in Visbek/Germany and rebuilt in Lithuania. The minority of the evangelical Christians in the country is also evident in

Šakiai is located in southwestern Lithuania. There has been a partnership with the parish, the regional church community and the EC-Brünlos (Saxony) since 1996. A few years ago SMS entered into a cooperation by supporting the children's home in Šakiai.

this place. In addition to the German delegation, the pastor and his wife, there is only one other older lady at the service. Young families have - so I am told- almost no prospects in this village, since there are no facilities for children and young people. The schools and kindergartens were closed years ago, families leave the rural periphery and mostly settle in the urban centers of the country. The second service takes place in the church in Šakiai, which is part of the children's home. The service is very well attended by young people, employees and their families. After the service we distribute the gifts

from Germany to the „families“. On Monday, Johannes Kunze and I are going to the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius to meet the Lutheran Bishop of Lithuania, Mindaugas Sabutis. I also talk to him about the situation of the church and youth in Lithuania and a possible cooperation. He explains about the great tension which the small Lutheran Church goes through. In principle, the bishop clearly indicates to me that he is open to further the youth work, but financial resources are limited because and therefore also staff. On the last day of our trip I spend time with the young people in the home and explore the area and Šakiai. I am impressed by the openness of the young people to get to know the „new guy“. At the same time, I recognize the challenge that employees face when dealing with young people. I am particularly struck by the love with which the employees treat the young people.

Ulrich Mang

please notice!!!

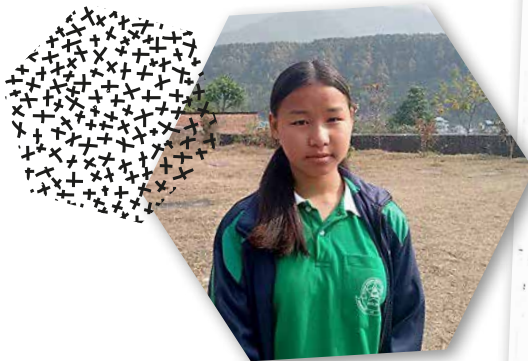
Plannings are on for the next
WCEU Convention

July 19th-23rd 2023
in Mücke/Flensunger Hof,
Germany

Theme:
Empower-Make
the Planet Shake.

Registration and more
information will follow
in 2022

Greetings From Nepal



Manisha Limbu

My name is Manisha Limbu. I'm 17. I am very happy to share with you about my hostel. I love to live with this family. We are from different places and cultures. We share about families our cultures, churches to each other. We love to share our memories to each other. This is the opportunity to make myself better and take the initiative for my personality development. We are forty girls in hostel. We have rule and regulation. Uncle and aunty love us very much. We always support each other when we are in trouble. Uncle, aunty also helps us so far. Everything is in order. We all follow the rules by being disciplined. We get up at 5:30 Am and come to the devotion at 6:00 Am. We are here to make our future brighter, independent, responsible and helpfulness. I love the environment around our hostel. Beautiful Mountains can be seen on the east and Dharan city on the west. Also the environment here is desolated. Hostel develops my good qualities. I would like to thank you our sponsors and we always remember in our prayers. May God bless their work, ministry and family.



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ab 19. April 2022

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