



IRM – Annual Report 2011 Ueli Berger, President of IRM

Dear IRM colleagues

Recently, I travelled, as a passenger, on the IC from Zürich to Landquart (Grison CH), in order to preach and present Railhope in a church there. Shortly after we left Zürich the ticket inspector appeared. All of a sudden a loud exclamation could be heard from the back of the train: "I don't believe it! I'm sitting in the wrong train!" The passenger, a musician, was on his way to a concert performance. After persistent pleading by the musician the ticket inspector consulted the manager/control office and 15 minutes later the IC train made a special, unscheduled halt to allow him to get off the train and take the right connection/train. Before the musician got off the train, I approached him, introduced myself and gave him a copy of "RailLight - the special – unscheduled - adventure magazine" from RailHope and wished him God's blessing. He was extremely thankful and happy!

Matthew 7:7 says: **"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you!"** These prompts and promises are a timeless invitation from Jesus that can also be applied to railway missionary work. We don't realise that we have got our priorities wrong and therefore, we don't ask God. Often we don't seek after spiritual needs because materialistic affluence imprisons us. Often we don't knock on the doors to people's hearts, because experiences of painful rejection steal our courage. Jesus encourages us to do it anyway. Then He will give us what we need, we will find what really matters and we will discover new doors opening, revealing a new perspective. Jesus does not promise us a "trouble-free" journey without problems, but He does promise us a safe and secure landing.

OPEN DOORS in the IRM countries.

During the SPORTS-FAITH-FUN (SFF) in Filisur, Grison (CH) 400 calendars were distributed to the Rhaetian Railway (RhB) personnel by a team of international participants. The RhB manager of maintenance in Landquart gave the SFF team permission to give calendars to the employees and wrote ahead of time: "Welcome!" In addition to the SFF - Days in Filisur (26th - 29th September), a SFF - Week in Oberbayern (G) from 9th - 15th September 2012 is planned.

In Hungary, plans are in progress for the next IRM Conference and Recreational week, which will run from Thursday, 2nd - 9th August 2013 by Lake Balaton, in Balatonszarszo. In addition to fellowship, sharing experiences and excursions/trips, evangelistic inputs and charities are planned with the Hungarian railwaymen personnel.

The chairman of the Norwegian Railway Mission (NJM) informed the IRM that the work and association will cease 31st December 2011. The main reason for this development is ageing members with no increase of younger people. The IRM executive committee has therefore decided to contact the interested people to build a new structure for Norway and IRM as well for the future.

More additional information about IRM: "Agenda 2013" or www.railway-mission.eu Best wishes and may God bless you all in 2012! Yours Ueli Berger



IRM-Schedule 2013

Below all the IRM services are listed which should effectively advance the networking and strengthening of the IRM-national associations:

IRM-Prayer letter The prayer requests will be sent to the prayer partners every 4 months. Please send the IRM national associations prayer requests to: prayerletter@railway-mission.eu

IRM-Calendar In the coming year 2012, over 1500 IRM calendars, in various languages (German, English, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Hungarian) will be produced which will be distributed to railway employees in nine IRM countries.

SPORTS-FAITH-FUN (SFF) SPORTS: Easy access to hiking and biking in fantastic countryside, made possible through railway connections. **FAITH:** Faith means trusting God-that's what we talk about. **FUN:** We experience fun through international fellowship, good accommodation and food. During the SFF week we give RailHope calendars away to the personnel of the respective railway companies.

Furthermore, we are trying to establish local meeting places by connecting Christian railway employees. In addition, organised info meetings and aperitifs for the railway personnel help us also. Up-coming dates: - SFF- week in Oberbayern (Germany) from Sunday 9th - 15th September 2012 (www.cvde.de). SFF-days in Filisur (Switzerland) from 26th-29th September 2012 (www.railhope.ch).

IRM-Visiting The goal of the IRM chairman is to visit each country once in 3 years if possible. If requested, the IRM national associations have access to counselling with IRM-mentor Samuel Ruggli. For the coming year 2012, visits are planned in India, Austria, Sweden and Norway.

IRM-Website Notification of annual meeting, exchange information and networking possibilities for IRM national associations without own website. Announcement of the International Railway Trade Fair e.g. "InnoTrans" from 18th-21st September 2012 in Berlin. Please up-date Daniel Saarbourg, IRM-Webmaster frequently with information and dates. (grafik@allroundgrafiker.de)

IRM-Bulletin The colourful multilingual magazine informs of the progress made in the IRM-associations as well as future prospects for the next three years. The next edition is planned for September 2012.

IRM-Conference and Recreational Week The next IRM-Conference and Recreational Week will be held in Balatonszarszo, Hungary from Thursday 1st - 8th August 2013. During this week excursions or SFF-Days will be planned in the area and in Budapest. In order to make further arrangements the IRM board will meet in June 2012 to form a conference team.

More information can be found on our website www.railway-mission.eu or in the IRM Bulletin 2007 - 2010 which is available from IRM representatives.