

# Hope in Hungary

*Serving Christ and sharing hope*

Updates from MCN mission partner, Melissa Karges, in Bonyhád  
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## Blogs

<http://magyarmoments.blogspot.com/>

## A MONTH IN REVIEW

Upon returning from fall break in Transylvania, my substituting for the 11th & 12th grade group in the dorm began. Working in the dorm is still strange for me, and now being constantly responsible for 33 peoples' lives is again different, but getting to know these kids better is shaping up to be a pretty good experience.

### Thanksgiving This Year

Each year I've celebrated Thanksgiving a bit differently, this year was no exception. For the first time, I prepared a complete meal entirely on my own and invited 7 special students to share it with me. We had a special Bible reading and prayer before our meal as well as a time for sharing thanks where I got to share my hope of life in Christ. A very special thank you needs to be said to Light of the Hills Lutheran Church in Cameron Park for the box of materials that made our celebration all the more authentic!

### Life as a Christian

It isn't necessary to have a big celebration to have Jesus moments though. A group of 12th grade girls has begun coming over frequently to use my oven. One night, I was going to leave for Bible study, and one asked about my faith. She hadn't realized that I was "so religious," but as she looked around my apartment, I could see the pieces falling into place for her. It was a reminder that our words and actions often precede people discovering our beliefs, making it all the more important for each piece to be proclaiming the same message: life in Christ is ours by grace through faith.

## The Stories Continue...

Many of you have been touched by my stories.

There are mission partners around the world with similar stories to tell! Many are still in need of financial support for this year.

Click here to read about some amazing couples on the MCN website! [Jon & Dora Braun](#), [Tim & Diane Esala](#), [Fung & Kalia Lo](#)

*Around Thanksgiving I found out that I am **83%** funded for this year. I cannot tell you how thankful I am for that, but I have been even more touched by the relationships that individuals and congregations have made with me over this journey! I am SO thankful for all of you! Merry Christmas!*

# FUNDS

### Story Corner

Three years ago, when I was living in Sopron, I told the Christmas story to a student who didn't know it. It had started with her telling me she didn't believe in God some months earlier, and eventually the questions in her mind began to build. This led to regular talks on the subject, where she would come with her questions and excited by each new thing she learned about God. As she and I still talk frequently, she reminded me of this occasion and how it continues to impact her now. She has never given her life to Christ, but in our most recent conversation I can see that God is very much not done working in her yet. Watching it unfold has at times felt slow, but it's been a beautiful privileges as well.

I had the chance to visit one of my oldest friends from Hungary. I remember being 20 years old and having a discussion about the creation of the world; we didn't agree. Over the years, we've had a lot of talks, she's joined me at church, but she has never been very open to God. Even so, she accepts me and I her. Seeing her again was a reminder that our ideas about faith have never been something we share; my heart aches thinking about it.

Two people I love. Two very different stories. Each one a reminder that God is the one who changes hearts, and I must continue to share His love because we never know how He will work in someone.

*Photo: My Thanksgiving dinner guests. The menu was complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and vegetables with pumpkin and apple pie for dessert.*



### DECEMBER PRAYER CORNER

#### Week 1:

Sharing the message of Jesus throughout the Advent season  
Bonding with my dorm group during Christmas celebrations

#### Week 2:

As I continue to wrestle with finding satisfaction in my job

#### Week 3:

Traveling to Germany and the Netherlands for Christmas this month

#### Week 4:

For all who are hurting due to a loss of loved ones around the holidays

“Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”  
-Mark 11:24