

# The Christian Fellowship Banner



SUMMER 2015

Volume 3

## **NEWS FROM EKE**

(Lutherans for the Gospel)  
in Hungary

My name is Eszter Herkely, I am 14, from Budapest. Last week, I had the opportunity to participate in the Youth camp of EKE in Piliscsaba. During this week, I learned a lot about the love of God and about myself. While hearing the evening devotions speaking

of Jesus as the bread of life (John 6:26-35), I learned that it is both physical and spiritual bread I need. I asked myself if I had eternal life and a direct relationship with God. I realized it was not enough to



serve in the local church only, I had to “stand in the gap” at home, too. In the morning, I could look into the life of a family of believers (through Gen 37:1-11), and I learned I should be more patient, just like Jacob served patiently for seven years, with the help of God. my own power, for I can’t do that, but with God’s help.

Hauge Foreign Mission, Inc..

*“Work for the night is coming”*

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God showed me through His Word that I needed Him also to solve problems in the family. I had to think it over: how do I feel in my family; do I belong to God's family; am I at my right place? When I am at home, do I do all household chores willingly? So I realized I had to change my life, but not with my own power, for I can't do that, but with God's help.

I had to face things I could not give up, and I almost addicted to them. It may be the internet, reading, or playing certain games. In the evening devotion, I heard that He was the door to eternal life. The way to this door is long, and it is important whom I walk this way with, and what motivates me. I also learned that heaven is not just a beautiful place; it is eternal life through the grace of God. We are on a huge battlefield, facing many attacks, and we have to answer the question whether we wanted to follow God. I want to, for He says, "you are precious in My sight; I LOVE YOU!", and He can lift me, for He is the only door and the only good way.

Going on with the story of Joseph (Gen 37:12-36), I learned the real meaning of obedience, and I asked myself, "Am I where I should be? Do I know I am sinful, and am I aware of my actual sins?" But after that, I knew that He had given His life even for me! Four ideas relate to this: contrition, coming to the Lord, being freed, and throwing away all things that hinder you with this. I must hollow Him as my Good Shepherd; I must believe in Him, form a perfect relationship with Him, with the purpose of bringing fruit. I need the fruits of the spirit, but it is God, not me, Who grows them. All these fruits have His blessing. He calls you and sends you to serve Him. This brings order in your life, and creates a new self instead of the old one. At the end of the camp, I had three questions still to answer: Who comes with me when I go home? What will my heart be like? And will I serve as I should and where I should?



*More pictures from the Youth camp of EKE in Piliscsaba*



**NEWS FROM EKE**  
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## **EKE Child Camp, Öttevény, 2015**

***Phil 3:13-14 One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

A children's camp has been organized every year since 2003; I, András Oravecz am the leader of this camp. It was actually not in 2003 that the camp started. For several years, my father-in-law Lajos Selmeczi and his team hosted the camp. Four years ago, the camp was split into two, so that more children could hear the Good News of Jesus. Since then, camps are held in Bokod, lead by Gergely Kósa, and in the school in Öttevény. EKE can hold 4 or 5 child camps altogether every summer, all around the country.

The camp in Öttevény ended on August 2. In the mornings, we would watch God's work through the life of the Apostle Paul. The mission story in the afternoon was the exciting story of Amy Carmichael; it was not only delectable, but it also gave a good example for life. In the afternoons, we called the children between 6 and 13 for talks in groups, then they got together for a program helping them learn how to read the Word of God when they are alone. The evening devotions spoke about various important issues of life. Besides food for the spirit, there were also games, crafts and singing in our program. The members of the ministry team already knew one another very well, but there were three new persons: my son Daniel, my niece Dora, and her friend Dorki, participants of camps in earlier years. The verse above was taken from the evening devotions, for it grew very important to me. This year, it was very hard for me to prepare for the camp. To make up for the lack of time, I asked for a few days off at work on the week before the camp. I felt very guilty because of the flaws in preparation of the camp. The puppets to be used in craft programs were not ready yet, so we had to choose something else. I began to blame myself because children had not come to faith in the camps of the past few years, though I know there is no direct relationship with that. I felt perhaps I had better give up this ministry after such a long time.

The opening of the camp was not the usual thing. Hardly any parents stayed here, so I decided to give a simpler opening program. Inspired by a sudden idea, I entered the small room full of campers with a bag in my hand, and took a paper out of it. The song starting, "Come, the Lord is waiting for you" was written on it. After singing, I said a few words about it. Then another song, "Come to the Savior, make no delay" was sung, followed by preaching the Word of God based on Matt 11:28, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." It was so strengthening to see the presence and blessing of God in "choosing the song." It reassured me.

On one of the evenings, the Bible verse above was the base of preaching. It was good to hear; it spoke directly to me – start anew, forget old things, and press on. Do not cry for the things that are over, but start to serve Him. On Thursday night, after bed time, a little boy in the room asked me about the way to come to Jesus. We went into an empty room to talk undisturbed. Again, I spoke to him about repenting, and he said he would like to receive Jesus into his heart, and he did so in prayer.

The next day, during the rest time after lunch, another boy lying by my side said, "by the way, I would like to trust Jesus." Another talk in the same room again, then he asked Jesus into his heart in prayer. In the group talk we had in the afternoon, I asked the question, what would happen to all the children here if the judgment of God came right now. An uncertain answer from a little girl made me to ask her personally after the conversation. God had already prepared her heart. She prayed to Jesus to come into her heart. All the three children prayed in a natural way, with their own words. They knew what they should ask for, and they did not fear to pray. Two of them answered to my first question that Jesus had actually come into their hearts; the third one was confirmed through the Word of God. They all knew that the burden of their sins was on Jesus, and they were freed from carrying it. God answered me in a great and wonderful way. This does not mean He approved the flaws, but my limits do not hinder Him at all. On the last day of the camp, a boy asked my son Daniel for a talk. Later, in the evening conversation, he said he had received Jesus into his heart. With the girl saved on Friday and another one, saved in the 5 Day Club of CEF a few weeks ago, now two born-again children live in our neighborhood. We would like to gather a few other campers living in our village to start a regular child program. The experience of the presence and the blessing of God helps us to forget all difficulties.

