



Dear Praying Friends,

Reaching the end of yet another year in the life of SU Hungary, it is time to say thank you again. If you are reading this, it means that you are on our mailing list for a good reason: either because you have been a volunteer with us, or expressed an interest in our ministry and said that you would pray for us. Where would we be without you...?

When it comes to our past six months, I would mention two highlights: Our summer clubs (of course! - see testimonies below) and the publishing of *Discipleship Explored* in Hungarian. By the end of this year the number of churches that have used *Christianity Explored* reached 200 – we trust that this new group Bible study material on the Philippians proves to be useful as a follow-up tool for them. And now we have a nearly fully functioning website for *Christianity Explored*. So there is a lot to be grateful for!

At the same time this year was not without its challenges: the main one being down to 3 people from the previous 5 on our staff team. We very much miss *Emese* and *Gábor*, who were part-timers on our team, yet each played a very important role (*Emese* in editing and sales, and *Gábor* in campwork.) The positive news is that both of them stayed on as volunteers, which is a wonderful help. On the other hand we are very much aware that if we want to keep up with the workload we would need an additional staffworker on our team (or 2 part-timers again), so that the ministry would not suffer. Well, this is meant to be a newsletter with Christmas greetings and an update and *not* a fund-raising letter, but just to give you an idea: we would need about GBP 750/month to have another full-time worker on our team (including social security and taxes). Humanly speaking, this is an unattainable goal financially for us right now, but we have seen miracles to happen... We want to do our best and rely on God for this at the same time, too.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas – filled with wonder (I've just noticed the etymology of the word wonderful!) once again over what our Saviour did for us at the first Christmas: **“When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human!”** *Philippians 2:7(MSG)*

With love, on behalf of our small SU team in Budapest:

Erzsébet Komlósi  
national director



Erzsébet Komlósi  
SU Hungary  
National Director



### SUMMER PROGRAMME – TREASURE SEEKERS

For the first time ever we used a programme that ran last time in 2007! (so none of the kids from this year had participated in it back then) Naturally, we had to update it with a new drama, new booklets, props, etc. The theme was **Pirates, the Treasure Seekers!** The story follows the crew of a pirate ship, and how their lives change after they encounter a knight of the king, who offers them the king's grace. The kids enjoyed the programme, and our hope is that they began to understand what this grace can mean to them.



# Summer Camps in Hungary

## Sarah Maltby—Bénye Kidscamp



I had decided that this summer I wanted an adventure. After years of leading on camps in the UK I was ready for seeing what God was doing elsewhere. So when I met a friend of mine who mentioned leading on a holiday club in Hungary it got me thinking. I had not a clue what to expect however it was one of the best weeks of my year.

From the moment I arrived to the moment I left I loved the whole week. The children came from 8am until 4pm every day and we got the privilege of playing, teaching and spending time with them. They loved trying to teach me some Hungarian and I learnt ways of communicating with them when using the English language was not always possible. Alongside all the fun we were able to teach the children

about the journey of Paul; sharing the Gospel with them and encouraging them in their journeys with God. This was done through games, drama, learning memory verses, stories, testimonies and 'doing life' with them. Brilliant.

I came away truly blessed; having encouraged the local church & some teachers of the local school, eaten so much (I've never been so well fed!), seen God answer prayers, made new friends for life, discovered more of God's creation and spent time with God's people.

## First time overall leader - Kirk Lederhaas, Siklós Kidscamp

Being a first time summer camp leader, you don't just get your feet wet. You're thrown in the deep water, but not alone, and that makes all the difference! With the Lord's presence in your team bonding people together of different cultures, ages and backgrounds and with Him putting within each member a servant's heart to reach kids for Christ's sake, I can testify that He was the glue in our relationships and the energy source to continue giving of ourselves throughout the whole week.

