

WINTER
2019



Szentírás Szövetség Scripture Union Hungary



Dear Praying Friends,

When we think about our lives and especially our walk with Christ sometimes we wonder about our decisions if we're just following our own logic or are we really following Him.

We could and should use logic. We have got our brains from God after all, but we come to realize God works beyond human logic. You doubt me? How about parting the Red Sea for starters? Or Gideon and his 300 against hundred of thousands? David vs. Goliath? I could go on... One thing is certain. We got our capability to think and act reasonably (and I wish we would use this more often), but God is beyond our reasoning and logic. It does not limit Him, nor our view of Him. Nothing really does and this is a good thing. After all, we can be so limited in our thinking.

Take our case for example. *Scripture Union Hungary* is 25 years old this year. That is a long time from my perspective In 1994 I had just turned 18 and back then my thoughts were all about girls, partying and playing with the newest Commodore 64! I had no idea what I wanted with my life. I had no motivation to strive to get anywhere. My grades were average at best so I had no hope of doing anything but manual labour for a living. I had constant arguments with my family and just being with them for Christmas was a horrible concept. Usually we had big arguments from day 1.

Since then human reasoning can't explain the changes in my life. God has made my life a very different story. I finished college with flying grades. I have a purpose now. Many members of my family gave their lives to Christ including my Mom with whom I have great discussions from time to time. I look forward to Christmases now. Who would have thought this could be possible?

God is not a man (or woman), but He is our Father. He is not mortal, but eternal He is eternal. He is not limited but omnipotent. He has no sin but He has grace. And the greatest of them all is His gift to all of us in Christ. God has made many decisions concerning his work of redeeming us but none of them were logical: in Christ He came down to Earth. He endured hard work, tiredness, hunger, thirst, disappointment, betrayal, pain and death. even though remaining in Heaven would have been the logical thing to do, but He choose to love us without merit, to take our punishment upon Himself so that we don't have to be eternally separated from Him. Why he would pay such a high price to have us in his presence for all eternity is not logical to our minds, but we should all be thankful for that.

My hope is that all of you will truly experience His illogical grace and mercy throughout your lifetime, not just for this Christmas.



Tamás Daxner
National
Director

With love and blessings,
Tamas Daxner



SUMMER CAMPS IN 2019



We had a great summer season again: **338 kids** came and participate in our **10 summer camps**.

This year we decided to write our own and new programme called - **Faithbook** which based on social media. Every day we studied one of the "I am" sayings of Jesus, which helped get to know Him better and who He is in our life.

In the new drama play our hero travelled to a strange country where the status earned on the social media defines all from healthcare to financial positions. Our hero had to discover the rules of the country while trying to help the "losers" of the system. Beside trying to reinforce the daily Bible teaching we tried to answer some of the difficult questions that comes with using or overusing social media.

Summer camps in Hungary

A few responses from kids:

“It was a great experience for me! We laughed and learned a lot and the small group discussions were very interesting. The helpers did a lot so we can enjoy the camp. We could always count on them. I hope that one day I can return as a leader and help others in a camp. Thank you!” *Dóra*

“Every summer I can hardly wait for the English camp. It is such a huge experience for me to meet people from other countries. We play a lot in the camp and I especially love the water bombs and craft. I love the discussions too. I would love to come again.” *Panna*

“The English camp is one of the highlight of the summer for me. I learned a lot about myself, God and the others. The small group discussions, the teachings and other programs helped me to get closer to God. At the end of the camp I felt I am ready for my confirmation. Anna (the camplleader) gave me the first push and helped me to make my decision for God.” *Szonja*

“The UK helpers are great. Chatting with them is the best part of these camps. I had great discussions with Ruth who is from southern England. I would love to visit her some time. In this camp everyone is so cool, the atmosphere is so different than in the school camps. My family does not believe in God. I do not think I am a believer but I like to be here. You get something different. Tank you for everything!” *Villő* (12 y. old girl)

“This was the best camp of my life” *Gergő* (11 y. old boy) - Gergő, who is a difficult boy, told this to his parents. He is very opinionated, and screen addicted (TV, Phone, PC). The Gospel and the love expressed toward him touched him.

“The English camp is great! This is my 3rd time coming. I love the songs, and I keep singing them after the day. The water games are my other favourite. It is so funny to see everyone soaking wet but fine with it. We had such great laughs.” *Hajnalka*



Samuel Thomson



It was brilliant to come to Hungary and help lead on the Scripture Union camps again this year. I've been helping on them for the past three years and so it's amazing to see how the churches that we work with grow. This year I was asked to lead on the camp in Fehérgyarmat. It's a town in Eastern Hungary and had around 60 children attending the camp, whilst this is a large number of children it's very easy to get to know each one. This can be done through English lessons, team challenge, playing games during free time, craft or whilst eating lunch or having a snack. There are also a couple of opportunities throughout the week to share a bible teaching with the children and also your testimony. It's a great privilege to be able to share both of these with them and gives them an opportunity to think about what it would mean to give their life to God and live life his way.

When I first helped on a camp in Hungary I was quite apprehensive about not being able to speak Hungarian and therefore feeling that the young people would struggle to understand me. In my experience this is never the case, the young people are always so excited to see you and try their English with you as well as trying to teach you some Hungarian. In addition there are also Hungarian helpers who are able to translate for you. This means that you're able to share your faith with the children as well as enable them to have an amazing time. I have enjoyed leading on the camps for the past four years and would highly recommend that if you're able to then you should definitely come and also experience these camps.

BE A PART OF OUR MISSION - APPLY TO BE A CAMP LEADER!

NOW WITH EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!

