

Hope in Hungary

Serving Christ and sharing hope

Blurbs from MCN mission partner, Melissa Karges, in Bonyhád
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THE HAPPENINGS

Back to the Original Plan

As is becoming rather routine, my role in the dorm once again changed. The group leader for the latest group I was subbing for returned from her operation, which returned me to the work I had been doing back in September and October, essentially monitoring students in their rooms during study time. This is (most likely) going to be my work until school ends in mid-June. I'm not accustomed to it any more, and it can feel a bit dull after what I was doing, BUT I like that it allows me interactions with a larger number of students every day.

Easter in Northern Ireland

I was privileged to spend Easter with a friend and her family in Northern Ireland. It was a blessing to me to be able to spend that time with this friend as she has had the experience of moving away from Hungary and going home, and I know that time is coming for me. As a fellow Christian, we've borne one another's burdens, encouraged and lifted each other up in prayer; without this support from one another, our work in Hungary would have been much harder. Such relationships are to be cherished, and I am thankful for so many of you reading this who have also provided me with this over the years!

Graduation Goodbyes

Graduation is on its way this first week of May. It is always strange to say goodbye to the 12th graders, but this year is altogether different as it means a more permanent goodbye to students. For this reason, I expect this year's ceremony to be a bit more emotional and also as there's been more time to get to know this year's graduates. The coming weeks will only continue to have more moments like this in store as goodbyes so often are a process.

Summer Presentations in the USA

It has yet to be determined where in the U.S. I will be moving, which makes planning a speaking schedule not the easiest thing to do. *On the bright side*, as I will be staying on that side of the ocean there is more flexibility and should allow time to visit more locations that are interested in having me speak. Please keep this in mind, but do ***let me know of your interest*** so we can work it out when my situation becomes a bit clearer.

I would love the opportunity to personally thank all who have supported me over the last six years, to talk about the past year, and to share more about what is happening with Mission of Christ Network!

Story Corner

Some of you may remember a time when I wrote about the chance to volunteer with students at a local the home for the disabled. It is a place we have gone several times a year for the last three years to participate in programs with the inhabitants there. We were there again after Easter, and it occurred to me that this was to be my last visit. It was one more tear in my heart that will have to heal as I have grown to love seeing many of those faces every time we visit.

Upon my first visit to this place, I felt intimidated and overwhelmed; there's certainly a lot to get used to. It was back then I first remember thinking of the need to see the people there with the eyes of Jesus. My mission became clear: make each individual feel loved during the minutes I could spend with them. It seems to have had an impact since that first visit, as I am greeted by giant smiles and loads of hugs whenever we come.

Often times it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that our everyday mission remains the same: loving each individual around us with the love of Christ. It may take a special experience like volunteering or moving to another country to refocus that. It is my prayer that in transitioning away from Hungary, this sense of mission will become stronger in me. May each of you continue with this mission wherever you find yourselves!



Left: With Mr. Tumnus in Belfast, home to C.S. Lewis.

Right: Last English Tea Time with my seniors. It can be hard to get kids to drag away from their books at this point in the year, but I was happy to have some show up.

MAY PRAYER CORNER

Week 1:

-Seniors around Hungary as they transition, especially those leaving Lutheran schools as it may be the last time they are in a Christian environment for a long time.

Week 2:

-My transition to the USA, for peace in letting go, joy in saying goodbyes, and God's provision for the future and providing a new place for me to share His love!

Week 3:

-Missionaries around the world; new ones to be raised up and those who serve to be faithful.

Week 4:

-Continued heart preparation for my former student who is being baptized on June 4th (yay!) and that this may also be a witness to her family.