

Hungry for Hungary

August 2015

Dear faithful partners,

Köszönöm szépen az imádságokat. (Thank you very much for your prayers). The whirlwind of camp is over, but my thoughts seem to keep blowing around in the whirlwind as I try to collect them to prepare this final report on the camp.

First, the easy part. Our trips over and back went very smoothly. There were no long layovers. Flights were on time. Our luggage arrived with us. God was gracious to us.

God reduced the size of our team by one just the day before departure when Regi's updated passport failed to arrive. We were saddened by the loss of a teammate who had worked so diligently to prepare and who was a part of our team "body," but we recognize God is in control and we accepted His plan. I have to admit thinking of Gideon and wondering what God was doing.



Partial team leaving Des Moines –2 more joined us

The camp was both much the same as in recent years and also very different. The daily routine, the Bible lessons, the events during the week, and the wonderful prayer support were all much the same. Thank you again for covering me and the team with your prayers. We could see God working in the hearts of some of the campers and some families as you prayed for God to soften hearts and draw campers to Himself. Several teen girls who were new this year asked serious questions about having a closer relationship with God. Our God had thoroughly prepared team members, and especially Rebeka (pastor Zoli's daughter) to respond from Scripture and present the gospel clearly. Please continue to pray for the seed planted, that it has fallen on fertile ground and will grow vigorously.

The camp was very different. Over the past few years it had grown from 60 to 80 to over 100 last year. This year there were about 50 campers ranging in age from teens to 60s. Many "regulars" did not come this year. But that opened places for many new campers and new families.



Andrea, (dark haired woman standing right in front of me) a local dentist, was new in my Bible class. She's a Roman Catholic, so small group personal Bible study was new to her. As the week passed, I could see her pondering the Bible lessons. She brought her daughter to many of the evening activities. Please pray the seeds planted will sprout and grow.

Zsombor, a teen boy (standing second to the left of me) who served as a translator (the only non-Christian translator) was really considering the Bible truths he had to translate. He stumbles particularly over the resurrection, so the study from John 20:11-18 was both hard and good for him. The team chose Zsombor to receive the full Bible we give away each year, as well as a Bible survey chart and some beginning studies from the Navigators. Please pray God will use them mightily in Zsombor's life.

János P. (not pictured) has come for several years along with his teen daughter Nadin. We've had some long, deep talks in past years, but this year I was not free at the right times. Other team members, particularly David O stepped in to continue pointing János toward God. He is a serious seeker. He and his family live in Pécs, which is about 45 minutes from Mohács by car. Pastor István also lives in Pécs and has weekly Bible studies. Please pray János would get involved in the weekly studies and that God would draw him and his household to Himself.

I wrote earlier about András, a man who just a few years ago was a hostile atheist. His wife and children were coming to camps. Each year God has softened András. He first started coming to the outdoor times in the afternoons and evenings at the little village of Erdősmárok. Team members keep drawing him into conversations. This year he had the whole American and Hungarian team over to his home for a wonderful supper the evening after the last day of camp. We ended the evening at his home with a sweet time singing praise and worship songs. Please keep András, his wife Monika, daughter Lilla (standing at far right of photo in jean jacket) (who may be a new believer) and son Ádám. Also please pray for the Hungarians who follow up during the year.

God gifted our team with two talented guitarists, Pastor Steve and his brother-in-law Nels, and a vocalist, Courtney, who along with Rebeka and Laura led our praise and worship times in the evenings. I'm amazed how God used technology this year to allow campers to have the lyrics even when we were outdoors at Erdősmárok with no way to use PowerPoint. The lyrics were shared among cell phones and tablets and soon many campers had them. There were "lights" popping up all over the group in the darkness.

With several younger (from my perspective) team members, there was plenty of energy to play games in the field at Erdősmárok with campers, to go out late evenings in Mohács with campers, and to infuse the camp with energy. Thanks to Steve, Nels, Courtney, Alisa, and Marcie, and thanks to God for making them part of our team. Steve, Nels, and Courtney were all first-timers. This year again Alisa was able to travel before the team and spend time in Mohács and Pécs pouring her life into the 20s and 30s women who come to camp and also encouraging the daughters of Pastor Zoli (Rebeka and Laura) and Pastor István (Kinga and Ábigél). Her sweet spirit and obvious love for the Lord are obvious to all and a real asset to God's work in Hungary.

The team had part of a day to tour Budapest before flying back to America. Hajni, a former camp translator who is a high school history and English teacher joined us for the day. It was encouraging to see her again and to catch up on what God is doing in her life. Please pray God will continue to encourage her and bring her into contact with other believers.



Parliament from Castle hill

Finally, the team's main work is done (although we'll keep in contact with many of the campers on Facebook and by e-mail, Skype, etc.) We're back in our churches and have fellowship and encouragement from other believers. The Hungarians who remain bear the burden of follow up with the campers and day-to-day ministry in a very dark place. Please pray for their daily walk and that God will strengthen, uphold, and encourage them as they continue to serve Him. Also please pray that we could find creative ways to encourage them long distance.

Here's a size comparison of Iowa and Hungary. Hungary's population is more than three times that of Iowa, yet it's only two-thirds as big.

Would God want you to consider going with us next year? The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Sok szeretettel Krisztusban,
Dan

