

RAILHOPE NEWSLETTER INTERNATIONAL 2023



Vision
We live hope...

Mission
... by connecting Christians in railroads and public transport systems worldwide; praying for each other and our companies, encouraging an authentic life with Jesus Christ.

Passion
We promote and combine faith and life in the professional world. Through our thoughts, speech and actions we seek to grow in and to be inspired by a relationship with Jesus Christ. With passion, we serve our colleagues and seek Their common welfare and well-being and we honour the biblical God.

RailHope International

Travelling together to spread hope worldwide. This is how the purpose of the umbrella organisation RailHope International (RHI) can be briefly summarised. Below you will find short encouraging reports from the worldwide RHI network and helpful information about the calendar project and the planned RailHope Festivals in 2024.

At the end of May 2022, the RHI Representatives met in Northampton (GB) to exchange experiences and for the General Assembly. Also present for the first time were participants from Italy and Belgium, who belong to a local RailHope group in Milan (I) and Liège (B).

RailHope Indonesia became the thirteenth full member of RailHope International. Welcome! Thus, the RHI network, together with RailHope India and Singapore, is expanding further in the Far East.

In RailHope International we are constantly challenged to overcome language, cultural and national borders. The following articles describe how this was achieved in Finland and in the Bernese Oberland Switzerland.

Biking with Norwegians

The Bernese Oberland was ideally suited for the thirteenth edition of the Fit & Fun Bike and Hike Week. The fourteen participants enjoyed not only the quietly situated Hotel in Krattigen but also the magnificent view over Lake Thun. In addition to lots of sunshine, the biking and hiking participants very much appreciated the variety of offers, also that all bike tours were conducted under competent guidance. We overcame the language barriers to our Norwegian friends with our school English. In total, we gave away about 300 wall and desk calendars to railway and public transport staff in workshops or at stations.

The next Fit & Fun Week will take place from 2 – 9 September 2023 in Pontresina Switzerland. Welcome!

Sauna with Finns

Last summer, I was able to attend the 120th anniversary celebration of RailHope Finland alongside other international guests. One of the most important cultures of the Finns is to take a sauna at one of the approximately 188,000 lakes. So, we sweated together with the Finns in the sauna of Rautiala, the summer house and venue of RailHope Finland.

Discussed topics, such as the now scary neighbour on the long eastern border or our role as Christians in changing social values heated us up just as much as the sauna. The only thing that helped was the liberating jump into the refreshing lake. Conclusion: taking a sauna together connects, has a thawing and purifying effect and also revives international relations.

Work more together

In 2019, the idea was born in Lunteren (NL) that RailHope Germany, Austria and Switzerland (DACH) would in future publish their national association magazines together three times a year. Feedback suggests that an attractive design with inspiring content contributes significantly to being perceived as part of the media diversity in the world of railways and public transport. We hope that this positive

May 2022: RailHope International representatives and board members in Northampton (GB)





▲ Three RailHope Magazine editions '22

experience will encourage other RailHope associations to work even more closely together.

Revive and re-fired

There are many stories in the Bible of Jesus meeting people and changing them from the inside out and reviving them spiritually. Let us think of the adulteress at the well (John 4). In the encounter with Jesus, she realizes that her unquenched thirst for true acceptance and love cannot be quenched by changing male relationships. Through the conversation with Jesus, her self-perception changes so much that she realizes that he is the promised Messiah. She becomes an ambassador who proclaims in her town and surroundings: "Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?" The result was that people from that town

came to Jesus. Let us pray that Jesus can also meet and revive us again and again, so that we can continue to burn for his cause without burning out. God bless you abundantly!

Ulrich Berger (CH),
President of RailHope International (RHI)



WORLDWIDE NETWORK

South East Asia

Praise the LORD! Since May 2022 RailHope Indonesia became a full member of our umbrella association "RailHope International (RHI)". There is a prayer group with public transport staff in the capital Jakarta, led by **Pastor Yoseph Kumar** (RHI Representative).

RailHope Singapore will take the patronage for RailHope Indonesia. This includes continuing to accompany and, if neces-



Prayer group in Jakarta/Indonesia

sary, financially support this young association.

We support also the RailHope movement in Malaysia. We appreciate your prayers. RailHope Malaysia Brother Patrick is currently employed by a Church. Patrick has requested my help to go to Malaysia, to help form a new RailHope Malaysia leadership team. I'm planning to go to Malaysia either in Dec 2022 or Jan 2023. There are further 11 countries in Southeast Asia. Upon the formal establishment of RailHope Malaysia, I'm praying to establish contact in the other countries of Southeast Asia.

