

# Hope in Hungary

*Serving Christ and sharing hope*

Blurbs from MCN mission partner, Melissa Karges, in Bonyhád  
**February 2017**



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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

January shaped up quite differently than I imagined as I did not have to give my dorm group back over as was the original plan; it continues to remain unclear at this point how long I will be responsible for these 32 students. I've been fortunate with them, particularly as, out of the other ten groups in the dorm, they had the highest GPA for the first semester. This is cause for celebration to be sure (which will most likely mean baked goods for all).

### Extra time with Sopron

I spent more time in my previous "hometown" of Sopron than I [originally imagined](#), spending two weekends there celebrating with two former classes who are graduating this year. Additionally, I was invited to a [basketball match](#) in Bonyhád where a number of students from Sopron were playing. It has been many years for some of them, and it's strange to see them now at the same age I was when I taught them. It has been a joy to be able to continue to make these trips to visit old friends, colleagues, and students as the relationships remain important.

### Tragedy for the Nation

Toward the end of January, there was a bus accident near Verona, Italy, which killed 16 Hungarian students who had been on a skiing trip. It was a high school from Budapest. Such tragedies are very unusual to this small, tightly-bound country, and it has had a profound impact. Students from my own school were to leave the next day for a ski trip along the same route. As someone who travels a lot myself, it brought my own morality much closer. We do not know when our time on earth will end, thus making sharing the Gospel of Christ all the more urgent. While such tragedies cannot easily be explained, we can pray that the Lord will draw near to those who need Him in this time.

February is sure to bring some conversations about my future. It is not sure where I will be in the next school year, and I would like to *ask your prayers* for the Lord to make my path clear. **Thank you** for your continued support and for making sure I am fully funded for the current year! I am so very thankful for you!

### *Events in the Calendar*

*February 3-6: Retreat for MCN Mission Partners in Central Europe*

*February 10-15: Travel to Brussels, Belgium to participate in exchange program with students from my school*

*February 28: Annual pancake party at my place*

### Story Corner

During January's travels, I got to stay with a dear friend. The night before I left for home, my friend, another, and myself were joking around, listening to music, playing the guitar, and singing as we have done many times in the past. Somewhere during our conversations of the evening, I brought up that there was a song I really liked where I felt the [Hungarian](#) was far more beautiful and had a greater impact than the English. My friends were then curious and asked me to sing it.

*"don't withdraw what he has given; the lamb, his blood, it was the cost, with him there is no more death; In Christ my salvation is waiting readily...."*

(A mennyben fenn a trónusnál (Before the throne of God above), v.3, as translated by me)

The song beautifully expresses our relationship to Christ as sinners who have been saved, our lives for His. In that moment, I was a vessel for carrying that message in a unique way. One of the two other people present has had a very difficult several months and has asked a lot of questions about faith, God, and life after death. I hope that the beauty of the music and lyrics will be but another way of working to bring this individual to Christ.



In Sopron, with both of my former classes.

### FEBRUARY PRAYER CORNER

#### Week 1:

-My friend (mentioned last month) who is looking to be baptized, that she can have the necessary conversations to move forward with the process.

#### Week 2:

-Safe travels for our school group to, from, and around Belgium  
 -The loved ones of those who were lost in the bus accident

#### Week 3:

-My future

#### Week 4:

-New missionaries to be raised up and sent out (particularly for locations around Hungary I have been hoping to fill for a very long time)!