

JUNE  
2019



# Szentírás Szövetség

## Scripture Union Hungary

Dear Praying Friends,

Sometimes you feel you are at a crossroad. You have a decision to make that would define your life for a very long time. Such moments also come in the life of an organization. We experience something similar right now.

We are heavily involved in publishing and naturally we have some decisions there to make (like what we should publish next – see page 3), but right now I am more concerned about the other great part of our mission: camps.

You see, growing is natural, stagnation is not. When I was asked some 11 years ago when I started to serve with SU how I imagine the future of our camps, I naturally said that I hope we would have more and more camps, and also many different types. I hoped we can reach more and more kids with the gospel each year. For a couple of years my belief seemed well founded as the number of camps increased (up to 16-18) and we also tried out Sport and German camps as well.

In recent years however the number of volunteers started to decline (domestic and foreign alike) but we also had a bit fewer requests from churches, so it seemed natural (we all have high and low seasons in our lives, right?), so I did not worry too much. However, in the last couple of years we started to struggle, sending less and less people to serve. I found myself that I am no longer happy or excited for new requests and this year I did something I have never done before: I declined a church with this simple reason: lack of capacity (or faith). This year (at this point) we have more than one camp with just one English helper (!), and several with just 2 – for 40-50 kids!

What should we do now? Accept the fact that less and less people are willing to serve and give up? Cut the number of camps in half? Work extra hard to get new helpers from abroad?

I think I start with prayer. Praying for more helpers, for sure. Praying for new contacts, for new churches where I can go and spread the word of our mission (maybe you can help with that). But most importantly: praying that we would understand where God wants to lead us. Because for His plan He will supply everything, I am sure.

So please pray for us. Pray for our helpers and for their difficult work now that they may not go weary and give up. Pray that still many kids would come and experience the love of God through us. Pray that our little team and our dedicated volunteers would strengthen and encourage each other and be filled by God's Spirit. So we can all experience what I did when I started the campwork and got these Words from God:

“but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.”  
Isaiah 40:31

Thank you,

Tamas Daxner



*Tamas Daxner*  
SU Hungary  
National Director

**We need MORE ENGLISH  
SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS in  
our English children's summer  
clubs for 7–14 and 14–21 July  
Contact: [taborok@gmail.com](mailto:taborok@gmail.com)**

We are looking for **NEW PARTNER-CHURCHES** to keep the camps alive. If you know a place we can make contact with or visit, please let us know at [taborok@gmail.com](mailto:taborok@gmail.com).

## SUMMER CAMPS

This year we are going to make our own programme called “Faithbook” which will use social media as its theme. Everyday we will study one of the “I am” sayings of Jesus, and use it to show how wonderful Saviour we have in Him, and how good it is to belong to Him. Our prayer is, that these messages will reach the kids’ hearts so they may meet the Lord personally this summer.



## REUNION AT ERSEKCSANAD

11th May 2019. Our small team set out to do a reunion day for the kids of Ersekcsanad. Our aim was to link up with the kids from last year and advertise the summer camp to all. 2 from our team have never been to SU camps so for them it was a brand-new experience as well.

The programme was similar to a typical camp day: icebreakers, singing, Bible teaching... For this day we picked the story of Gedeon for our Bible teaching. Through his story we showed the kids that although Gedeon was chosen by God to do extraordinary things he was still an imperfect human. He wanted to obey God but was afraid. He wanted to be certain that it was really God who spoke to him, it was really his will to do this mission. We also saw how God answered all of his doubts (without reprimanding him). He took away his fears and fulfilled his calling.

Naturally, we had memory verse teaching (“*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*” *Jos 1:9*), small group discussion, English classes in the form of group games (the theme was plants & animals) and a home made lunch. In the afternoon we played various group games, including a “Gedeon play” where the kids had to play out the story of Gedeon using different methods (like pantomime, “still-life” etc).

The last part of the day was a testimony and a quiz game.

Altogether it was a great day with the kids who were able to taste again all the joys of a typical English camp, and a great day for the helpers as well. We could experience once more the unity that only God can provide and were filled with His love.