- András Oravec

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# News from the Halversons

in Papua, New Guinea  
with Wycliffe Bible Translators

Recently, I had two flights into a local airstrip to transport medical supplies to the area, help out some people who wanted to get back to their village, and generate some additional funds to help support the work of Bible translation throughout Papua New Guinea. The flight schedule was not very busy that day, and before I left, the thought crossed my mind that I might have an opportunity to share the gospel with some people at the airstrip.

Well, the weather wasn't great that morning, and I had to fight with clouds a bit, but I was able to get the first load into the airstrip. When I left after the first load, I thought, "Oh, the weather is changing more than I had thought, perhaps I won't be able to come back with the second load." But when I got back to our main base, I decided to get the plane ready and then see if I could get a weather report over the HF radio to confirm that the weather was still okay.

When the plane was ready with the second load, I got a weather report and it wasn't sounding great, but I decided to give it a try. It took some extra work skirting clouds, but I was able to land and unload the supplies. I was about to get back into the airplane and leave, when I remembered that I had thought about sharing the gospel there. I honestly just wanted to get in the airplane and leave, but knew that if I did, I would be kicking myself later for not taking this opportunity. I looked around, and sure enough there were kids all over the place. So I said, "Okay God," and re-chalked the wheel of the airplane. I walked over to where the supplies were sitting that had just been unloaded from the airplane and asked if there were any churches in the area. Yes, there were. Then I asked if it was okay if I told a Bible story and the people said yes. So I started to tell the story of Jonah, and instantly I was surrounded by over 50 people. Many were small children, but there were some adults as well. As I told the story of Jonah, I emphasized God's great love and concern for the people of Nineveh, who were wicked and unkind to God's people. How God cared for them and did not want to punish them, but how He was also just and could not just allow them to continue in their sin.

When I was done telling the story of Jonah and how God forgave and had compassion on the people of Nineveh, I was able to share with them about our same problem with sin. I shared how we and our ancestors have spit in God's face and tried to be the bosses of our own lives even though He has made us and everything in creation and is the rightful ruler of all creation. I encouraged people to repent of their rebellion and give God the rightful place of authority in their lives. I shared how we have no way to straighten our relationship with God on our own, but how Jesus had died on the cross to pay for our sins and restore our relationship with God.

After probably 30-40 minutes of sharing, I decided I had probably said enough and decided to close by praying for the people. I don't really know what impact it might have had on those people or if there were any people who prayed to receive Christ as I shared with them and encouraged them to repent and ask God to be the boss of their lives. But when I was saying goodbye, some of the adults expressed their appreciation for what I had shared. In the course of my flying, I don't often take opportunities like this; so please pray that they would become more common. Also please pray that God would cause the seed that has been sown to grow and produce fruit. Finally, please pray Ephesians 6:19 for me, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." (NIV)



*Jamie sharing the gospel with people at an airstrip*

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

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As BANNER editor and President of Hauge Foreign Mission my brother Joel Unverzagt and I along with our spouses Hope and Gina Unverzagt had the privilege of attending the General Assembly of Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Randeberg, Norway, from July 7-12. The conference is

held once every three years and this year was attended by almost 5,000 members of NLM. This year's theme was "The Hope of the World."

A couple of major decisions were made at the conference this year:

1 - To establish a NLM Church for those who in good conscience can not stay registered in the State church. Up to this point NLM has been a fellowship group only and as such baptisms and membership were only recognized in the State Church. This passed with the feeling that they would be a number of members who would choose this new option.

2- Suggestion to de-emphasize the China missions origins and work of NLM given that the work is not more prominent in other countries - this failed to pass.

We were asked our feeling on these subjects several times by the Norwegians as they were of great importance to them and we had to admit that our church membership is so different in the USA that it was hard for us to understand all the nuances of the decisions.

We had incredible fellowship with the NLM members and were even interviewed by Utysn NLM's news magazine on the similar convictions of NLM & HFM. - *The Editor* (More on that in the October issue of the BANNER. Pics from the General Assembly on next page)



**Øyvind Åsland-  
General Secretary of  
NLM**



**Top L:** Imed Dabbour of Sat7 TV in Lebanon

**Top R:** We find Gunnar & Åshild Oseng long time HFM friends

**Middle:** The International guests of NLM

**Bottom L:** Joel & Jonathan U. of HFM with the Executive board and several Secretaries of NLM

## Receipts

<b>April 2015</b>	<b>May 2015</b>	<b>June 2015</b>
NLM - D. Olson      300.00	G.Fund                    150.00	General Fund            420.00
	NLM                        300.00	Hungary                    270.00
	NLM - D. Olson        100.00	NLM                        457.00
		NLM-D. Olson            100.00
		Retreat Scholarship    20.00
<b>April '15 Total      300.00</b>	<b>Feb. '15 Total        550.00</b>	<b>March '15 Total     1,267.00</b>

### **Totals for Fiscal year 2015(beginning Oct. 1, 2014)**

Mission Gifts	April, May, June	Total Fiscal Year 2015
General Fund	570.00	5,577.50
Retreat Scholarships	20.00	90.00
EKE- Hungary	270.00	1,845.40
NLM	1,257.00	8,652.00
	<b>2,117.00</b>	<b>16,164.90</b>

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BANNER

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