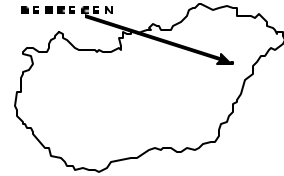


MUSTARD SEED

June, 1999



A Busy Time

This past month has been a busy month for us here in Hungary. We in Debrecen have been preparing for our summer school program. Now, it has started making it even more busy. It has been so busy that I was not even able to get this newsletter out early like I wanted. But now I have a little time so I wanted to get this done.

The Trip

So let me tell you a little about my trip to the US. It was a good trip. I met many of you along with many others, too. I got to see my sister graduate from high school. I got to speak to many people about the work here in Hungary.

Nevertheless, it was a quick month of May, but I enjoyed being with family and friends for a while. It had been at least two years since I saw everyone. However, now I am back and having to do the work that I did not do for the month I was gone. However, now, I am mostly caught up just have the work for July now.

The School

So this Monday (June 28) the school began. We have about 250 people registered for classes. We are teaching from the Gospel of Mark. We have six teachers from the US, along with me and one Hungarian (Chuck). The classes are going well and we have many new people coming every day. The school will last until July 23.

Following the school here, we (the church in Debrecen) will go to Nyíregyháza for

a two-week school. It will be from August 2 to 13. Also, there we will teach the Gospel of Mark. We ask you to keep the schools in your prayers as we teach the Good News to those of Hungary.

The Church in Hungary

These past two months have been a time of preparation for the summer schools and now of having the schools. Adding to the summer schools, the final exams have been bogging down the Christian since most of them are college students. Also, there have been two graduations associated with our group here. So, there has been much going on this summer for me.

Culture Corner

So this month I want to tell you of the experience that I and many others in the city of Debrecen had last week. This is how my Monday started.

I woke up early but my eyes did not want to open. So I thought I would take a shower and then I will be able to open my eyes. I go to the bathroom and turn on the shower as normal. I step into the shower and my foot is hit with a blast of cold water. I always turn the hot water on first. However, this water is cold. This started to wake me. I step out and turn all the cold water off. It is still ice cold. I start to think what could be the problem. Then I realize that there is no hot water. Now, the question is why. I remember that last year the same thing happened. The city turned off the hot water. I call and find out that this is what has happened. So that means that now I have

to boil water to take a shower/bath.

So let me tell you about this piece of Hungarian culture. Being that most people live in high-rise apartments, we have central water and heating. This means that the hot water comes from the same place for most people. So for one week a year, the city shuts the hot water system down to do improvements and repairs. So that means that for one week you have no hot water.

This is a rather interesting event for someone that has always had a water heater in his home. Maybe sometimes you would not have hot water but ten minutes later, and you would have more again. However, here for a whole week you have no hot water.

The thing that made it worse was that I was not prepared at all for this. One reason is that I did not know that it was going to happen. It was in the paper but I do not normally read it. Second is that on Mondays, I usually do laundry. Being that I had no hot or warm water, I was not able to do laundry. So I ended up having to use every piece of clothing I have to make it through this extra week. Third, I had to wake up a half hour earlier than normal every day so that I could boil water to take a shower.

However, now it is over. We are back to having continuous hot water and it is nice. Sometimes you do not appreciate something until it is gone. I guess that is one of the things that we have to work at changing in our lives. Appreciating everything that we have.

Prayer Requests

Please remember the schools that are going on in Hungary.

The students that they will have open hearts and that they will want to follow God's will.

The teachers that they will teach the word of God in a way that is understandable and correct.

Remember also the churches in Debrecen, Budapest, Miskolc, Szolnok, and Nyíregyháza.

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