It was beautiful to see how the Spirit of the Lord softened hearts and encouraged kids to open themselves to the Bible teachings they received. On the last evening when we had an hour programme for the parents to share with them all we did during the week, it was a joy to hear one 14 year old girl boldly tell all the adults and children present how much these camps meant to her, for this wasn't her first one, how through these camps she had begun her relationship with the Lord and now realized He was her Saviour.

When our team departed, the kids said their goodbyes with hugs and some tears to us. God in his goodness chose to bless our week and we were all the better off for it! Praise His name!



## Hilary Sutton - Fehérgyarmat Kidscamp



In early July we went as volunteers to a *Scripture Union* holiday camp in Hungary. Our church, *St. Andrew's, Paddock Wood* in Kent in the South-East of England, has had a link with *Scripture Union Hungary* for many years now. We support SU through prayer and financial giving but this year Chris, my husband, who is the link person between our church and SU Hungary, thought we should support them with our presence as well!! I am the veteran of many summer holiday clubs for primary school children at our church (almost always using SU material) and our daughter Anna grew up attending the clubs and more recently helping at them.

So early in July, the three of us set off for Budapest, and after getting together with the rest of the team and picking up materials, on towards *Fehérgyarmat* where our camp was to be.

We were made warmly welcome by the leader of the team and the other Hungarian members and also by the local pastor, his wife and family. We're so delighted to have had the chance to get to know the children a little and to work as part of a team which gelled well from the first day. Two highlights – I was teaching a song with actions where for the word "God" I pointed upwards. "But surely God is in our hearts?" queried one seven-year old seriously – amen! And then one of the oldest girls in conversation agreed that, sometimes, it takes a while to really believe that God is there for you – but now she knows He is.

The clubs are great fun for children and leaders alike but there is some very important and worthwhile work of spreading the Gospel going on through them.



I was raised in a liberal family. God's name was never mentioned or not in the right context. I was convinced that God does not exist. I did not like anything "spiritual", but I loved all the reasons that "proved" He is not there. I was like that for a long time. I had no connection to the church or to God.

I was 25 when my father died in a car accident. I had always been "daddy's little girl", so the pain was unbearable. The whole world collapsed around me and I thought I would not be able to go on. It was then that a friend of mine asked me if I would go with her to a *Christianity Explored* course. She asked me many times, but my reply was always: no-no. That day however I said: fine, let's go! I was surprised that we went to the church on a Sunday evening. Everyone was sincerely happy for me, which surprised me a lot. I thought: do these people not know that I do not believe in God? Why are they so pleased to have me here?

I think it was the 4th evening when we talked about the death of Christ. A young pastor did the talk, and he spoke about Jesus: what He did for us, how He died for our sins. He was so moved by it, that he started to cry, which I found really strange. I had had a chat with this pastor a couple of times before. He was a clever young man. I could not understand: why was he crying?? He spoke as if he was convinced he did something horrible, and as a consequence a flesh and blood person had to die for him. I didn't get it how he could feel that way! But that was the moment when something changed in me. The last part of the final meeting was when the pastor led a prayer: It was about asking forgiveness from God for turning away from Him, and give our lives to Him from that moment on. Well, that time I could not keep my tears back, either...

This was only the beginning, but I understood that God indeed exists, and who He is. I started to go to church, at first only on Sundays. Everyone was so friendly! I continued to go more frequently, twice a week and gradually my life has changed completely. I have received new friends and a new workplace from God, and found my husband in the church. Being true to my old scientific interest, I have been saying ever since: now my little „solar system” revolves around God. It is good to know that everything I have is from Him, and anything is only good if it leads to Him.

## Christianity Explored in Miskolc-Tetemvár Reformed Church

We are running a *Christianity Explored* course the second time in our church. Last year we studied the foundations of our faith in the gospel of Mark with 11 participants in 3 small groups. This year 17 people came who were eager to know more about faith (3 of them from last year). We tried to help and encourage them in following Christ. We are grateful to God that the interest has increased since the first one, but for us the open atmosphere of the meetings and experiencing God's work is more important than numbers.



