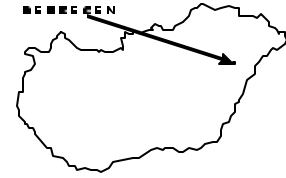


# MUSTARD SEED

March, 1999



## The Meeting

The meeting was on March 13 and it was a very big success. We had around forty-five to fifty people that came. People came from Debrecen, Szolnok, Miskolc, and Oradea, Romania. We had many speakers sharing things on worship. Each speaker gave much good information to us so that we all could learn something about how to worship better. In addition, we had an abundance of fellowship time. It was a great meeting.

The other thing that you are probably wondering about, my talk, which was in Hungarian. It went very well. I can only give God the glory. One thing, I learned from preparing it, is that my Hungarian is not quite so well. The talk was under the editors' axe for much revising, but this lets me know that I have room to improve. However, I have got the first try under my belt and now it can only get better.

## Upcoming Trip

Last month, I gave you the wrong information on when I am arriving in the USA. I will be coming back on April 29 (not the 28) and then returning to Hungary on May 31. I still have places left in my schedule, while I am there. So, let me or my parents know if you would like me to come and visit you. The current plan is that I will be in Searcy, AR from around May 5 to the 10<sup>th</sup>. I plan to spend the rest of the time in the St. Louis area.

## The Church in Hungary

The first thing to report is that Tim and Anessa Westbrook had their baby last Monday

night. Her name is Alina Rebekah, she is 8 pounds 2 ounces and she is 20 inches long. They send their thanks for all the prayers, and both the mother and baby are doing well.

Also involving the church in Hungary, we are getting ready for the summer programs that we will be involved with this summer. Here in Debrecen, we are preparing for the summer schools, here and in Nyíregyháza. Besides this, we are preparing for the upcoming month of May when most of the missionaries in this area will be going to be on furlough.

## Culture Corner

This coming weekend is Easter (In Hungarian Húsvét). I thought that it would be a good idea to tell you a little about the Hungarian Easter along with some traditions that go along with it.

First, as with the US, Easter is a holiday that is to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Of course for the Jews, it is the time of the Passover. The Catholics have had many traditions that have stuck to the Hungarian people. One is that of the foods eaten during the holiday. On Friday, traditional, it is a day of fasting from meat. Then Saturday, the people would go to the church with a ham and braided sweet bread to get it sanctified, and eat it the rest of the holiday. They would also boil eggs and eat them. Sunday, they also would cook a lamb and dine on it through the next few days. Most of the foods are still eaten but the church part and the fasting are left out.

Easter has some similarities to the U.S. traditions such as Easter egg hunts, the Easter Bunny, and dressing-up. These first two are in Hungary but not really with the same quantity.

In the villages around Hungary, there are some of the same custom of searching for hidden things. Both eggs and presents are hidden and then you have to go and look for them. Nevertheless, this searching is not very big outside the villages because of the other customs held. However, chocolate eggs and bunnies are very plentiful. As with the US, it is custom to dress-up in Sunday-best for most of the holiday, especially on Sunday and Monday.

The tradition that is more widespread in Hungary is that of sprinkling perfume on the girls or women that you know on Easter Monday. The tradition started with boys pouring water (sometimes full buckets) on the girls, because of the beginning of spring. It has much historical background that goes back to ancient times when they did this because of fertility. However, nowadays it is done more for fun. It lets the boys and men go around and meet all their female friends and sprinkle them. Also, the water has changed to sprinkling perfume. However, some boys still go around with hidden squirt bottles and drench the girls. The women, after being sprinkled, give out chocolate, painted eggs or even money. They also have food for people that sprinkle them. Going with this tradition, it is customary that the boys have to recite a poem to the girls that they are sprinkling, for example:

I was in the green forest.  
I have seen a blue violet.  
It is withering.  
Can I water it?

The flowers represent the girls who need “watering.” Years before, when the boys used to pour water, the girls would pour buckets of water on the boys for revenge the next day.

These are the traditions of the Easter holiday here in Hungary. It is based upon my different religions and customs. Yet it, also let

us see some things into the culture of Hungary and its people.

### **Prayer Requests**

The churches in Hungary (Debrecen, Budapest, Miskolc, Szolnok), as well as the work in Nyíregyháza. Pray for the growth in numbers and maturity.

Also remember the upcoming summer programs that we are preparing.

Please remember, those with whom, we are studying with that they will decide to follow the Lord’s will.

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