

Szentírás Szövetség

Scripture Union Hungary

www.suhungary.com

Dear Friends,

It has been quite a while since we last sent out a newsletter. I could say that the reason why we did not write was that we were just too busy with things we should have written about – but this is not a good excuse! Anyway, on the following pages you will find some of the things we have been involved with lately and our plans for the months ahead: a busy season with camps that provide opportunities for children and teenagers to meet God in a personal way. This is our hope, prayer and highest ambition. Would you join us for this purpose in prayer and/or in person? (We still need a few more people for our teams – see below)

We are delighted to announce that we are ready to launch the Youth version of *Christianity Explored*. At the time of writing, the accompanying DVD is at a duplicating company –this really is the last phase in the process. It has taken much longer to produce it than we anticipated, what could go wrong did go wrong...But in the midst of these challenges we had to remind ourselves: when it comes to taking the Gospel to young people, you find yourself right in the middle of a spiritual battleground! Please, pray that this material would be used mightily by God for building His Kingdom in young lives in this country.

Your prayers, support and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

With love and blessings,

Erzsébet Komlósi

National director



Erzsébet Komlósi
SU Hungary
National Co-ordinator



Summer Holiday Programs

Another exciting summer is coming soon. The number of Bible camps we plan to run has grown from 16 to 20 and we are busy preparing the summer material. Considering volunteers **we are especially short of them for the second week of July (7-14)**. God always keep us praying for volunteers until the last minute.

If you are an English speaking Christian with a heart for the lost and with 1 or 2 weeks free in July then maybe you could be the answer to our prayers...

What is involved

- Singing songs.

- Teaching some basic English.

- Teaching the Bible.

- Playing games.

- Sharing your story.

- You would work alongside a team of local volunteers who translate and help to organise the activities.

We need English speaking Christians to help with children's summer clubs in Hungary in July!

- For more information Visit: www.suhungary.com
- Support a child – a campaign for kids (page 3)

Heroes - Summer Camp Material

This year we made the decision to make our own material for this summer – first time ever! We have already made the outline for the Bible teaching and for the drama. We are still gathering ideas for the craft, small-group questions and games. This theme presents plenty of opportunities to make a meaningful camp. Our prayer is that this material would be engaging for boys and girls alike and that we would find good links between the Bible heroes and the hero in the drama (who will have the ability to stop time).



Winter Camp Stories

This February we had our English Winter camp which is a great place for teenagers to catch up after the summer camps and gather around the Word of God. With the help of UK and Hungarian leaders we studied the life of Paul based on 2 Corinthians. Here are some testimonies..

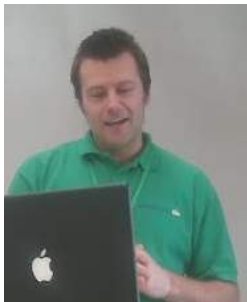
Monika Farkas - participant

In what ways are the English different?

They are more open. When they pray they resemble children. They express that in any circumstances you can rely on Jesus. I have problems with this most of the time. When I get scared my first thought is not usually that God should have a plan with this.

What would you say to invite a friend to the camps?

Your relationship with Jesus could deepen. You can understand more about Him. The atmosphere of the camp is open and joyful. I made many friends!



Julian Baalbergen – English leader

Were are you coming from?

Originally I came from Sydney/Australia, but I have been living in Sheffield/England for 5 years.

What is the difference between the camps here and in the UK?

Naturally the language. :) Beside that the camps here attract many young people who otherwise wouldn't come to a Bible camp.

What is your favourite part in the camp?

The best is that you can meet with young people and get to know them. Once a relationship is built the discussion can turn to more serious topics – like their relationship with God. I can help them to know Him better.

Will you return?

Yes, I like to be here. As I see there is still a great need here to proclaim and clearly explain the Gospel. That the kids would move from church traditions and from to-do lists to a deep and real relationship with God.

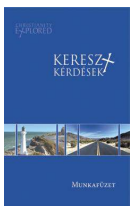
Bible and English Clubs.

We currently have weekly clubs in one secular school and one Christian school and a monthly club at a Church in Balatonöszöd. There we recently taught from Mark 2 where some friends bring a crippled man to Jesus, lowering him through the roof because the house is too crowded. Jesus heals the crippled man and forgives his sins. We made a 'house' out of cardboard and re-enacted the passage with the kids. This worked well because all the kids could be involved. The discussion about the teaching afterwards also went well.



At the secular school we have had some issues with one boy who often crawls under a desk to hide. While at the Christian school we have had some issues with a boy who is extremely disruptive. Pray that these kids may know that we care about them and that they may come to know Jesus.

Christianity Explored - Kereszt-Kérdések



Three years ago we translated the material for this course to Hungarian. The course is designed to enable seekers to discover the Bible in a relaxed environment. More than 80 churches are now running Christianity Explored. Here is a summary from one of the courses: the Reformed Church in Szarvas.

Architect, teacher, clerk, farmer, musician, housewife, couples and singles, young and old, church members and outsiders - altogether 30 people. That many came for the first Christianity Explored course in our Church. So many different people from many different backgrounds! What/Who called them to come? What questions do they have unanswered? I think we are not so different after all as we all have important questions in our lives and for some of the most important we could get an answer there: Who is Jesus? Why did He come? What does it mean to follow Him?