Sara Lederhaas

## SU EUROPE LEADERS CONFERENCE IN FRANCE

The conference for SU leaders of Europe was held on 9–12 May 2019 in *Rimlishof*, France. The main speakers were *Terry Williams* and *Annette Osborne*. The title of the weekend was “Here 2 stay” and the topic was why the youth are disappearing from the churches in growing numbers, and what can be done to prevent it.

The speakers explained thoughtfully and in great detail the reasons of this “exodus”, and gave suggestion what churches can do about it and how we, the SU movements could support them.

For our great joy we were visited by *Monika Kuschmierz*, the leader of *SU International*, and by *Christian Hellwig*, the International Chairman. We also had the opportunity to present our questions to them.

Most of the movement brought copies of their new publications (and also some local sweets for the coffee breaks) and displayed them so we could all have a good look.

During the so called “Expo of ideas” we had an opportunity to choose between the following topics/groups:

- How to reach the non-readers with the Bible, using orality? (*Lasse Holmgaard Iversen* – SU Denmark)
- Reaching our communities through sport ministry (*Pedro Mateus* – SU Portugal)
- An interesting new publishing project from SU Netherlands (*Bert de Jong* – SU NL)
- “One Story” Bible Game – one game, many ways to use it (*Natalia Luptakova* – SU Slovakia)
- Ministry among refugees (*Marco Demo* - SU Italy)
- A simple family Bible engagement app (*Olof Brandt* – SU Sweden)

Beside all of that it was great to engage in private discussions to see what kind of struggles, triumphs and new experiences each of us has and how are we trying to fulfill our calling in today’s Europe.

Tamas Daxner

### Christianity Explored in Szilvasvarad Reformed Church

I am grateful to God for providing me the opportunity to study his Word while participating in a *Christianity Explored* course. God has been gathering us every Friday since this March and we can take a look at the chapters in the Gospel of Mark. I always look forward to these meetings, because I learn something new about God each time; I am getting to know Him and getting closer to Him. God is bringing the growth to our little group (also in numbers) – He „brought” a fellow Christian on the last occasion as well.



The most beautiful experience of it all is that we can share our concerns, problems, hardships openly, but also the joyful events of our lives. We have the chance to pour our hearts out and we listen attentively to each other, providing help and support. The presence of God is essential for all this, Who blesses every session. It is a real pleasure to belong to this group and being together with these people. I feel renewed after the Friday evening encounters, thinking: „how nice it would be to talk more about God and His Son, Jesus Christ”, and „I wish these hours would never end”.

The workbook is prepared logically and carefully. It contains easier and harder questions as well, encouraging me to seek a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ’s person. The knowledge and guidance of our pastor is necessary though these sessions. God speaks His Word through this person clearly, introducing Jesus to me.

*Olivia Ferencz*

### Christianity Explored in Kaposztasmegyer Reformed Church

We started our first *Christianity Explored* course 12 years ago – using a self-made translation at that time...

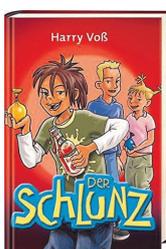
Now we can say we finish our 20th course tomorrow. After all these years I am happy to say: it works! It is a great experience for both the pastor and helpers who join their efforts in the work of evangelism – to accompany the participants on their journey of faith, who often come with no knowledge of the Bible at all. We can see as their eyes and hearts gradually open: they are starting to get familiar with reading the Bible, they write their comments and ask their questions more and more willingly. The weekend is the most phenomenal part of it all! It is unbelievable how the participants are always filled with so much excitement – we experience an intimate bonding and a cheerful atmosphere, parting as friends at the end. The sessions after the weekend away are much more lively!

The groups are not big, so each participant can feel involved, having the necessary attention – they are getting closer not only to the pastor, but to the helpers as well. In the previous group half of the people started to attend services at church and 75% percent of them joined our gospel exploring, follow up group after the course. We are grateful to God for this tool in evangelism!

