



Our Hauge Foreign Mission family retreat (Aug.31-Sept. 3) mission speaker Pastor Marton Kulcsar (on left) is with EKE in Hungary. Marton and his wife Janka, have a 1 year old son named Zsombor. His Sister Agi (on right) will be his translator.

Meet Our Mission Speaker & Translator

Pastor Marton's Testimony:

I'm Marton Kulcsar. I'm the new lutheran pastor in Lucfalva. After my friend Peter Malik went to the church in Nyírtelek, our bishop sent me to Lucfalva. This was last August. I started the ministry at 1st of september. My wife Janka (she is a vet), and I have a son named Zsombor. He is 1 and half year old. I accepted Jesus as my savior in 2005. I'm very-very thankful for His grace, in saving me :)

Agnes (Agi's) Testimony:

The first time I heard about the Bible and God was from my grandfather when I was around 5. He taught me how to pray and shared a few stories from the Bible. He told me to believe in God even though Christianity was forbidden that time in Eastern Europe. I was 10 when the communist regime ended and the country became free again to worship.

(continued on page 2)

My parents then took me to church to attend Sunday schools and I started to gain more knowledge of the Lord. Growing up in a good conservative family and believing in God, I thought that I was a good Christian. I stopped attending church eventually but I believed my life was ok and I am on the right track.

Then when I was 21, my best friend started to talk about Jesus to me all the time. She said she accepted him and her sins were forgiven. It took me some time to realize that the Christianity she talks about differs from mine. I had a distant God whom I was taught to believe in but she had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! She invited me to a youth weekend away where I found the real Jesus Christ for the first time and became a Christian. I joined the Filadelfia Lutheran Church in East Hungary and had the opportunity to serve in various areas the church was involved in. This meant children and youth work, outreach for socially underprivileged groups, working with individuals suffering from addictions and singing.

I moved to London in 2010 and have been attending All Souls Langham Place (a large international congregation) since. I met my husband, Victor there and we got married last November. I currently work as a research assistant for a clinical research company where my role is to help explore patient experiences in various conditions.

IT IS TIME TO REGISTER

Labor day Weekend Family Retreat, Friday August 31- Monday
September 3rd

This year theme is:

Imago Dei - Created in the Image of God



For more information or to register visit our webpage:

www.haugemissions.org

and click on the Family retreat tab.



Testimonies from EKE in Hungary

Pastor Éva Matisz (Széll) on a child camp in her congregation

The heavens are telling of the glory of God – “Astronomers’ Camp” for faith class students in Szákszend

An Astronomers’ Camp was held in Szákszend from June 18 to 22, for faith class students and for other children. The teaching material used in the camp was partly based on the program of CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship), but we also used our own material, and thanks to Péter Váraljai, there was also carving as craft.

As I mentioned, the camp was organized jointly with CEF. The Bible teaching, related to stars, was given by Mihály Csikós, on behalf of CEF. Orsolya Váraljai, Lutheran pastor in Sárszentlőrinc, led the afternoon teaching programs with stories taken from the life of the prophet Elisha, and helped with organizing games. Éva Anna Matisz led singing and music programs, as well as the talks on astronomy. Péter Váraljai designed a new playground item, a ropeway slide in the churchyard, and carved napkin holders with the children. János Matisz helped with technical work, especially building the ropeway, and Mrs Valkó made the lunches. Thanks to all who contributed to the camp in any way, and to all who prayed for it.

We are happy to write that we enjoyed the camp very much, the theme of astronomy was a hit for the children, and we left behind a very blessed camp. (What makes us sad is that it could have been useful for many others, too; and we are sorry for those who missed this event.) 17 children came to the camp, 8 of which were from Szákszend.

The astronomy programs were based on lectures given by a confessing Christian scientist and writer; we watched them in several parts. It was fantastic to discover how the scientific observations are related to the Bible.

There are about three thousand stars in the sky visible to the naked eye, and people used to think for a long time that there were no more indeed, until in the early 1600’s, Galileo Galilei observed the sky with a telescope, and he

marveled to see many more. He estimated their number to 30,000. Later, in 1862, the Germans counted 324,198 stars with their telescope.

The prophet Jeremiah, living in the 7th and 6th centuries BC, long before Galilei, in his book, verse 33:22, writes that “the host of heaven (the stars) cannot be counted.” We can imagine the indignation of contemporary scientists, who observed the sky every night, and were sure that only 3,000 stars existed – to them Jeremiah was not scientifically correct.

