

Trip Report – Hungary October 18-23, 2023

Earlier this year, I received an invitation from a pastor in Hungary asking if I could come and be the speaker for a weekend meeting where families from 6-8 European countries gather to worship, hear God's Word ministered, and enjoy a weekend of Christian fellowship. This pastor, Bro Aaron Kertesz, was someone that I first met 5-6 years ago when he came to a youth meeting in Czech Republic. Then a teenager, he met Sis Lydia Zalisz (one of the host pastor's granddaughters) and they later married and settled in the village of Tortel, Hungary and he began ministering and then pastoring The House of Prayer church. This would be my first time to visit the country of Hungary and see his family and their recently purchased church building (which also serves as a temporary home for them).

I left on Wednesday evening and flew into Germany then caught a flight into Budapest, Hungary on Thursday afternoon. Bro Aaron picked me up and drove me to his home where his wife had a nice meal prepared. Later, I went to his parent's home (Bro Peter and Sis Zsuzsanna) and they served me a nice supper. There I saw his younger brother Matthew who is a very talented young man. He plays the keyboard and guitar very well and he's a gifted singer and worship leader in addition to having various artistic hobbies and interests (he's also engaged to be married!) We enjoyed some fellowship and singing and afterwards I went to their guest bedroom and enjoyed a good night's rest. On Friday morning, I awoke to the news that there were issues with the van that Bro Aaron's brother had made available to transport the sound equipment, pulpit, our luggage and the items needed to convert a meeting room into a sanctuary. Undaunted by the challenge, Bro Aaron worked to secure a rental van or box truck that had a cab large enough to accommodate us and had ample room for all of our luggage and equipment. Hours later, we were on our way to the Park Hotel Taltos in Felsotarkany, Hungary where the meetings would be held. Upon arrival, everything was unloaded and situated to prepare for the first of 4 services. An estimated 100-125 believers attended the services despite the fact that many had recently been dealing with an outbreak of cold and flu symptoms. I was warmly welcomed and immediately felt at home amongst their vibrant worship. Bro Aaron Kertesz and Bro Gyorgy (George) Janosi who is also a pastor took turns translating what I preached into the Hungarian language. In the first services Friday night and Saturday morning, I taught or preached on subjects like Returning Home, Guarding the Gates and A Higher Purpose. Saturday night I felt to bring a message titled "The Prevailing Revelation" which shows how the prophet Daniel prayed until a 21-day battle broke and the angel brought a revelation so powerful to him that it showed the events that would transpire from then until the end of time and the resumption of Eternity. I likened it to John being exiled to Patmos and in Revelation 5 saw the Lion of the Tribe of Judah prevail on his behalf and reveal to him that his name was on the Lamb's Book of Life and what John had witnessed at Calvary had resulted in his complete redemption which would one day resurrect and Rapture him! It was a glorious service where believers came forward for prayer for various needs including healing, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or a refilling of God's Power! Sunday morning's final service saw many rededicate their lives to God and make refreshed commitment to live for Him, read His Word and seek His will daily and draw ever closer to Him!

After the final service on Sunday morning, we gathered for some group photos after we ate a nice lunch and then I was taken by Bro Janos (John) Demeny and his wife, Sis Camilla from the mountains to their home in Vachartyan for supper and fellowship with their family. Along the way we stopped at a site that was once a castle or fort with some fascinating ruins or remains as well as some beautiful views of the Hungarian landscapes at sunset. Then, after supper, they took me into the capital city of Budapest where I captured a beautiful picture of their Parliament building as well as saw various bridges and landmark buildings which were fascinating at night and I can only imagine how beautiful they are in daylight! I stayed Sunday night in an airport hotel which the pastor graciously provided and after a good night's rest, made the trip home arriving late Monday evening.

I am always impressed by the zeal of the Bride of Christ in the European countries to spread their faith among their communities and to work together to strengthen each other and to evangelize the Gospel to the lost and unreached. I learned that the young people from The House of Prayer print tracts and go out into the streets and their communities to spread the good news of the Gospel and invite others to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and come hear the Revealed Word of the Hour! The revival fires are growing in Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Poland, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Germany, the war-torn country of Ukraine and so many other countries where the Message continues to abound as it goes forth like a Jubilee Trumpet calling for a return to the homeland!

I have been immensely blessed to have first visited Romania in 2007, then the countries of Czech Republic and Poland in 2008 and afterwards have made numerous trips meeting believers from those as well as other surrounding countries. During this visit, I received invitations to return to Hungary as well as other invitations into Romania and Poland and if God permits, I plan to accept those invitations and return if God is willing and time permits. I would be remiss not to mention that in Hungary, the Message of the Hour is still somewhat new and there's a lot of opportunity to teach it and evangelize it to people who haven't ever heard it or are hungry to hear more! It's always revitalizing to see the zeal and hunger of people whose lives have been transformed by what God is doing in our generation. When they see the God of the Bible speaking His Word into their lives and proving he is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" it has an effect that is indescribable, irreversible and will start fires that can never be extinguished! Please pray for the believers in these countries and may God continue to anoint His ministering servants to take His Word in power and demonstration to every corner of the world until the last soul has accepted salvation and been readied for His soon return!

I want to say that I appreciate Apostolic Tabernacle, their desire to support the spread of the Gospel to other areas of the world and all of the people who prayed for me, gave gifts and made it possible for me to go while assuring that my wife and daughter would be cared for in my absence. Their commitment to send ministers to other parts of the world is an investment with Eternal dividends! Special thanks to my pastor, Bro Josh Bennett and his family as well as each believer who worked to make this trip possible. It has changed lives and will continue until one day God will turn the pages of time back and show us what every effort that was put forth for His Kingdom resulted in. Until then, let's keep fighting the good fight of Faith and lay hold on Eternal Life!

Your brother in Christ,

Timothy Cross