*Andras Zambo (pastor)*

### New plans in publishing

We are excited to let you know that the publishing of *Life-Explored* is under way. We are very grateful for the donation we received for this purpose in the amount of 900.000 HUF (circa 2500 GBP) which is enough for the books and workbooks. After some thinking we decided to make the videos available in downloadable MP4 format instead of using DVD-s. We plan to publish LE in September.



Our next plan is to publish a bestseller from Scripture Union Germany called *Schlunz*. Its main character is a young orphan boy who is found and adopted by a Christian family. Our hope is that many will like the book and kids will be motivated to read it.

If you would like to support us, please send your donation with the comment „**Schlunz**” to: Szentiras Szovetseg Alapitvany,  
IBAN: HU58 1174 2001 2005 8328 0000 0000 SWIFT: OTPVHUHB

Beside this we are testing the *LIVE* (Leef) programme from SU Netherlands which aims to help work with kids aged 2-6. It is rare to find such a comprehensive material in Hungary so we hope it can be a great help for Christian kindergartens and children’s workers.

## Our new team-member: Zsofi Mihalkovics

This year a new member joined the Hungarian team, *Zsofi Mihalkovics*' job is to develop in publishing.

### What should the readers know about you?

I was born and grew up in Budapest. I belonged to Ujpest Lutheran Church, where I joined Sunday school and religious education with my sister. After my confirmation I became a member of the youth group, where a very good community was organized by our pastor and theology students. At that time I gave my life to the Lord Jesus in an unforgettable summer camp. As a teenager I was always in Christian fellowship, so God saved me from many troubles and dangers.



### What did you study and what is your work background?

After my graduation from grammar school I spent an amazing year at Wycliffe Conference Centre in England as a volunteer, where I met wonderful Christian people from all over the world. During university (I studied horticultural engineering at Corvinus) I joined a Bible Group there. After my studies I worked for a little gardening firm, then I went to a total different area: I helped one of my friends' enterprise, which produced and sold special rings and jewellery for weddings.

### How and why did you switch? Why Scripture Union?

It was a long time ago when I first met SU Hungary in a summer camp. About 10 years ago they searched for proof-readers to *Utjelzo* Bible reading guide, which I undertook immediately. I helped SU Hungary as a volunteer from the background. Last Autumn a little thought came to my mind that I should change my work, because business is not my life interest. And then I got the news that the office needs a new member for publishing. I believe it's God will and it's not a chance. Now I'm not only a proof-reader, but the editor of *Utjelzo*, and work on publishing other books and youth materials. I hope I can get *Christianity Explored* to the Lutheran churches as well.

### What else do you want to share?

Now I belong to Pestszentlorinc Lutheran Church with my husband and kids. This congregation is a very important piece of our life. Once a month I do children's work on Sundays during the service. I also sing in the choir and serve in our Christian youth band with my flute and singing. Our sons go to Gabor Sztéhlo Lutheran Kindergarten and Primary School at the same district where we live.

I like reading Christian books and I'm grateful for this believing team here at the SU Hungary office.

## SUPPORT A CHILD



This is your chance to help a child to apply to one of our camps. For many kids it is still difficult to come, especially in the rural, underdeveloped areas of Hungary. 50 GBP (the price appr.) could be a big

help for many families!

If you can support us in this please get in touch with SU England&Wales or visit our English Website: [suhungary.net](http://suhungary.net)

Szentírás Szövetség - Scripture Union Hungary

Office: 1091 Budapest, Kálvin tér 8.  
Tel/Fax: 0036-1216-5115  
<http://szentirasszovetseg.net/>  
e-mail: [info@szentirasszovetseg.net](mailto:info@szentirasszovetseg.net)

## Give thanks for...

- all the children and young people who already signed up for the camps.
- our key volunteers, *Moira Goddard, Gabor and Ildiko Keleti, Kirk and Sara Lederhaas* for all their help in organizing the camps.
- the timely publishing of *Utjelzo* Bible reading guide.

## Please pray...

- for more summer camp volunteers. We still need 6 Hungarian and 10 English helpers.
- for all the camp preparations (*Tamas, Ildi and Sara*).
- publications: that we would be able to raise all the funds we need to publish *Schlunz*.