



Annual report 2010

– by Ueli Berger



your IRM-Präsident

All the best and God`s blessings for 2011!

Dear IRM friends

The realisation of the IRM conference and recreational week in Turku, Finland, with 130 participants, was without doubt the highlight of the past year. Many thanks to our Finnish RKY fellow believers in Christ, who, through their countless hours of preparation, contributed to the success of this valuable, inspiring, international meeting. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that there were representatives in Finland, from all IRM membership countries and India has also requested IRM membership. Our 2011 calendar will now be distributed in 9 countries. From the UK we heard that people have been helped and encouraged through the pastoral care of the chaplain and that some have come to know and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Sweden has confirmed IRM membership and reaffirmed the continuation of their work in the Göteborg area. Germany, Austria and Switzerland work together to produce excellent contemporary printed materials, such as “Calendars for railwaymen” and the evangelic magazine “RailLight.” In September, hundreds of magazines and calendars were distributed, free of charge, at the automotive engineering trade fair (InnoTrans) in Berlin (G) and during the SPORTS-FAITH-FUN week in Graubünden (CH). Hungary has agreed to host the next IRM conference and recreational week in 2013. These are all encouraging activities that reflect the theme of the Turku Conference, **“... work until I come back.”** Luke 19:13

Most of the membership countries were very moved by the important question: “How can we get the attention of young, employed railwaymen who are competent and willing to continue our missionary work?” In addition to possible measures that will be presented on the IRM Agenda 2013, perhaps the following input could give food for thought.

In Genesis Chapters 37-50 we read the well known story of Joseph`s life. In Genesis 39:21 we read: **“... the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour...”** Joseph`s life was marked with situations that he could not influence: sold by his brothers, a slave in Potiphar`s house, through false accusations –jail. One thing kept him focused – his decision: Nothing must stand between me and my God! Joseph remained brave, competent, honest and reliable, even when his work conditions were extremely difficult (slavery and jail) he remained flexible and gave his best. Soon he had more responsibility than his superiors and enjoyed trust and respect from his fellow prisoners. This authentic, loyal lifestyle, lived out before his superiors and his faithfulness to God, should inspire us to do the same, whether in our workplace or in the Christian railwaymen`s work. Become more like Joseph! There is a price, but we have God and his promises on our side when problems come!

IRM-Agenda 2013

Below are all IRM services listed that are entitled to advance the networking and strengthening of the IRM national associations for their specific task in the next 3 years.

- **IRM- Prayer letter** – For all prayer partners, four times a year. The prayer requests can be sent to the following e-mail address: prayerletter@railway-mission.eu
- **IRM-Calendar** - Nine IRM associations can now obtain these contemporary printed materials in various languages (Germany, UK, Sweden, Finland and Hungary) in order to win railwaymen for God`s Kingdom. The UK has agreed to consider the possibility of a basic European version with an overall production of 50`000 calendars.
- **“SPORTS-FAITH-FUN-Weeks”** – Co-operation and implementation in an IRM member country. Scheduled in Oberstdorf (Germany) 2011-2012 as well as Hungary 2013 (possibly). The participants meet to enjoy sport, spiritual inputs and to experience companionship. En route, an IRM-team give railway calendars away to the staff at the respective stations, the goal being to lay the foundation for local meeting places to become established for Christian railway employees.
- **IRM – Visiting** - The goal of the IRM president is to visit each country once in 3 years if possible. If requested, the IRM national association have access to counselling with IRM-mentor Samuel Ruggli.
- **www.railway-mission.eu - IRM-Website** – exchange information and networking possibilities for IRM members; without own website. Announcement of annual meeting. Notification of the International Trade Fair e.g. InnoTrans, September 2012 in Berlin. Information to Webmaster D. Saarbourg: grafik@allroundergrafiker.de
- **IRM-Bulletin** - a colourful magazine in two or more languages, about progress in the IRM and its membership countries, plus future prospects regarding the next three years.
- **IRM-Conference and Recreational Week**- the carrying out of the conference in Hungary, 2013 with the possibility of afterwards, adding on the SPORTS-FAITH-FUN- Week. Formation of a team at the IRM council meeting 2012.

The IRM-General meeting unanimously agreed to these services and therefore increased membership fee to € 250. An individual increase or decrease in the fee is possible, but has to be discussed with the IRM-council.

The blue cross on the Finnish flag reflects the countless lakes again and again. Since the founding year 1926 in Tampere (Finland), the IRM connects “Christian railway workers” from many different countries, to encourage them in their faith in Christ. Let`s pray and work that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide us, as only He can, and that He bonds us together, like the innumerable Finnish lakes.

For more information about the IRM, visit our website www.railway-mission.eu or request a copy of the colourful, 36 page IRM-Bulletin 2007-2010. This can be obtained from the respective IRM- representative of the national association.