Every blessing from Milton Lazarus (SGP),
RHI Network Coordinator
South East Asia



Europe

Beginning of July **Maarten Pijnacker Hordijk**, NL (RHI Coordinator for Europe) traveled by train to the Czech Republic where he met Tomas Uher (RailHope Contact) in Prague. Afterwards he went to Bratislava Slovakia to meet Františka Vysna (one of our contact persons for Slovakia). Then he crossed the Ukrainian border at station Chop and returned to Hungary, where he met some other RailHope Partners. His aim is to encourage and help them to enlarge their network of Christians at the railways.

Below you can read more about Maarten's mission trips:

Czech Report

I met **Tomas Uher** (RailHope Contact Czech) in Prague. He works with the Christian student organization IFES, comes from a railway family and is a railway enthusiast. Our meeting was great and inspiring – thank you for all your prayers! Tomas already knows 3 Christians who work for Czech Railways. He will meet them in person and see how the network can grow.

Please pray for Tomas that God will help him and use his limited time effectively for RailHope Czech.

Hungary Report

On 3rd July I had in Budapest a meeting with **Peter Varga** and **Eva (Evi) Balogh Györgyné**. Peter is the president and Eva the vice president of "Keresztény Vasutasok Egyesülete (KVE)" the Christian Railway Association in Hungary. Both are retired although Peter still is working for the MAV (Hungarian Railway company). It could be very helpful to have a simple web address like www.kve.hu or www.magyar-railhope.net. The mail address magyar@railhope.net is forwarded to our Hungarian contact person **Károly Orosz**.



▲ Not an everyday picture at 120th anniversary of RailHope Finland: A locomotive of the SR2 series in Tampere (FIN) with the drivers Tero Meskanen (FIN/VR), Ulrich Berger, (CH/SBB) and Børge Salte, (N/GoAhead), who are also very familiar with the type (Re460 | EL18).



▲ Maarten Pijnacker Hordijk (left) met Tomas Uher (right) in Prague/Czech Republic.

Slovakia Report

This afternoon I met **Františka Vysna** (RailHope contact for Slovakia), a former train stewardess by RegioJet in Bratislava. Despite her busy family with two small children, I was warmly welcomed with **Danka Kovalova** at her home. Danka leads a prayer group (via Zoom) of about six people, two of whom work at the railways. She has already experienced many great answers of prayers and is very motivated to keep praying.

In August was a big Christian festival in Slovakia that attracts about 5.000 Christians. Danka spoke to the organizers got permission for making PR for RailHope Slovakia during the festival.

Please pray for RailHope Slovakia, that God will open doors and this seed of hope will grow.



Maarten Pijnacker Hordijk (NL), RHI Network Coordinator Europe

Africa

God has been faithful to us... and we continue to carry out the mission of RailHope South Africa... "bringing hope into the workplace through prayer". We stand in the gap for Transnet, Prasa, Metro Rail, TNPA, TPT, Transnet Freight Rail, Transnet Pipelines and all the SOE's in our nation. God will prosper these organizations....so that the people will rejoice.

RailHope Eswatini is interested for a full membership with RailHope International. We encourage and support RailHope Eswatini spiritually. A membership with RailHope International is in progress. Last December we had African prayer meeting for thanksgiving.



Sister Hazel Govender (SA), RHI Network Coordinator Africa

North America & Sri Lanka

Canada Report

Need a lot of prayers for leaders Mr James Bruyn of Calgary, Mr Kingston Emiliyanus of Montreal and Mr Gideon Burder of TTC Toronto, for them join together to build RailHope Canada.

At the moment, they are the contact in their respective Cities for RailHope.

Mr John Lunn of the UK had been requested last year May, to follow up with them for possible positive fruitful prayer fellowship.

USA

Welcome to attend the 82nd national railroad evangelistic association convention of RailHope America: August 14 – 18, 2023 – located in Carlisle in the peaceful hills of Pennsylvania. More information on www.railhopeamerica.com

▼ Continental RailHope Africa Festival 2020 in Durban/South Africa



Sri Lanka Report

Mr Lushan of Colombo and Mr Dinesh Fernando of Kandy both of them working for Sri Lankan Railways are the contacts in their respective cities for RailHope.

Mr Lushan and Mr Dinesh Fernando are in touch with each other as they prayerfully reach out to other like minded friends.

