

JUNE 2015 MISSION TO HUNGARY REPORT by ANNETTE POPE

Wednesday 10th June 2015

June 2015 our third mission team travelled out to Hungary. The team with Pastor Jason were Beryl Jones, Annette Pope, Carl Hayden, Gina Moulou Denyer and Rebecca Surkitt. At this point, apart from the pastor, none of us knew what to expect, so we put our trust in God. When we arrival at Budapest Airport Pastor József was waiting for us with bottles of water and sandwiches, ready to take us to Miskolc where we were staying at a B&B called Völgyzugory Vendècház. The owner of the B&B was a lady called Anita who spoke English which made it a lot easier for us to communicate with her.

Every morning after breakfast we would get together for devotions, a word of the day and prayer before setting out.

Thursday 11th

Pastor József picked us up after breakfast to visit the charity shop called Charity Line, this is run by Pastor József and members of the church. It was lovely to see the work they are doing and to see how we are helping by sending out clothes, shoes etc. He then took us sightseeing around Miskolc city where we saw some beautiful buildings, artworks and shared some tasty ice cream. While we were walking around the town we came across a bridge covered in padlocks with names of people engraved on them. Pastor József explained that when anyone gets married they put a padlock on the bridge and throw away the key symbolizing that marriage is for life. We then went to the church for lunch where we had Chicken, rice, potato salad with homemade doughnuts and cakes for afters. This was when we first met some of the congregation of the church, although we could not speak each other's language we felt at home with them.

In the afternoon we went to Lilafured to see the waterfalls and gardens, where we met younger György the translator, a member and part of the worship group of the church. Later on we went to the broadcasting tower where you could see the whole city of Miskolc, we all started praying for the city. Everyone there could feel the presence of the Lord. A few words of Prophecy were shared and more praying. We finished the day off back at the church for our evening meal and fellowship.

Friday 12th

Pastor Jozsef took us to meet one of the elders of the church who is also named György and our interpreter for the day. In the morning they took us to see the caves at Aggtelek when we arrived György gave us all drinks for the heat and coats for when we go into the caves. As we were walking through the caves it was lovely to see all the different shapes and shades of the rocks. After the caves Gyorgy had another surprise for us, he took us to a place called Rudabanya a small mining village, on arrival we were greeted by the Mayor and two other important officials of the town plus a TV reporter we were so stunned that this was done for us, they showed us around their Museum which was full of mining history. We had a young lady for our tour guide that spoke English she told us everything

about the Museum, after the tour was finished we were led up some stairs to an open dining area where they gave us plates of different types of cheese and meats with salad and lots to drink. While we were talking the Mayor asked Pastor Jason to give an interview for the TV this was a good way for him to tell them about God and our Mission trip. When we had enough food they took us to see the oldest church in Hungary, as we were entering the church we started to sing a hymn. It was amazing to see the art work on the walls and ceiling and to have the history of the church.

György then took us to his restaurant for an evening meal, he also took us around to see his brewery and the hotel, it also gave us chance to ask questions and get to know them better.

When we got back to the B&B we sat down to reflect on the day, we were overwhelmed by their generosity, we felt so humbled by the way the folks had made us feel, the Mayor said: "we have not got much but what we have we share with you", this really touched us that they could do all this for people they have never met before.

Saturday 13th

We met Pastor József at the church for lunch before heading out for our first open-air service at a Village called Tizsakanyár for 3 o'clock. When we arrived it was 35 degrees so we asked God to make it a bit cooler for us and he sent us a cloud in the middle of a hot sunny afternoon giving us shade all the time we were ministering. We were introduced to the leader of the church Àrpi, his wife Caroline and his daughters Jennifer and Cynthia, both of the girls who are blind are also part of the worship team, Cynthia plays the piano, Jennifer is the singer along with her brothers, as the backing group. The worship we experienced was incredible it was so amazing that we could join in the worship as we knew the songs, so while they were singing in Hungarian we sang along in English, you could feel the spirit of God all around us. After the worship György prayed then Carl and Gina gave their testimonies. Pastor Jason then delivered his sermon with younger György translating. At the end of the meeting people came out for prayer, so as a team we started praying that God would work through all the leaders giving them guidance on what to do, 7 recommitted their lives back to Christ, 2 were saved and many more came out for healing. Àrpi was healed of a back condition that he was suffering with and a lady was healed of headaches and dizziness, God also spoke into individual lives and situations. We were then taken into the church where they had laid on a meal for us and to have more fellowship with them. Before we left the 2 Pastors prayed for Àrpi and his family.

Sunday 14th

We arrived at church at 9.30 where we went straight into the vestry for a time of prayer before the meeting, at 10 Pastor József came and took us up to the main part of the church. We had prayer and worship to start then Beryl and Annette gave their testimonies then as a group they sang Bless the Lord O my soul and the people joined in with them. Pastor Jason then shared the word that God had laid on his heart for them with younger György translating for him. After pastor had finished preaching people came out for prayer and healing, many were touched by God. At the end of the meeting we gave the men note pads and the ladies Welsh dolls that the people at home had knitted

for them, we also gave them lots of stuffed teddies for the work they are doing out there. Pastor Jason also gave Pastor József a pot of English mustard.

We then had lunch with the congregation and were able to ask them about themselves, we were really grateful to the two György's who made it possible for us to talk to everyone. In the evening we were invited back to the church for a farewell meal with Pastor József, a wonderful end to our visit in Miskolc.

Monday 15th

Pastor József picked us up at 10 o'clock to take us to György's house where they laid on a stunning meal before taking us to visit Eger. Whilst looking around we visited the catholic "bishops palace" that's when we said our Goodbyes to György and his wife Elizabeth. Then a 2 hour drive through a heavy thunder storm to Budapest, where we thank Pastor József for his and the churches hospitality and kindness shown to us all.

To sum it all up, none of us knew much about each other or what was expected of us when we arrived at Hungary but as the days went by God started working and changing each of us in a special way, you could feel the Spirit of God working through us to help others. We met some fantastic people who treated us like royalty, none of us will forgot the experience we shared. Our sister church will always be in our hearts. As a team we started getting to know each other we all felt a special bond and became close friends. Everyone would like to be able to go on mission again to do God's work.