



Give Hope
www.ec-sma.de

Jesus, touch me ...

My heart beats up to my neck! – “Who touched me? [...] I felt a power had gone out from me. [...] My daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace!” – And once again I repeat the text.

Then the curtain opens and everything is gone. – I have a blackout. Almost twenty years ago, as part of my CE youth work, a play was performed based on the well-known song “Jesus berühre mich (Nur den Saum deines Gewandes)” by Albert Frey (in English: “Jesus touch me” [Just the hem of your garment]). At the age of 16, I had the honour of portraying Jesus of Nazareth.



I still think about this situation today, even though I only found the thread again with a little help from Erika, who was the prompter. Whenever I read the corresponding text from Mark 5, I remember that time on the stage and I can empathise a little with what must have been going on in the woman's mind, who courageously yet timidly approaches Jesus, perhaps wanting to touch him at first and then ultimately „only“ touches his hem: „For she said, ‘If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.’ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.” (vv. 28-29) There must be a mixture of confidence and excitement in her when, after twelve years, he heals her again from the flow of blood – a chronic bleeding – and this despite the fact that no other doctor had been able to do so before. She was therefore excluded from public as well as religious life, for she was considered unclean. Jesus notices, despite all the crowds around him, that someone had touched him because healing power had gone out from him. Jesus restores the woman who had fallen to her knees in awe of Jesus: „Your faith has

saved you.” (v. 34a) The woman, who is not mentioned by name, is given a life-changing new perspective through a simple „contact“ with Jesus: her life was no longer marked by exclusion, but by participation in everyday life.

The story inspires me in several ways. First of all, by the fact that Jesus can give healing and thereby fundamentally change the realities of life: A power so strong that it even „only“ needs the touch of a coat.

And even more through the courage of the woman to go beyond current norms and to approach Jesus, to meet him with excited trust. It is the trust that with Jesus there are no limits. We encounter these two aspects in our daily work in the projects. Jesus can and does heal people even today: when children and young people speak of Jesus through the staff, through their talk and actions. And it is necessary to cross borders, because with Jesus neither castes nor limited access to the most diverse resources apply.

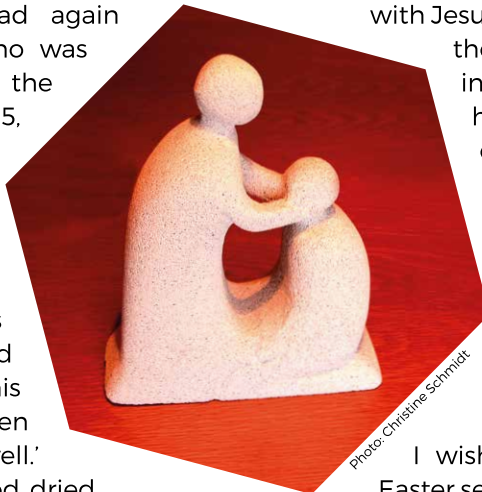


Photo: Christine Schmidt

I wish you in this year's Passion and Easter season the experience of the healing power of Jesus and the courage to consciously cross (social) boundaries in trust in Jesus.

Sincerely yours

Ulrich Mang
Secretary for Social Missionary Services

Jai Masee – Victory to the Messiah

Nepal is a small country with big mountains north of India. I had the privilege to live and learn there for five weeks in autumn 2022 – exciting, inspiring, comfort zone transcending.

of concentration from me. I kept a list of things that are different here: sight of down jackets, hats and gloves at 22°C (71,6 °F) during the day, cows I met on the way, two-and-a-half-hour church services and the smell of incense sticks.

What especially touched my heart and made me happy? Probably the view from my room window overlooking the mountains and the openness and warmth of the people. I met new people every day – at dinner, watching football and baking biscuits. A real challenge with my memory for faces and names! Every other day, a bunch of children came to visit me, fascinated by everything I had brought with me. I like to think back to those precious moments.

Another highlight was the final visit of my parents and the one-week mountain hike together to the base camp (4500 m above sea level) of the Mardi Himal. Fantastic despite a stomach bug, freezing cold nights in unheated sleeping huts and heavy backpacks. On a mountain ridge towards the sunrise, surrounded by snow-covered mountain giants – that teaches amazement, humility and gratitude.