RHI-Network-Coordinator, Asia & North America

RHI Meetings & Festivals

Welcome to the RHI Meeting '23

It will be held on **April, 28 – 30** in Ognå, close to Stavanger (Ognatun Leirstad) in Norway.

We promote and combine faith and life in the professional world. We support international meetings for the exchange of ideas, experiences, encouragement and fellowship.

A rough program is as follows:

Fri 28th Welcome meeting & RailHope Norway

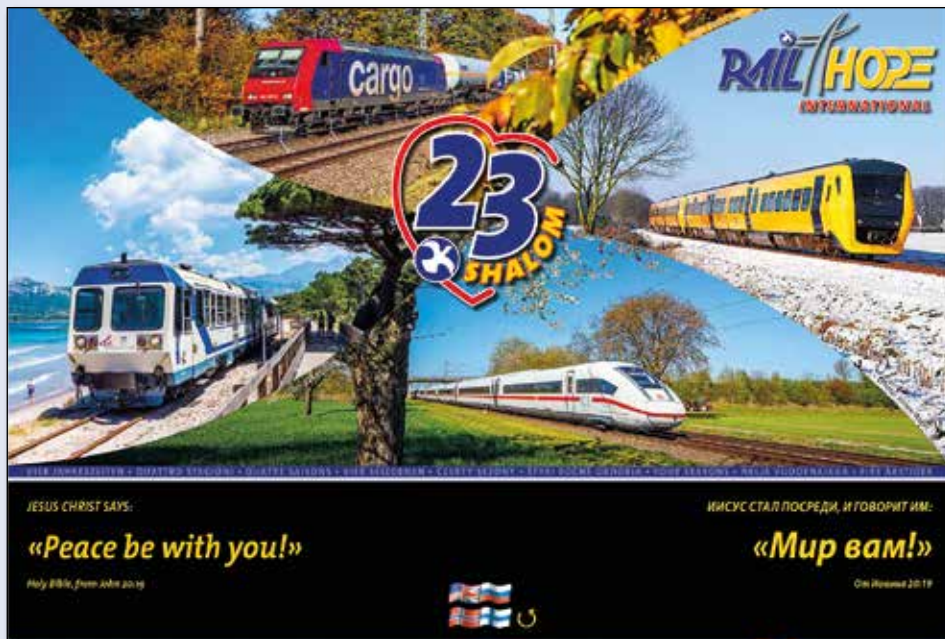
Sat 29th RHI Network Reports & Prayer RHI General Assembly

Sun 30th Excursion (optional)

Mon 1st (Departure)

More details and application form you will find on www.railhope.net

Thank you for all Norwegian brothers and sisters to prepare this meeting with God's grace!



RailHope Continental Festivals 2024

We pray and encourage RailHope South Africa to plan and organize a continental "RailHope Festival Africa" in Durban, Spring 2024. It would be wonderful if RailHope Singapore could invite for a continental "RailHope Festival South East Asia" in Singapore probably in Autumn 2024 or 2025. As soon as possible we will make available more information through our partners in South Africa and Singapore.

Giving hope worldwide

RailHope International (RHI) is going to plan and print the next calendar edition for 2024 in an excellent design again. It will contain twelve fantastic railway pictures from five continents combined with biblical wisdoms! We will export these calendars to India, and to other countries in Europe and America.

Multilingual

For 2023 three versions were available with four languages each (English/Russian + Norwegian/Finnish); Italian/Ger-

man + French/Dutch and German/Polish + Ukrainian/Slovak). These contain "The four Signals" to present the Gospel of Christ.

Multifunctional

The calendar works both as a wall calendar or on the table with the included stand. This convenient format (24 cm/9.5 in wide) is perfect to give as a gift. The calendar is printed on both sides with two languages on each side. The desired language can be chosen by flipping over the entire calendar.

◀ Cover of the RHI calendar 2023. Here the English/Russian & Norwegian/Finnish version, which was delivered to the RailHope Belarus contact as well.

Orders

Over 6000 calendars have been ordered for 2023. Over 1300 calendars are provided free for different RailHope partners and contacts by RHI. 4700 calendars were delivered by invoice. One-piece costs (including delivery costs) € 3,50.

Donations

The cost of printing the 2023 calendars has been covered. **Thank you so much for supporting this project in prayer and with your donations!**

We need really again donations to make secure to provide calendars in such a manner for the year 2024 including to develop and support further editions. Please, help us to "making mission possible" in future as well!

To donate: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=P8YZNBVD6V9L



Thank you and God bless you abundantly!

WWW.RAILHOPE.NET



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