Apply until the end of January 2020 and receive **10% Early Bird Discount!** Be a part of our mission towards Hungarian children! We are looking for people for any weeks between: **4 July - 1 August!**

David Acheson



It's always a busy time before I arrive in Budapest. Lots of things to think about. Have I got the right clothes and equipment? Have I forgotten something really important? I am also always apprehensive about the camps. What will the children be like? What will the other team members be like? Will it be very hot? Will I be able to teach them any useful English? Why do I ask so many questions??

I'm glad to tell you that both camps I was on (Szada and Sarkad) went very well. The children were fun and receptive as ever to the teaching from the Bible. In both camps we were very well looked after, and I enjoyed the food too much for my waistline! As usual I was 'blown away' by the skills of the Hungarian team in organising games. They always seem to have the ability to think of a game which is exactly right at the 'drop of a hat' and with next to no equipment. The other thing which is very impressive is the speed and efficiency with which the children clear up after craft activities. No one seems to seek to avoid taking part. I'm afraid they are not so good in the UK!

Teen-day at Tatabanya

Scripture Union organized a kids club at Tatabanya (an old mining area in Hungary), but before the start 2 of the helpers were struggling with health problems which was very hard for me as the organizer of the club. Still we experienced God's provision as we had 6-8 local teenagers who helped us out a lot during the programme. In them we saw a greater thirst for more during the week. We felt compelled to serve their needs as well and the idea of the teen-day was born.

It was amazing to see how important this idea was to God as all of our kids club volunteers (some otherwise very busy people) could make the time to come. At the beginning we had only 2-3 teens but I didn't lose heart as I felt God is preparing something. My faith was justified as more and more came and in the end we had more than 10. We had a great time: worship, teaching, talking in small group discussion, playing ultimate Frisbee, learning African dances, attending afternoon seminars and eating pizza and doughnuts.

It was great to see how new friendships were formed as the small group discussion touched the young people. One particular boy came in with a long face and was closed to any kind of communication left at the end of the day smiling and excitedly asked: "Come again! Why don't you come more often?"

Lilla Szatmary-Jemmett



Volunteer weekend on 8-10th of November near lake Balaton

We organized our first volunteer weekend for November 8-10th near Balaton lake, in Tagyon. Our host and the owner of the house was Kirk Lederhaas, who really did his best to feed and support us in everything. It was a special event for all of us, as we had volunteer programs in the past but always in the summertime. Now it was cold and humid, yet 18 people came. We had a great time together. We had teaching, worship, discussions about the future of the camp ministry. We could have a morning devotional at the site of a Church ruins from the XIII. century and had the opportunity to visit the Tihany peninsula Abbey on Saturday. The program was so successful that we are planning to do it again 2 times a year (in spring and autumn). Here is the feedback some of the volunteers gave us:



"It was superfreneticalmaximalcapital!"

"I enjoyed it a lot to be here. I felt completely accepted and loved just as I am."

"During the weekend we could become rejuvenated and form into a stronger team than ever before. It was great to see how God is working in Scripture Union Hungary, and also in our lives."

"The best part for me was when we stood at the ruins of that old temple and had a discussion about how God could put life even into dry bones from a passage in Jeremiah. He give us life and through us renews others as well. That is a worthy goal."

Christianity Explored in Dunaharaszti Reformed Church

I read recently that the modern man tends to live his life in “opinion bubbles”. The social media platforms that tangle our life all around continuously generate news tailored to our interest and puts us into groups with likeminded folks based on algorithms. These virtual bubbles lead to isolation and do not generate meaningful conversations since all the others in the group agree with you, so they only reinforce you in your conviction that you are right.

If you look at CE in this light the difference is shocking. We, the participants, who came to this program cannot be more different. Our opinions deviate even about the big questions of life which caused all of us to take a deeper look at

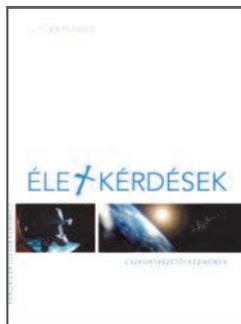


things that we really don't care to. Still we happily keep coming to engage in discussion and study the gospel of Mark together. For the modern man who does not seek God in his everyday life these events may seem like bubbles as well but for me these are oases for physically and spiritually weary people. I would encourage everyone to participate in CE groups where they can receive the Gospel message and get to know others better as well as themselves.



Gábor Csiszár

Publishing



Just a couple more weeks and **Life-Explored** will be completed. This was really the first great publishing project for this team. Since we did not have enough experience in this area we had some roadblocks and delays along the way but now, thanks to God we are almost completed with it. Our plan is that within the first week of January everything will be ready for a big conference for reformed pastors. We are also planning to host a conference with the help of CE-ministries early next year. Please pray for us as we are preparing to spread the news about this new evangelizing tool to the churches in Hungary and also for the editor of the videos.

NEXT YEAR??

We have already received 5 new camp request for next year which is a new record! Since we had trouble finding enough leaders (especially from the UK) for our 10 camps this summer it is a very difficult decision. We are already organizing a payer meeting in January so we can ask God together about it! Please pray for us and with us!

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

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Give thanks for...

- all the children and young people who came to the camp. May God continue to work in their hearts.
- key volunteers, *Moira Goddard* (UK), *Kirk and Sara Lederhaas* and *Gabor and Ildiko Keleti* (HU) for all their help in organizing the camps
- the enthusiasm of the Hungarian team

Please pray...

- For all the kids who made a commitment this summer. May they continue their journey of faith.
- For the success of *Life Explored* and that it will be completed in time
- For guidance: what our next publishing project should be?