We also talked about the Andromeda Galaxy, the only one we can see from the northern hemisphere, consisting of one trillion stars. The Virgo Cluster consists of more than 2,000 standalone galaxies, so today hundreds of billions of galaxies are known, and the number of stars is estimated to be 1025. If a human were counting the stars for a hundred years, three stars every second, they would only reach one tenth of our own galaxy. A computer counting ten billion stars per second would count all stars in 30 million years.

Psalms 147:4 says that God gives names to all stars. If we wanted to write the names of the stars in books, we would need a shelf 2,100 light-years (250 times the distance of the Earth from the Sirius) long to hold them.

There are no two identical galaxies. Each one is of a different shape. There are no two identical stars, either. The brightest star is 4 million times brighter than the Sun. It is 6,400 light-years away; if it were closer, it would burn us. The biggest star is 21 times wider than our solar system (250 billion kilometers, 155 billion miles). The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:41, “star differs from star in glory.”

It was also good to speak of God’s promise to Daniel, saying that the righteous will shine brightly like stars. Jesus confirms this in Matt 13:43.

Psalms 19 says that the heavens are telling of the glory of God. It was fantastic to hear about the Cross of South, as well as of the salt in human tear drops, which forms crosses when crystallized. Not only the macro-cosmos, but the micro-cosmos speaks of the glory of God, too.

We had a telescope in the camp, thanks to my uncle. Unfortunately, the sky was quite cloudy, but it was interesting to watch the moon with the craters, and the Jupiter with four of its moons.

Besides biblical teaching and astronomy, we had plenty of time for games and for carving. We went for trips, and we had barbecues. All of these are precious opportunities now available; we encourage all to make use of them whenever possible. The Word of God tell us to make the most of our time, because the days are evil. (Eph 5:16)



Norwegian Lutheran Mission *The World for Christ*



Hauge Foreign Missions representatives at the 2018 NLM GF. From left to right: Kristina, Pastor Earl (HFM treasurer) and Joan Korhonen Hope and Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt (BANNER Editor)

Report from the 2018 General Assembly of Norwegian Lutheran Mission

Gathered under the theme of “Nearer” almost 5,000 NLM members and international guests gathered at a retreat center near Tonesberg Norway for the week long General Assembly.

We were blessed with morning bible studies on the book of Revelation from several bible teachers. As well as many mission speakers and led in worship each evening centered around the theme of coming “Nearer” to Jesus in our walk with Him.

American guests Nik and Ruth Ripken spoke on the persecuted church and challenged our thinking on how we pray for and react to the persecuted.

He reminded us of 3 truths:

1. Persecution is normal.
2. The number one cause of persecution is people turning to Jesus.
3. Obedient witness leads to persecution.

Therefore we need to pray for faithfulness for those in chains as this is how the Gospel spreads.

We had great fellowship with the other international guests from places like Japan, Hong kong, Finland, Bolivia Denmark, Faroe Islands etc.

It was also a great blessing to visit with many retired missionaries who had visited HFM over the years. Kjell Aardal, Kjell Jaren, Gunnar Osseng, Hjalmar Bo and many others.

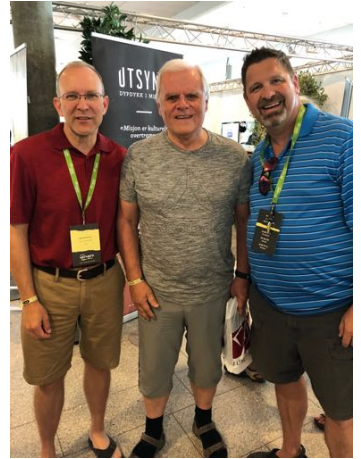
HFM also learned that American David Oslon will once again be going to Mongolia under NLM's work. The next issue of the Banner will feature an article from David on the new work he will be engaged in, in Mongolia.

Banner Editor - Jonathan Unverzagt



The international guests of NLM on an outing to a Viking Museum and later to a whaling museum as sightseeing gift from NLM.

Pictures from the 2018 General Assembly of Norwegian Lutheran Mission



Top: Hope Unverzagt, Ashild Osseng, Gunnar Osseng & Jonathan Unverzagt R: Earl Korhonen, Jan Sandvik, Jonathan Unverzagt



Top: Jonathan & Hope Unverzagt with Soren Sorenson Director of Danish Lutheran Mission and his wife

R: Commissioning the new missionaries

Below: At NLM you don't go for coffee it COMES to you!

L: Worship at the General Assembly



Halverson Happenings



July 2018 - God is amazing!

