

Newsletter 2020 November

Dear Friends,

I am new to the PMI family, but very grateful that there are brothers and sisters joined with their prayers in the kingdom ministry we have on this side of the world.

I had quite a busy year, despite the COVID-19. As in many other countries, we needed to close the church building for Sundays this spring, which gave us the opportunity to record and put the sermons on YouTube. We regarded it as an opportunity for those who are afraid to come into church, that through the internet they had a chance to “try out” church. This challenged us to be much more aware of non-Christian listeners, which is exactly what I am studying in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) course of Covenant Seminary.

I spent the lockdown with a family since my apartment was under renovation. This was a gift from God for all of us. Then after 4 months, in June, I moved back. I am now enjoying the beauty and the well-functioning flat very much, although I still need to purchase some furniture like dining table and chairs.

We were able to have our summer camps for youths, families, and children. God visited us and many gave feedback that God used our time together to strengthen them in faith. As a church, we started a very important prayer ministry for those who come to the pastors for counseling. We asked two ladies who gained eternal life and freedom through this ministry to give testimony in our camps. Their personal stories helped all of us to see God’s immeasurable grace and might, and awakened the desire to be similarly free and joyful in several people’s hearts.

In addition to the church ministry responsibilities, I accepted editing and lecturing requests this year. I finished the ESV Study Bible editorial work in March which we hope to be published next year. I counted it as a blessing to be part of this work, as much as to work on the present initiative, the first Hungarian publishing of Spurgeon’s *Morning and Evening* devotionals.

We managed to have the Langham conference before the lockdown in March, which is a preaching conference usually with about 60 pastors from different denominations, from Hungary and Transylvania. I helped with translation, since the lecturer was British, and I gave a talk on the Bible’s overarching story. The worldwide ministry of Langham also has a special ministry called Langham Women. They have planned to publish a book connected to the virus situation, to which I was asked to contribute. I turned in a sermon and a story about a COVID wedding. I had thought I only had one such event, but it turned out that two other couples wanted their wedding during the lockdown. These weddings were very challenging for me because many non-Christians were present. (Weddings and funerals are the occasions where many non-Christians are present in my country.) On one hand, I tried to be faithful to God’s word, and on the other hand, I worked hard to be winsome and meaningful for non-churched people, too. The Lord was present and blessed these weddings more than I imagined.

This year I could not travel to the States to be present at the DMin courses in June and September, but we still managed to have online meetings with the cohort. After the June course in which we discussed cross-cultural ministry, I met with a friend and shared bits and pieces from the course. She lectures at one of the four Reformed seminaries in Hungary and invited me to give a lecture on the topic of prejudice connected to Hungarian Gypsy ministry. The same week I also lectured at the other seminary where I had final year students to teach about Biblical understanding and preaching. These were unique, rare, and huge opportunities – may the Lord be blessed for them.

I have further partnered with the Acorn Camps, a small British missional organization. They started a new ministry last year, training youth leaders. I teach Biblical tools for better

understanding the Bible once a month for them. I am very grateful that I can be part of this initiative. Although there are some conferences relevant to youth workers, there are very few training opportunities for them, and none that focuses specifically on teaching the Bible.

#### **HOW YOU CAN PRAY**

Thank God for...

- The beauty of the renovated flat.
- The providence of being with that family who hosted me during the lockdown.
- The changed lives in church.
- The special teaching opportunities at weddings, at seminaries, at the Langham conference, and at the Acorn CORE training.
- The finished editorial work of the ESV Study Bible.

Please, pray for

- My studies: to find a good pace and time for readings; to find the way somehow to get the needed books to Hungary; to be prepared for our next course in January, and to find a dissertation topic that can further God's kingdom in Hungary.
- Safe travel in January 2021, when we hope to meet in person in St. Louis.
- Strength to do the editorial work of the Spurgeon devotionals.
- My preaching and teachings. I wish to be faithful, meaningful, and clear whenever I have the opportunity to talk, even for those who are outsiders.

So good to know that you are praying. Thank you!

Blessings to all of you from Hungary,

Bori