

KONYA PRAYER LETTER

DECEMBER, 2000

CAUTION: MEN AT WORK!

That's the sign we should hang up over our School of Pastoral Ministries this year! Much has taken place in the last few months to strengthen and better develop this ministry. It's purpose is to train Hungarian men for pastoral and pioneer church planting ministries in the nearly 2600 Hungarian towns and villages where there is no evangelical work. The secret to meeting such a massive need is both biblical and simple--multiplication through discipleship! So our work is to pour our lives into these men, who will in turn do the same with others (2 Timothy 2:2)

OUR STAFF

What a blessing to have shored up our Pastoral Ministries staff with two Hungarian men! Madarász Péter is now the acting dean of the Pastoral Ministries School. He is 31-year-old Hungarian national, with a wife and two daughters. He has a burning heart for church planting, a great grasp of Scripture and a dynamic speaking style. Péter has organized a carefully crafted mentoring program in which a missionary from a sister organization or a local Hungarian pastor personally mentors each of our men when they are on the field, as they work with local churches in the area.

In addition, Somogyi Péter works specifically with each of our men in their field work. Péter is a 30-year-old single man who grew up in Canada, but whose parents were Hungarian citizens. He of course speaks fluent Hungarian and prior to joining our staff finished both school

programs here as a student and began a church plant in Zsámbok. Isn't it exciting to see these two young men blaze the trail in this area? What a future they have!

OUR STUDENTS

We currently have five men enrolled in the Pastoral Ministries School. Here are their names and what they are doing:

Zoltán and István ("Tyupi")- They are ministering in Zalaegerszeg, a sizable, prosperous city of over 61,000--and with virtually no gospel witness. Zoli and Tyupi have been passing out tracts, running TV and newspaper ads, running a Christian book table at the open-air market and they have also held at least one evangelistic meeting. They are currently doing door-to-door work and a house group is meeting in that town.

Brunó and Attila- They are ministering in Iharosberény, a village located near Lake Balaton. There was a Baptist church in this village, but it has nearly died out, in part due to tension between Hungarians and gypsies. Since Brunó is Hungarian and Attila is a gypsy, they make a great team! They hold worship services in the little church building, have teen and children's Bible clubs, and are now reaching out to adults as well. They had over 30 in attendance at church meetings a few weeks ago!

Róbert- He is ministering in Cegléd, a town of 37,000 people with virtually no gospel witness. He is planting a church there with one of our graduates, sponsored by the Baptist church in Jászberény. They held evangelistic meetings here and a new fellowship emerged. They meet for worship every

Sunday. Róbi is involved in teaching, follow-up, and other ministry-related activities.

OUR GRADUATES

We are often asked about what happens to our Pastoral Ministries graduates after they finish their schooling. Here is a brief sketch of what each is doing now. **Szolnoki Zoltán** and his new wife **Kati** are serving in Zsámbok, with the EFCM mission. Their gypsy group is well on the way to independent local church status, and the probable future pastor, **Iván**, is now a student at our Bible Institute. **Pacz János** serves as church planting director with the Hungarian Brethren Church and is planting a local church in Dömös. **Jakab Attila** is working with ABWE. He has an English club for Hungarians who want to learn English, and from this has formed a house group in Budapest of about 30. **Rafael Pali** ministers with the BBF fellowship and is involved in Church planting in three Hungarian towns. **Csontos István** has a gypsy house group meeting regularly in Tápíószecső. **Somogyi Péter** is on the Pastoral Ministries staff and **Uzonyi Zsolt** is serving in itinerant evangelism, helping our men do the challenging evangelistic work in new areas. In addition, four of our graduates are serving faithfully as laymen in Hungarian local churches, where they are intimately involved with open air evangelism, starting AWANA clubs, leading home Bible studies, and working with youth. And we have a number of graduates from our Bible School program who are in vocational Christian work as well. Exciting, isn't it? Pray for these men as they turn their homeland upside down for Christ!

Pam's Perspective . . .

Monday, November 6, was Al's day off, and we had just gotten home from Budapest. I was starting supper when the phone rang. It was my sister, calling from the US to tell me our father had died suddenly from a massive heart attack about three hours earlier. I guess you are never ready for a call like that. Daddy was 78 years old, but still active and in good health except for being on some heart medication. He and my Mom had just been back to Hungary in June for our son Philip's wedding. In September he and Mom spent a week of vacation at a rented beach house, where he saw all of his great-grandchildren.

That call brought on a flurry of activity as we had to make hasty arrangements to leave for the US within 24 hours. We arrived in Cleveland on Wednesday evening. Our daughter Ann was there to greet us with her 13-month-old daughter Chloe, so Al finally got to hold his first grandchild for the first time. The memorial service was held Saturday afternoon in Meadville, PA, and about 300 people were there. I was struck by how many people Daddy had influenced! He had no enemies and knew no strangers. We often joked that he could carry on a conversation with a lamp post. He had three passions in life: his Lord, his family and his country. And maybe a fourth, his motorcycles! He has passed his strength and stability on to his children and grandchildren.

Herb Stallard did not leave us a legacy of great wealth or possessions. He did leave us his strong faith and love of life. He was a wonderful husband and father, faithful to God and active in church. I am thankful for his example of stability and strength of character. And I take great comfort in the fact that I will see him again in Heaven. Thanks to each of you who supported us with your prayers, emails and cards during these days. We are grateful and love you!

**JUST A NOTE TO WISH YOU ALL GOD'S
CHOICEST BLESSINGS THIS CHRISTMAS
SEASON AND IN THE COMING YEAR.
THANK YOU FOR CARING!**

ALEX AND PAM KONYA . . . SERVING WITH WORD OF LIFE HUNGARY

AMERICAN ADDRESS: Word of Life Overseas, Box 600, Schroon Lake, NY 12870 (phone: 518-494-6000)

HUNGARIAN ADDRESS: 2252 Tóalmás, Petőfi u. 44, Hungary (phone: 011-36-29-426-361)

EMAIL: akonya_wol@compuserve.com FAX 011-36-29-426-341

PRAISE THE LORD FOR:

- A great group of Pastoral Ministries men and two faithful staff members who lead this program.
- A great Fall semester completed at Bible School.
- A number of people lead to Christ by students and staff this Fall.
- Traveling mercies and God's special strength in connection with the homegoing of Pam's father.

PRAY WITH US FOR:

- Finances to complete renovation of the Castle and build a new school administration building.
- Lynne Murphy, our Director's wife, as she faces the continuing effects of multiple sclerosis
- Coming Missions conference in January. Pray for God to work mightily in the hearts of students and staff.
- Pam's family and especially her mother Reba in connection with the homegoing of Pam's father.
- Real revival and spiritual awakening in Hungary.
- Finances to build a church building.

DID YOU KNOW???

The Hungarian National Anthem

*Bless the Magyar, Lord Divine!
Fullness, mirth on him bestow.
Let protecting arms of Thine
Aid him when beset by foe.
Torn by ill fate's ruthless blast
Grant him joy in every home.
Atoned hath he for ages past
And ages yet to come.*

