



*EKE (Lutherans for the Gospel) Couples Weekend  
October 2014*

In October of 2014 we organized our weekend for married couples and their families as usual. Families from all around Hungary arrived for the event. It is always a pleasure for everyone to meet old acquaintances and brothers & sisters in Christ on occasions like this, and also to see more and more children joining the couples. Those who take care of the children, (from one-or-two-year-olds to school aged ones) have to prepare tasks and games or simply manage to handle the children's energy, which can be quite hard and tiring. On the other hand their service is a huge blessing for the parents, as they are free to calm down in spirit and listen to the word of God. For this weekend, we not only had the opportunity for Bible-studies but also for fulfilling and colorful discussions throughout the weekend.

My husband and I had been to such a weekend many years ago and we very much desired to go again. We went for the first time in 2011 three months after our wedding and the things we heard during the weekend have become an essential part of our married lives, and the attitude we hold towards each other. This time we did not want to miss the occasion as the main lesson we would learn in 2014 was that we should "make the best use of the time" (Ephesians 5:16). Thus we were looking forward to it, especially as we took our fourteen-month-old daughter as well.

The weekend started on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, on a Friday afternoon, but I would like to highlight the sermons and discussions of Saturday. They were led by Attila Lázár and his wife Erzsébet who both gave a testimony about how God showed them the way to each other after redeeming both of them. It was very astonishing to see what kind of plans and troubles they both had when they were miscreants and how these were solved immediately when they placed their lives into God's hands.

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It was even more touching to hear their testimony about their children as their marriage started with a trauma: their first child became handicapped (both mentally and physically) caused by complications during the labor. Although hard they came to finally understand that this hardship was not a consequence of their sins, but it had a purpose. It was not a punishment but God was preparing blessings through it. And truly: their whole life and attitude (as God gave them peace and quiet) is a great testimony for everyone.

Other topics were brought up during the group discussions such as what kind of tales parents should read for the children, and how divorced parents affect their children's personality development.

We received lots of blessings during this weekend and the ones I mentioned above were only a small portion of the whole but there is neither place nor time to write about everything. Next year we will manage everything (our job, vacation, free time) in order to be able to come again, as we learned we should "make the best use of the time".

Written by Emese Makay  
(Edited and translated by Naómi Kiss)



## Receipts

October 2014		November 2014		December 2014	
G. Fund	210.00	G.Fund	687.00	General Fund	2,200.00
Hungary	1085.40	Hungary	170.00	Hungary	150.00
NLM G.F.	715.00	NLM	560.00	NLM	250.00
NLM - D. Olson	200.00	NLM - D. Olson	710.00		
Retreat Scholarship	10.00	Retreat Scholarship	20.00		
<b>Oct. '14 Total</b>	<b>2,220.40</b>	<b>Nov. '14 Total</b>	<b>2,147.00</b>	<b>Dec. '14 Total</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>

### Totals for Fiscal year 20145(beginning Oct. 1, 2014)

	Oct. - Nov. - Dec.	Total Fiscal Year 2015
Mission Gifts		
General Fund	3,097.00	3,097.00
Retreat Scholarships	30.00	430.00
EKE- Hungary	1,405.40	1,405.40
NLM	2,435.00	2,435.00
	<b>6,967.40</b>	<b>6,967.40</b>

November memorials: Given by Norma Jean Larson in Memory of Gene Larson designated for NLM

Given by Pastor & Mrs. Lyle Amdahl in Memory Diane (Peterson) Norby designated for David Olson

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**A time for reflection & a time for renewal**

discussion, I understood that she had been involved in some kind of accident during the night and had a cut on the back of her thigh and also some undetermined injuries to her back. The medical staff might do x-rays on Monday to determine the extent of injuries. So I prayed for her as best I could. I then began to talk more with the young man, and discovered that he was her husband. I also learned that the accident he was telling me about was actually a fight he had with his wife the night before. The cut on the back of her leg was from a machete and the injuries to her back were from him beating her.

I sat there stunned. What do I say now!? I was speechless. Finally I asked if I could share something from the Bible with him and he said yes. Okay, I pulled out my Bible and started to pray silently as I thumbed the pages. I was clueless as to what I should read. I turned to John 3:16 and started to read and explain. When I got to verse 17 I was able to share that Jesus did not come to condemn us for our sins, but to forgive us if we would repent and trust in Him. I then turned to 1 John 1:9 and explained that if we confess our sins to God, He will forgive us of that sin. It didn't mean that there wouldn't still be physical consequences, like jail, for the sins we commit, but God will remove the eternal consequences.

He then told me that he had already apologized to his wife and told her that they needed to stop their jealous behaviors and start going back to church. They had left the church 5 years ago. I agreed that going back to church would be good, but that he needed to trust Christ and not just go to church. I wish I could say that he fell to his knees and prayed right there, but he didn't. And I was left wondering a bit where he really was with God. But I sensed it was time for me to go. And left thinking that perhaps God had brought me there to offer hope of God's forgiveness to someone who was very backslidden and in need of God's love and grace in this painful time when this young man was brought face to face with some of the physical consequences of his sin.