And that's what I am – grateful from the bottom of my heart for everything I was allowed to experience, the encounters and the new friendships.

Jai Masee 🙏,
Leonie

My name is Leonie, I am 23 years old and from Berlin. In my free time, I like to be creative, love music and do sports, for example bouldering. Moreover, I am studying medicine and am involved in regional Christian children's and youth work. That's how I met Ulrich Mang last summer at a youth retreat and was gripped by his enthusiasm for India and Nepal.

Within the framework of the social missionary work of the CE, I was allowed to do a four-week internship as a short-term outreach. I completed this so-called clinical traineeship at the "Green Pastures Hospital" in Pokhara, a large city in the heart of Nepal.

Although so much was new and foreign to me in this country, I experienced that God is a God who knows and sees me, Leonie, exactly. On the evening of my arrival, I met my flatmate Mirjam – a Swiss woman. Being able to speak German with her was a real relief, especially in the first few days. The English language was my biggest challenge at the beginning, at least the technical English in the hospital. The Nepali accent sometimes demanded a lot

In the hospital, I was super cared for, especially by Josh, an American who has been working there as a doctor for 9 years and puts his whole heart into it. In general, there is a pronounced cooperation between the foreign and Nepalese staff, which allows for further development of the work and processes in the hospital. I was able to spend my time in different areas: initially in the rehabilitation ward as well as with the „palliative care team“ to make home visits. In the case of the latter, I was deeply impressed by how intensively time was taken for exchange, listening and counselling of patients and relatives. Afterwards, I was able to experience various operations at first hand and even assist a little.

Some patients travelled a long way to be treated – sometimes when the disease was already far advanced. Almost always, a so-called „care-giver“ (usually a spouse, parent or child) was present, who slept in the patient's room and took over many tasks for which the nursing staff is responsible in Germany. Due to a widespread lack of health insurance, the costs of medical care usually have to be borne by the patients themselves, so that before each diagnosis and therapy, they weigh up what they can afford. That moved me deeply. So I learned not only about the subject, but about the health system as a whole.



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God who works great things

Travelogue Peru: 15.-30.11.2022

I set off from Kassel to Peru on 15th of November 2022: from Frankfurt via Paris and Lima to Cusco (approx. 3500 m above sea level). There, Cesar picked me up at the airport and accompanied me as a driver. We drove about seven hours to Andahuaylas. Our way led over the Panamericana, through small villages, bigger towns, up and down serpentines. In the evening I arrived at casayohana and met Sabine „Bine“ Vogel, whom I had only met online before.

The following day included a visit to all casayohana areas: speech therapy, physiotherapy and services for young people. I was very moved by the high level of professionalism and warmth – lived Jesus love! In the evening I attended a devotion. It became clear to me how important the connection between a living faith and everyday work is.

well equipped. The son has an arm paralysis due to an accident and is supported by casayohana. Finally, we were able to „pre“-celebrate the first Advent in temperatures at around 25°C (77 °F).

The return journey had to be postponed because of a general strike. The way to Lima led to an altitude of 4700 m and through protests past stone blockades. In the evening we spent the night at „Indicamino“.

In the morning, I attended a Thanksgiving service with Yessy Guadalupe of CE-Lima,

where I was spontaneously asked to preach a short sermon. Later we explored Lima with others. There is a strong urban-rural divide. The white, educated people from the city discriminate against the indigenous population groups.

The next day, Bine and I met Amrei and Dirk, who have lived in Peru for many years. I really appreciate their perspective on Peru. They confirmed the strong influence of the Shining Path on society. In the evening we had an appointment with the leaders of CE-Lima and talked about being CE in both countries. I noticed the great desire for spiritual empowerment through CE Germany.

The next day we went back to Germany – in our luggage: souvenirs, many impressions of the country, the people and God, who is doing great things there.

The next day we planned the programme of our round trip with village visits, talks and smaller excursions to get to know the culture. I also visited the Inca city of Sondor. Afterwards, three „short-term residents“ accompanied me, whom I asked a lot about „country & people“ and their perception regarding the concerns and challenges of the people. What became clear was: lack of access to balanced nutrition, lack of education and low equality of opportunity for women.

