

KONYA PRAYER LETTER

OCTOBER, 2000

HARVEST TIME IN HUNGARY

Our neighbors across the street are farmers. Their harvest time actually begins in Summer and continues through the Fall. This has certainly also been true here spiritually. It has always been a Word of Life distinctive that, whatever ministry we are engaged in, we never want to forget the need to reach the lost. God has given us many such opportunities during this most recent "harvest time."

SUMMER CAMP HARVEST

This was Word of Life Hungary's eleventh year of summer camp, and what a great "summer harvest" it was! Well over 400 young people came to Christ and more than 200 more dedicated their lives to the Lord. Here are some examples: A teen-aged boy last summer attempted suicide at home. He jumped from a nine-story building, but God spared his life. He came to our camp this summer—and found Christ! He left with new meaning in his life through Christ. A nineteen year-old girl came to camp with her life a wreck—strung out on drugs and alcohol. She trusted Christ and her life was radically changed. She stayed on to help as a physical worker at the camp. A sixteen year-old stand-out basketball player came to Christ during basketball camp, led to Christ by one of our coaches just before camp ended. Isn't it wonderful to see Christ's love for lost, broken young people? He rebuilds their lives and gives them eternal hope!

TENT CRUSADE HARVEST

Fall found us having the great privilege of preaching in tent crusades located in two different towns. The first was in the town of Tápiószecső, where one of our graduates is planting a church. He set up a tent in the middle of the gypsy enclave and invited me to preach there Saturday night. The tent seated about 75 and was nearly full, with more gypsies milling around outside. I got into the message, preaching the blood of Christ and giving the invitation. Suddenly outside, it literally sounded like "all Hell broke loose." A drunken, smoking band of gypsies began laughing, yelling, screaming and uttering terrible blasphemies. I've never heard anything like it. It was like Satan himself and his demons were mocking the Gospel. But there was a holy hush in the tent as God's Spirit gave us protection and power. About ten or so gypsies publicly came forward at the invitation, some with tears, wanting to repent of their sins and trust Christ.

The text tent crusade was in Miskolc, the second largest city in Hungary. The church had somehow gotten permission to erect a 250-seat tent right in the middle of the town square. This was a great step of faith for them as neither they nor any other church in their fellowship had ever attempted such a thing. They were fearful that the tent would be nearly empty, but God had other plans. The tent was packed full every night, with people even standing outside for the final meeting. People were saved every night. Even the local newspaper sent a reporter to write an article about this "unusual event!" I especially

remember praying with two widows who humbly found a new beginning in Christ—at the ages of 80 and 85 years! Then there was the woman brought to me by one of the church leaders. She is his neighbor and his family had been praying for her for years. You see, her husband was once one of the most powerful Communist party bosses in the country. His death two years ago led his widowed wife to begin a search for answers. She couldn't stop sobbing as she told me she had accepted Christ at the close of the meeting. But I'll never forget other words she said to her neighbor afterwards—words that haunt me to this day. "I went to a protestant school for eight years when I was a little girl and never heard how to be saved. Why didn't they tell me?" Indeed, how can we not tell them! Praise God for those He has saved!

BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS

Our seventh year of Bible School began in early September. Our student body now numbers 63 students, including five men in the Pastoral Ministries program. Our new class includes a majority of Hungarian students as well as students from Romania, Ukraine, Poland, Northern Ireland, Kenya and the USA. We have finally moved almost all classes out of the castle into our renovated student center. What a huge help to finally have enough space for comfortably fit our entire student body! Pray for our students, that they would grow in Christ and serve Him faithfully.

Pam's Perspective . . .

We have had a BUSY first month at the Bible School! School always starts like this, with conferences also being held on the weekends. For example, we recently held our annual womens' conference. Besides actually attending these conferences, I usually help with decorations and office work. I also took part in a panel discussion during the ladies' conference, where we answer questions submitted by Hungarian women. All this comes at the same time when there is extra work at home because of our yard and garden. Grapes need to be picked, apples are falling and I'm picking up walnuts. Last year we got over 5 bushels of walnuts from our single walnut tree, so I kept everyone supplied with nuts!

I am also going to the dentist this week to get a tooth capped. Our dentist's office is about a half-hour's drive away. Her office has all the equipment including x-ray, and it is in a little building behind her house. You can either make an appointment or just show up, but you need to know her hours. She calls you in from the waiting room to give you your novocaine shot, then sends you back out to wait until it takes effect, because she has only one dentist's chair. I have had several teeth capped here already. Something seems to happen to you when you get into your forties. Things just start falling apart! Dental costs here are much less than in the US, but we still pay more than Hungarians. This is because their medical care is socialized and therefore dental costs are greatly reduced. Pulling teeth is free, but there is a cost for fillings and caps. The result is that many people my age who live in the village have a few teeth missing. We are seeing more and more private practices opening in all medical fields. I just saw an ad in our local paper last week for a place just 15 minutes away where you can get a mamogram. It is clearly getting easier to get routine, quality medical care, and we are thankful for that.

We still need your prayers for health and safety for all our staff. Especialy for Lynne Murphy as she continues her battle with MS. Also, a Hungarian staff member recently totaled a car in an auto accident. He wasn't hurt, but could have been. We travel a frightful amount of miles in ministry and need God's protecting hand constantly!

THE KONYAS...SERVING WITH WORD OF LIFE HUNGARY

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PRAISE THE LORD FOR:

- Summer camp. Over 400 teens accepted Christ and many more dedicated their lives to Him.
- A great beginning to Bible School, with 63 students from 9 countries enrolled.
- Moving into our renovated student center for this school year. We finally have room to grow!
- Many souls saved in various Fall evangelistic endeavors.

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
- Fall semester at school. Pray that many would be saved through student and staff weekend ministries, that students would grow and mature in Christ as they learn.
- Our five new pastoral ministries students as they plant churches in three new towns in Hungary
- Real revival and spiritual awakening in Hungary.
- Finances to build a church building.

DID YOU KNOW???

**That Hungary's top income tax rate is now 39%, which is equal to the top income tax rate in the USA.

**That the new minimum wage in Hungary is being established at \$135.00 per month . . .

**That Hungary had an "unwritten constitution" until 1947 . . .

**That more people of Hungarian descent live in Cleveland, Ohio than any other city in the world except Budapest . . .