The Leader's Handbook gives many useful tips (e.g. How to handle different personalities during small group talks? What should we be aware of before, during and after the course? What should we do when the discussion dies? Etc.) Besides general advice the book gives practical ideas, as well (Inviting people, time management, short explanations for more difficult Bible passages.). The Study Guide gives practical help to all participants.

The course is exciting not only for the participants but for the organizers as well, since in such an open atmosphere any type of questions can be asked, and we do not always have the answers for them. It is good to ask the Lord's help in such cases in prayer. We believe that with the help of the Holy Spirit we can all grow in faith and knowledge.

In my opinion *Christianity Explored* is one of the best ways to share the gospel with the post-modern man.

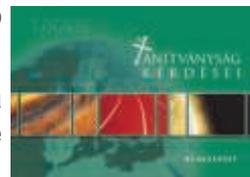
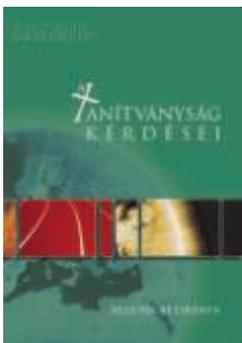
Dr. Árpád Bartha - Host

# Publishing

## Discipleship Explored in Hungarian

After a long waiting we finally published the official follow-up of *Christianity Explored*, *Discipleship Explored*.

Previously we did not translate this material due to its difficult vocabulary but after the Universal Edition was made available and we were able to check it out, we realized, this is just perfect for us. It contains 8 Bible studies through the Philippians plus 2 extra optional studies. It studies such important questions as: How can I know that I am a Christian? What is the meaning of my life? How can I get to know Christ? Etc.



The Leader's Guide gives practical advice on how to organize a course and contains the answers to the questions of the Study Guide. Also, there are many downloadable extra materials for the organizers on our website.

## Recent news

### New Christianity Explored website:

Due to the generous support of CE-Ministries we got the templates and the financial base to start to make our own website for *Christianity Explored*. We merged the 2 versions of the original CE website into one.

← The part for organizers. The part for seekers. →



## Reunion day at Érsekcsanád Reformed Church

On the 7th of November (Saturday) we held a reunion day at *Érsekcsanád* at the request of the local Reformed Church. 31 kids attended the programme, which was led by 3 Hungarian and 2 American volunteers.



The activities were similar to a typical summer camp day: games and singing, Bible and memory verse teaching, English classes, craft, etc. The highlights of the day were the drama play (pirates, whose lives were changed, now are going to the KING's wedding) and the testimony of one of the American helpers, *Samantha Hemhill*. The children enjoyed the day a lot. Some of the parents gave us many great feedbacks. The kids were reciting the days events with great enthusiasm.

## New English website and change of Domain

We are currently working on changing of our Hungarian website and we decided that it will be bilingual, Hungarian and English. Meanwhile, our separate English language website still functions, but please note that the new address is [www.suhungary.net](http://www.suhungary.net).

## Introducing a colleague: Kinga left – Ági came!



Ágnes (Ági) started to work with us in January 2015. Her role is handling subscriptions and books, as well as other general office work.

She belongs to a Reformed Church in Budapest. With her

husband they have an 8 year old daughter, Gyöngyi. Her hobby is photography. She likes organ and other classical music a lot.

## Give thanks for...

- The summer camps and for all the kids who came
- The supporters who helped kids in need, answering our campaign
- The UK and Hungarian volunteers who made the camps possible!
- Being able to publish *Discipleship Explored*
- For the new *CE* website

## Please pray...

- That *Discipleship Explored* would be widely used
- For our new website project
- For summer camp volunteers for 2016
- For other, new follow-up materials for CE courses
- That we would find the resources to hire another person for our work

## If you would like to support us please get in touch:

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