



Hoffnung schenken

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Crossing boundaries Jesus and Zacchaeus

In the last newsletter we focused on Jesus directing our attention to Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree. But the story goes on in Luke 19: 5-9.

Jesus crosses borders! And in a more than one way. On one hand: Jesus not only sees Zacchaeus sitting in the sycamore tree, but he also invites himself as a guest. In the times of Jesus that was a no-go.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector, an official that of the Roman state. He himself did not get paid by the state, but made his income from the surcharge that he added to the taxes which he collected and this surcharge he determined himself. That is why he, along with other tax collectors, was not respected

in society. Simply put: He was a „sinner“ for the others (v.7). Nobody wanted anything to do with them.

- No one? - Jesus consciously crosses a social boundary here, because he not only speaks to Zacchaeus, but also has a meal with him. That causes anger among the people.

On the other hand, this crossing of boundaries also ensures that Zacchaeus crosses some boundaries as well: “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount (v. 8). The text doesn't clearly state what causes the mind change of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus did not hear a penitential sermon or rebuke from Jesus, but was - and so I read this section - touched and moved by Jesus' merciful words towards him even to the point where Jesus states: „ Today salvation has come to this house“ (v. 9). Jesus' crossing of boundaries turns Zacchaeus' life inside out, shows that Jesus makes no distinction between people (v. 9), but views each person with mercy.

This reminds me of South Asia, India and Nepal. The pandemic taught us something in both countries, namely to cross boundaries, to overstep limits set by society. This is not only in regards to the caste system, which has actually been abolished, or the corruption that is prevalent in Nepal. We are consciously campaigning against these things, even though it is commonsense. Rather, we are currently turning to the most vulnerable people giving much needed help: lepers, orphans and pastors who receive no other support. Here we experience how people not only meet us with a deep gratitude, but also ask: “Nobody helps us. Why are you doing this? „

Crossing a boundary sometimes means „offending“, as Jesus did. Yet I learn from history, this crossing of boundaries has an effect and can give a lot of hope.

I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Advent season, a Merry Christmas and God's blessing for 2022. Thank you for supporting our work and thus crossing boundaries with us! We appreciate having you with us.

Sincerely yours,

Ulrich Mang

Director Social Missionary Services



We are very thankful!

My first trip to India

Loud traffic, honking, cars and scooters pass by. A cow stands right in front of us. No, I'm not in Germany. - I'm in India. And that after more than 1.5 years since I started working as the director for Social Missionary Services at Christian Endeavor. I had around 100 Zoom conversations with my partner Paul Sethu. - And let's be honest: It feels so unreal.

Our tour starts out to the south-east to a place called Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, a drive of round about five hours lies ahead of us. Having arrived, we first visit two remote village projects where we are already expected. It is evening. There are plastic chairs ready for us to sit on. Only

the village square is lit up with lamps. In this square also the tuition takes place for children and young people who are part of the village development program, as it offers enough space and electricity.

We talk to people about what life was like in times of Corona, what challenges they faced. We are told that the humanitarian aid food kits helped many families through this difficult time, because without an income the local people would not have been able to support themselves and their families. A big challenge was the schooling part in this time, as simple village folk had to take on the responsibility of helping children themselves lacked knowledge and supplies.

The next day we visit the girls' hostel in Chittoor, where we are again expected by the children and young people. Almost 30 girls are finally back in the dormitory after a long corona break. They are grateful that they can be back in hostel and proper schooling. They express their gratitude through songs and dances that glorify Jesus. We also have the chance now to send greetings from sponsors and the German CE family.

We also meet some employees from SUCHI, who oversee our village projects. There we get to know women from villages who are being empowered to learn a small trade, such as trading goats, in order to be self-sufficient and independent.

After returning to Bangalore, a workshop will take place with our partner India Aid, which is necessary for the further development of the work in India. The first building blocks for the following steps will be developed and "assembled" in the coming months. I will inform you as soon as concrete steps have been taken. I am positive about the outcome.

The second part of our tour takes us to various projects, a ten-hour drive takes us South to Trichy in the state of Tamil Nadu. We are accommodated in a college, on the premises on which we also operate a dormitory. We are invited to a musical evening at the college, at which Klaus Göttler will also give a concert. Another project in the vicinity is a project for children with and without "special needs". Again, we are awaited with great gratitude. The children scatter flowers to greet us, but in addition to dances, they have also prepared some songs. Even if people with handicaps are considered a "shame" for many in India, it is nice to see that we support an inclusive program with high standards.

On the way there we stop in other villages where EC Indienhilfe supports individual children and their families, such as a woman whose son could not speak and walk properly after birth. Through support from Germany and training by professionals he gained skills in speech as well as walking.

Girls from the villages we visited before also live here. A lady supervisor adheres to the needs of the girls in a loving and encouraging manner. The remaining time in Bangalore is spent for personal visits before we again get ready for a 30 hour return trip.

This was only a small part of what we and I have experienced. „We are very thankful“ - We are very grateful! „That is the sentence that I have often heard in India and internalized again. Children and young people who have received a new, hopeful perspective through your support are simply grateful for it! - Therefore: I am grateful for the time in India and look forward to the coming trips of 2022.



With a stopover in Paris, Klaus Göttler, Simon Schuh and I made our way to Bangalore on October 25th. We got there at 2 a.m. Indian time. We are greeted warmly by Mahima Krupa, an employee of Indienhilfe, who is waiting for us in front of the entrance hall. Despite additional forms that we had to fill out in advance and on the way from the gate to passport control, everything went smoothly. Finally, I am there! We get into a van that looks a lot like a „party bus“. For the next week and a half, it will be a good companion to us. After a one-hour drive from the airport to the hotel, we arrive. Now it's just a matter of checking in and then catching up on a few hours of sleep before we start with the first project visits the next morning.

The next morning over breakfast, I get to know the man with whom I have been working for months, but never met personally: Dr. Paul Sethu. It's like two old friends are meeting after a long time. I'm thankful.



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 INDIA:

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News from Nepal

In our hostel in Dharan - in South-East Nepal - the „new“ normality has now returned due to corona. 40 girls are back in the hostel and as previously are cared for by our two employees.

Right now the outer facade of the dormitory is being repainted and the residents of the hostel are also involved in the maintenance of the building. Some cleaning up of the hostel area is done by the girls. And of course they are attending school again. In between there is still enough time to play with other girls on the premises.

At the time of the lockdown, while most girls were absent, a new computer and printer were purchased by two generous donations of sponsors from Germany. Also a new scooter could be purchased for the staff in order to ease the many runs like shopping, visitation of sick people and for emergency cases.



We are looking forward to establish in the coming months additional space for more admissions in order to empower more young girls.

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

Indien Guests in 2022

You are looking for something „different“ (something exotic) in your church, CE, youth or teen group? From May 9th to May 15th, 2022 a group of Indian students from the projects of EC-Indienhilfe will be touring Germany. They would love to visit your group or church.

The group organizes a church service or mission day, youth evening with Indian music, testimonies and experiences out of their lives. Indian cooking might be an option as well. Experience and „taste“ another culture and at the same time

experience the connection through our one Lord.

If you are interested, contact:
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