The other day I visited the weekly market in Andahuaylas and met young women from the project who talked about their lives as Peruvian women. The majority had experienced domestic violence themselves or in their immediate environment. Around 2/3 of all women are victims of domestic violence – a part of Peru's (male) identity. I asked the women about their view of the work of casayohana. For most of them, the project has become a real family. They live in a safe housing project from where they go to their training companies.

The next morning we left early to drive into the mountains to Chacramap. First, we stopped in a village where the health of individual children and their parents is regularly checked. Malnutrition, inbreeding and domestic violence became evident. On the way back, we stopped at two families that are supported by casayohana. Here, the concern about a poor harvest and survival became very clear, as the rains had not come.

In addition, there was a meeting with an elderly volunteer who talked about the violence by her husband and the impact of the „Shining Path“ (Sendero Luminoso). She spoke about a legacy marked by mistrust and insecurity. It was touching: since the woman got involved with casayohana, her husband is no longer violent.

One day later, I visited another family in the mountains with some of the staff members – living in simple circumstances, but



Ulrich Mang with „Bine“ Vogel





Stamps

Please continue to collect stamps for our work – whether stamped, unstamped or entire stamp collections.

Simply send them directly to
Karl-Friedrich Polutta,
Zum Stempel 6,
35043 Marburg-Moischt GERMANY
Thank you very much!

Who can help?

Helping hands are always needed in our partner project in **Šakiai/Lithuania**, as much of the work is done by the people themselves. At the moment we are looking for a roofer who can assemble „PREFA“ and support the project on a voluntary basis.

If you know someone or can help yourself, please contact Johannes Kunze directly at +49 1520 8534545.

Indian Visitors


What about a little Indian flair?
An Indian student group will be in Germany from 24th of July to 2nd of August 2023. You are welcome to invite them to visit you – whether in your congregation or CE group.

Please contact Sabine Entschel by the end of May:

sabine.entschel@ec.de, +49 561 4095-111.

Go, Harry, go!

Harry Wedekind, CE Vice President from Europe, will be travelling on his racing bike from the Netherlands to the CE-World Convention in Mücke in July 2023.



You can find more information about this fundraising campaign for the CE World Association and SMS of the German CE Association at:
www.ec.de/go-harry-go.

Kleine Weltveränderer

Last spring we have collected for our project in **Šakiai/Lithuania**. The campaign now takes place regularly and is called „Kleine Weltveränderer“ (Little World Changers).

In the meantime, the Lego bricks purchased from the donations were distributed to the local children. Katja Grießbach was there and writes from the beaming faces of the children:

„Wow – speechlessness. The Lego is ready. Everything is set up. The children enter the room and their eyes get bigger and bigger, the children’s beaming increases and a big grin shows on their faces. The children are speechless. We explain the Lego as well as some rules. And then it’s: ‘Ready, go!’ The children are allowed to go to the Lego and immediately start trying things out. Quickly, beautiful buildings are created. That’s great! The children are already looking forward to being able to build again.“

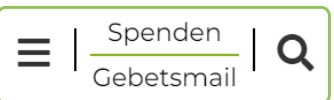
THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your support and for „Giving hope“ together in Lithuania.

We will have the „Little World Changers“ again in 2023 – we are collecting for board and interactive group games this year. For more information, please visit: www.ec-sma.de/kleine-weltveraenderer

SMA and prayer email

Our website is in a state of flux – so we have gradually changed from „EC-Indienhilfe“ to „Sozial-Missionarische Arbeit“ (Social Missionary Services), since we have been active not only in India for a while now.

We also regularly share online prayer requests from our work (at the moment only in German). Many thanks to all who support our work in prayer!



In the meantime, you can also receive the requests as a prayer email (Gebetsmail). Here you can subscribe to the prayer email: www.ec-sma.de/newsletter.

CE WORLD CONVENTION CE WORLD CONVENTION

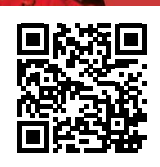
19. – 23. July 2023

in Mücke/Flensunger Hof.

Topic of the convention:

Empower - Make the Planet Shake.

empowerconference2023.com



For Christ
and the Church



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