

“Soli Deo Gloria” – Reformed Baptist Church Budapest, Hungary

Newsletter – December 2020

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27:13-14

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the end of this year is approaching, I want to share with you some good news about our ministry in Hungary. Like everywhere, the pandemic has definitely marked our life and ministry these days. Government restrictions at the beginning have forced us to go online with the worship-services. Having suspended all gatherings in April and May, we could not meet at all. But by the grace of God we could convene again as of the end of May. Since then our churches could meet continually until today. We were not forced into lockdown again having to suspend the meetings. We appreciate this very much as our congregation has experienced first a regretful setback in May during lockdown, when three members have informed us that they will leave the church for various reasons. It hurt the congregation much, not only because our numbers were thus reduced but also because it produced much pain and uncertainty in those who remained. During that time, being overly exhausted by the renovation of our new church building and with keeping the church together during the lockdown and catering for the different needs of our people and trying to keep up with the different ministries, has brought me to collapse when I was tormented by anxieties and worries which lasted for about two months.

But then, when the church's and my condition was at lowest, our gracious heavenly Father has visited our congregation in Budapest and overturned this grim situation by moving more and more people to visit the resumed services since late June. Since then we have welcomed many first-time visitors, several of them becoming regular visitors. At the end of August the number of those visiting the church has once again increased considerably. Since then our new church-building is completely filled on Sunday mornings (this is our time for the evangelistic service).

As of November the government has introduced again severe restrictions which are still in force limiting considerably any type of gathering, even familial ones. However they left it to the churches whether they continue to meet publicly or not. We – among few – have decided to go on with our regular services and the number of visitors did not decrease. Sometimes we even had to worry about how to accommodate all the visitors. It is a great joy to see how the Lord continues to build up His church despite so many difficulties. Since then we started preparations for membership with ten persons. We even had a baptism-service last week when two persons were baptized and three were accepted into the membership (see the attached photos). The membership-class continues for the rest of them preparing for another baptism-service in the new year. Seeing that most of the new visitors and enquirers are young adults who are eager to serve the Lord, makes us even more grateful to the Lord.

My health condition has improved considerably since July although I still feel more fatigue than usual. Sometimes the workload in the ministry takes a heavy toll of my energies. I try to find time for regular, however short breaks to get fresh energy. As new people join our fellowship I try to delegate many of the responsibilities and duties to them. Please continue to pray for the unfolding ministry in our church and for my personal preservation and perseverance. The believers cited at the beginning of this newsletter have been the Lord's special encouragement to me when I was at lowest. Since then they help me to look always to the Lord when I am going through difficulties or when I am in a low mood.

Thank you all for supporting us in your prayers and for your perseverance in the ministry of intercession. May the Lord shine upon all His faithful churches and bring a time of spiritual prosperity despite the ongoing difficulties with the pandemic.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Miki Chiciudean