



# OUTREACH MINISTRY IN HUNGARY

When nearly three years ago I left secular employment for entering into a full-time Christian ministry I never envisaged the full scope of what that ministry would include. But as time went on, it has become clear as to what opportunities there are for preaching the Gospel in Hungary working in and through a local congregation of the Hungarian Reformed Church. First we needed to find a name for what I was doing and since I was invited by a church that already had an ordained minister as her pastor, we thought we should call the pastorate I took on “missionary pastor” or “pastor for outreach ministries”. This indeed has determined many things in the ministry as the elders of the church and the minister didn’t just want to share the workload of the ministry between two pastors but actually wanted to do something new.

I meet a self-help group, lead the Bible study in the retired group, take the prayer meeting and also lead the mothers and toddlers’. I also work with the youth as they come to the Friday English Class which is a follow up class for the annual English Summer Camp. A live radio broadcast with a monthly religious programme and writing and editing the quarterly church magazine also form part of what I do in my ministry apart from the general organising of various events and venues in the church. I share the pulpit with the minister and preach twice a month among other ministries.

The prayers and support of many churches and individuals from the UK form the basis of my ministry in Hungary making it possible to continue my work also in the face of many challenges. The sharing in the ministry of people who never visited but have heard of us is something the church has come to appreciate and take encouragement from when they hear that people living abroad are

praying for us and take an interest in the work of the church in Jászberény. Also we have had a number of visitors from Britain over the years and their presence and ministry among us has enriched our understanding of the Gospel as well as strengthened our sense of oneness in Christ and the unity of the Church.

In the first year of my ministry we had a Summer Team over in Hungary to lead what we called the “English Summer Camp” – a holiday club type of ministry. People – mostly from outside church – responded well and expressed their interest in coming to the English Camp in an increasing number ever since that reached almost eighty this year when we had the English Camp for the third time. It is a very challenging and rewarding week that requires a lot of hard work but to be able to share the Gospel with people who don’t know it makes us feel privileged as we are God’s fellow workers in the great work of the sharing of the Good News of Christ. I also meet those from among the campers who would like to continue to study and also learn from the Bible too at the Friday English Class.

Recently I took on a part time post with the Hungarian Bible Society as their project leader for the “2008 – The year of the Bible” ministry. This requires me to plan my time well even more so than before, yet it enriches and widens my ministry as it is different from what I do in a local church.

Berta, my newly wedded wife, and I look forward to working together in the ministry as she has already been a great help to me in the past years since we met and hope to be able to devote ourselves to the work as we form a family unit. ■

**Tamás & Berta Burján**