As I, Jamie, fly over the island of Papua New Guinea (PNG), I get to see some amazing parts of God's creation. Recently, as I flew over some of the country, I was thinking about all of the different valleys and how God made and knows the intricate detail of each of these valleys and the people who live in each of them. I know I was looking at only a little corner of this whole world, but it was just awe inspiring to think of how amazing our God is. He has made the amazing land features of PNG, the over 800 languages here in PNG, and He still loves me personally and even knows the number of hairs on my head. God is so awesome and amazing!

No more blood draws for liver tests!

In May, Ziah had his last blood tests to check his liver numbers, and he passed with flying colors. He was born with a serious liver condition called Bile Duct Paucity, and because of this we have been monitoring his health through regular blood tests. His liver numbers have now been well within the normal range for over a year, and his doctors said we don't need to do any more tests on his liver unless something comes up. Thank you all for praying for him. God answered your prayers and healed his liver! We feel very blessed to have a healthy 2 ½ year old Ziah.

Unexpected opportunity

Recently, I, Jamie had a flight where I flew a body in a coffin and some passengers to an airstrip where the New Testament has already been translated.

The weather was poor and although I could see the airstrip I could not land due to the clouds. I returned to our home airstrip, and by that time the weather had improved and after getting more fuel I tried again.

This time, I was able to land and unload, but by the time I was ready to take off, clouds had closed in the valley and it was not safe to take off. Hoping the weather might improve again, I waited by the airplane. A group of people of various ages stood underneath the wing of the airplane to get shelter from the mist that was falling. While I waited on the weather, I decided to talk with the people about death and what God says about it in the Bible. It was a great opportunity to share the gospel and also encourage people to use their New Testaments. I ended up spending a not very restful night in the village, but the opportunity it provided was well worth it.



Jamie & Lisa Halverson and Thad, Thea, Zeke, & Ziah

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THE GRACE OF GOD

By H J. Ness

Grace is unmerited favor, but it is much, much more. Grace is the love and power of God in action, for Acts 4:33 says, "And with great power gave the Apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Consider also 2 Cor. 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." Praise God!

Grace is God's enabling power to achieve, obey and do right. Titus 2:11 declares, "For the grace of God... hath appeared... teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." Grace teaches us to do what is right and good. It does not teach that we can live in disobedience and sin and get by with it by appropriating more grace. Sin separates from God, no matter who commits or practices it. Wilful sin is rebellion against God, and it brings tragedy, night and separation. The just law of God demands obedience, but it gives no power to obey. **The grace of God also demands obedience**, be sure of it, but, bless God, **His grace gives us power to obey and to live unto Christ**. Apart from grace, obedience is impossible.

God's grace gives us power to endure afflictions, persecutions and hardship. In 2

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er from the thorn in the flesh, but God answered "No," for, He says, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul then declares, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." The power of Christ and the Holy Spirit's grace enabled Paul to endure weakness, afflictions and persecutions; and as he did this so victoriously, he became strong. Infirmities, persecutions and distress cause us to feel our need of God and His grace. Because Christ is touched with our suffering and weakness, He admonishes us to "come boldly to the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebr. 4:16). So come in your weakness; come boldly, and Christ will give you grace for all He expects of you.

The weakness in which Christ's strength is perfected, what is it? It is our inability to solve problems and cope with situations we meet. The knowledge that in ourselves we are weak and little, unable to bear our burdens or choose wisely. In this condition we come to Christ, daring to trust Him to give grace to overcome, to bear, and to achieve. Thus we gain the strength and grace of Christ. In our weakness His strength is perfected. This weakness may also be the inability to pray when and as we desire; when it seems that heavens are brass, and we are butting a stone wall. If then we still pray, as Daniel did for three weeks, our strength is made perfect, and we can serve Christ and others more effectively. We are wrestling against principalities and powers that oppose both God and us. This is suffering with Christ. So, dear friends, let us press on, He gives more grace. Anna Johnson Flint says it this way:

"He giveth more grace when the burdens
grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors
increase;
To added affliction He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.
When we have exhausted our store of
endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day
is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded
resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.
His love has no limit, His grace has no
measure,
His power has no boundary known unto
men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth again."

He will make His grace sufficient for you and me, and we give Him glory. Bless God, the best is yet to be.

Receipts

April 2018

G. Fund 250.00
NLM 100.00
Retreat Sch. 100.00

May 2018

G.Fund 150.00
NLM 100.00
Retreat Sch. 150.00

June 2018

NLM 100.00

April Total

500.00

May Total

400.00

June Total

100.00

Totals for Fiscal year 2017 (Ending September 30, 2018)

Mission Gifts	Apr., May, June	Total Fiscal Year 2018
General Fund	400.00	2,206.54
NLM	300.00	1,050.00
Retreat Sch.	300.00	300.00
	1,000.00	3,556.54

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