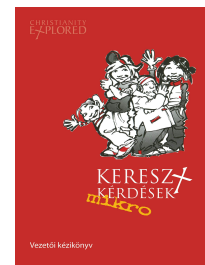
We gathered week by week. When someone missed an evening he/she made up for it. As we listened to the talk we started to have deeper and deeper conversations afterwards. It was amazing to see the work of the Holy Spirit in one of our group members. This man hasn't been to any church and he has never owned a Bible, but now he sees in his life clearly why Jesus came! We prayed for him that he may make the right decision.

Looking back on the talks and discussions none of us can say that he/she doesn't know who Jesus is and why He came. We also know now what it means to follow him. The *message of the cross* really became the *power of God* for many of us. We wish that others could experience this as well.

Mrs. Melis – Church member

Christianity Explored Youth Edition

The CE Youth version goes through the gospel of Mark showing the fundamentals of the Christian faith: Who is Jesus? Why did He come? What does it mean to follow Him? We recently issued this great material. Originally we did not want to add to it the DVD (Soul), but something happened that changed our mind. One of our old volunteers, **Neil Potts** tried the course out in an English Bible camp for teenagers last summer with great success. Here is his testimony:



It has been some years now since I served with Scripture Union Hungary in Budapest. But my links with Hungary still continue. Not only am I now married to a beautiful Hungarian woman but I also have the privilege of organising and running an English language Bible outreach camp for teenagers each summer called 'Awesome Camp'.

Organising a Christian teenager camp in any country brings with it a high reasonability to do things right. For working with young people who are at that crucial turning point in their lives, no longer a child but not yet adult. Their likes and dislikes, habits, tastes, beliefs are shaped in this period that will stay with them for their entire life. I have read that the 'Barna Group' did a study that showed that 64% of born again Christians accept Jesus Christ as their saviour before reaching their 18th birthday.

So it is vital that the choice of Bible teaching material be relevant for the teenagers. To point them to Jesus Christ as their Saviour, to inspire them to have personal relationship with the living God and most of all to show them that Christianity is not just a set of boring rules. So it wasn't a hard decision for the 2011 camp to choose the Christianity Explored CY course and its accompanying series of talks on DVD called 'SOUL' that was specifically written for teenagers.

The course proved to be perfect for the mix of churchled and non-churchled teenagers we had on camp. Working through Mark's gospel each session had a great choice of ice-breakers, games, activities and talk outlines that clearly pointed to the gospel message of Jesus. Each session was followed up with discussion groups. The provided questions proved to be completely relevant to the teenagers and allowed them to explore the themes of each session in a personal way. Without question the DVD talks proved to be invaluable at communicating Mark's gospel. We found that as soon as it came to the DVD talks all the teens would quickly become fully alert and move into a position where they could best see the video.

Christianity Explored Youth Edition

Throughout the week there was a sense of something deep happening. It wasn't a superficial emotional hype but a real sense that the teenagers were taking in the true foundational beliefs and building blocks of the Christian faith. There wasn't any altar call or anything of that sort, as we knew God was working deeper than that. Looking through the feedback forms that the teenagers had filled in, one comment kept coming up a number of times. It was this:

"I understood why Jesus said on the cross; my God my God why did you leave me?"

It was a real blessing to see over the course of the week the teenagers taking in gospel message; to witness their realisation of the importance of sin and why Jesus had to die on the cross.



Although the camp was packed full of fun games and activities, English lessons and far more, yet we felt that the success of the great mood of the camp was set by the Biblical truths that were clearly being taught through the CY material. The teenagers naturally had a hunger for answers on the big questions of life and these were being answered for them through the gospel of Mark. One camper wrote:

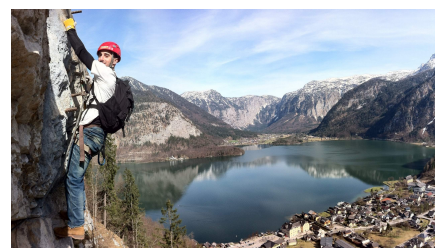
"My view on reality has been given a couple of slaps in the last couple of days."

All left the camp with a greater knowledge of Jesus Christ and a hunger to find out more. So in my opinion if you are looking for Bible material for teenagers that clearly points to Christ, you should look no further than the CY and Soul DVD material. It is invaluable as it does all the hard work for you.



Youth Outdoor Ministry Training in Austria

Great Mountains, snowy peaks, green fields, blue rivers and crystal clear air. This is *Bad Goisern* where 16 young people from 11 countries (and SU movements) gathered from 31 March to 6 April in order to be trained on this very special mission field: Outdoor Ministry. The program aimed to link Biblical truths and examples with the outdoor experiences such as rock-climbing, hiking, sledging... One of the trainers, Ashley Denton wrote a book about it: *Christian Outdoor Leadership*. We highly recommend it! SU Hungary was represented by 2 volunteers in the event. Our hope is that they will put in use what they have learned here.



Support a Child – fund-raising for kids

who can't afford the summer programs.

Every year we have a number of kids who would like to come to our summer holiday programs, but can't afford to pay. It costs approximately 40 GBP for one child to participate on a 5 day long summer holiday program.



If you would like to make a donation towards this then do get in touch with us. We can also put you in contact with the family of the child who you help.



If you would like to support us please get in touch

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Give thanks for...

- The winter camp and for the way God has been working in the lives of the teenagers.
- For the completion of the Christianity Explored Youth edition.
- For all the volunteers who already signed up for the summer.

Pray...

- That God may provide the summer volunteers we need to run the camps.
- That God may open the hearts of children to the gospel this summer.
- That many parents would send their children to the summer holiday programs.