So how are we doing 2000 years after Jesus came? Well, when we reject Him and try to live without Him, we are doing terrible and are no better than Herod and those who lived at the time Jesus was born. But oh, the hope, forgiveness, and transformation we can find when we repent of our rebellion against God and trust in Christ as our Lord and Savior!

Jamie Halverson

*Jamie and Lisa Halverson serve through aviation with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea with their three children Thad, Thea, and Zeke.*

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The end of one year and the beginning of another naturally lends itself to reflection. How did i do? did i grow in my love for God?,for his people? for his kingdom to grow? The apostle Paul in Philippians 3:10-14 expresses a life of reflection but more importantly a renewal of purpose. He lived a life of brief reflection but mostly he focused forward looking to a daily renewal of the desire to be all that christ died for him be.

Philippians 3:10-14New International Version (NIV)

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

I think tis desire to keep moving ever forward into a deeper and deeper knowledge of and relationship to Christ is really brought out in the amplified version of these verses.

Philippians 3:10-14Amplified Bible (AMP)

10 [For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [[a]which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope] 11 That if possible I may attain to the [[b]spiritual and moral] resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body].

12 Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own.

13 I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,



14 I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward

Paul says, "For my determined purpose..." Friend what is your determined purpose for this coming year. Is it to know Christ progressively and become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him? It's fine to look back and reflect upon how far Christ has brought you through His faithfulness and mercy and grace but may that then spur you on to look forward in faith to what God has in store for those who seek Him with all their heart and soul and mind and strength.

***May 2015 be a year of an ever deepening fellowship between you and your savior.***

Jonathan Unverzagt - editor

**[BIG NEWS!](#)**

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## **[News from The Halversons](#)**

Just before this past Christmas, I (Jamie) watched the movie The Nativity Story. As I watched it, I was struck by the reality that if I had been living in Bethlehem with my family at the time of Jesus' birth, my happy, smiley, healthy, 15 month old son, Hezekiah, would have been ruthlessly slaughtered by Herod's soldiers along with the other baby boys. And I would have been helpless to stop such a wicked act of violence by Herod, the ruler of the district?!?!? !!! This is the same Herod who murdered two of his own sons out of fear that they might try to take his throne.

What a horribly wicked world Jesus was entering. ! But it didn't surprise Him. Only the Triune God knows and knew just how wicked this world is without Him. Jesus came to save us from our sin and rebellion, and to offer forgiveness and loving acceptance as we look to Him as our Lord and Savior.

So now fast forward 2000 years and let us take a look at how this world is doing apart from Jesus. Think of China and its forced abortion of anyone who becomes pregnant with a second child. Or the United States where you can just ruthlessly slaughter your own unborn baby because it would be a threat

to your personal rule of over your own life. It doesn't seem like we are doing any better when we reject Jesus.

So why am I telling you all this? Well, I thought I would tell you a little bit about a personal experience I had here in Papua New Guinea at the end of November. Normally I am kept busy flying airplanes in support of Bible translation. But one Saturday morning I went with some other people from the church I attend to visit people in the local hospital. I had never done this before, so it was a new experience for me. The plan was for us to bring cups of clean drinking water and pieces of banana bread to the patients and family members who were at the hospital. Then we would talk with and pray for them. Pretty straight forward.

On arrival I discovered the hospital was a long cinder-block building with two large rooms (adults and pediatric) separated by the nurses' station. In each room there were about 15-20 beds, some with foam mattresses and some without. To be honest, I might have preferred a bed without the mattress if I were a patient. I went into the room with the adult patients. The first person I went up to didn't have any family by them and was just lying there. I gave her some bread and water and then asked why she was in the hospital. She responded "TB". Ugh, now I wanted to run out the door. I have no mask; she has no mask. I am totally exposed along with everyone else in the room. I prayed silently for God to protect me and the others in the room, and then prayed out loud for her and moved on as she looked as if she wanted to just rest and not visit. A couple of others that I visited had various ailments. One was a young man who had been there for a couple of months with headaches. Another was an elderly man who came in with a swollen abdomen and I guessed was likely not going to survive whatever had caused the swelling. As I moved around the room I heard the patient with TB cough a deep cough and it just made me cringe.

When I had visited and prayed for everybody I could in that ward I moved into the pediatric ward. There were not as many patients in this ward and someone was visiting and praying with most of them, but I noticed one patient way down at the end of the ward with one family member nearby and no one visiting them. So I decided to see if I could pray with them.

The patient was a young woman. She was awake but did not seem like she was able to talk. So I started to talk with the young man who was sitting nearby. I often find the trade language, Tok Pisin, vague, and it generally takes some discussion for me to get a clear picture of a situation. But after some