



MISKOLC PRAYER LETTER AUGUST 2024

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Dear Brothers and praying Friends,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

Another year has passed since my last prayer letter and what a year it was!!! As I look back, it amazes me to see the Lord working in so many ways. He is indeed building His church (Mt 16:18) and along with that, He is nourishing and sanctifying us individually as well. It is such a privilege to be a part – both passively and actively – in this remarkable project initiated by the members of the Trinity before the foundation of the world. Now the time has come when I have to give you an update on what has happened in our Miskolc congregation and the other various activities I have been involved.

Last October we were able to organize in Miskolc the **first ever conference for deacons** and on diacony in the Hungarian lands. David Nakhla from the OPC was our speaker. This was followed by our yearly **Reformation Day conference**. During the month of April I had – with several other pastors – the opportunity of meeting leaders from **Ligonier Ministries** (Burk Parsons, J. D. Bridges) exploring possible ways of cooperation in publications and in organizing joint conferences. Just one week later, I attended the **Reformed Colloquium** in Budapest featuring Ian Hamilton, Jon D. Payne, Andrea Ferrari and several other brothers from Europe (see more on this in the Banner of Truth Magazine, July 2024 issue). While there, I was interviewed by Camden Bucey for the **Reformed Forum**.



Reformed Colloquium in Budapest

The main event of May was our **7th General Assembly** held here in Miskolc. We had visiting delegates from abroad; brothers from the OPC, EPCEW, GKSA and ERC (Ukraine). In late June, I represented our denomination as a delegate at the **90th General Assembly of the OPC** in Seattle.



7th General Assembly in Miskolc

In July we had our **Youth Camp** and regular **English Camp** in Miskolc. This time we invited a group of young people from the USA to teach the campers. It was a “pilot-project”, since we have never done this before. At least four persons (out of ten) had Hungarian ancestors, though they were not speaking the Hungarian language at all. It was a blessed week; with true fellowship in the Lord. In August we had a **camp for the Gypsy children**, then John van Eyk (URCNA) preached for us.



English Camp

These were just a few highlights, not at all an exhaustive review. One Bible verse comes to my mind as I look back:

„You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.” (Ps 40:5)

On the local church level, things were also in a high gear. Apart from the regular worship services, activities and meetings, we continued the *work among the Gypsy children*. Beside this, we advertised a *series of lectures for the general public*. I spoke on topics like: “What about Atheism?”, “Why should you trust the Bible?”, “Faith and Science: Friends or Foes?”, “How many roads lead to God?”, “Who is Jesus and so what?”, “Who am I and how can I be satisfied and happy?” The aim was to reach out to the un-churched. Several new people showed up. At the moment I am also teaching our *membership course* to five new applicants. So the church is growing; in fact I realized this recently as I had to buy more chairs for the worship hall. Last, but not the least, we continued our *ministry among those affected by the war in Ukraine*. We are still helping on both sides of the border. I have been in Ukraine myself three times, preaching, visiting, encouraging brothers and distributing aids in various locations. Right now, we are still trying to organize an evangelistic meeting for those ethnic Ukrainians who are refugees in Miskolc.

Regarding the family: my wife, Krisztina turned 50 last December, so I was able – with the help of several Christian brothers – to surprise her with a memorable trip. We were so thankful that this worked out well. Áron, my oldest son, finished his MBA degree and went to Poland to be trained at a Christian Dutch company, with the hope of returning to Hungary as their sales representative. Balázs, hopefully will graduate with a Masters Degree in Engineering in January. He is also courting Tekla. Zsófia is starting her third year at the University in Miskolc. She hopes to become a certified nurse. It seems that slowly but surely, we have to prepare for that stage in our lives when we will become empty nesters. 😊

You may also remember Thomas – I was his guardian for nearly two years. He stays in touch with us, from time to time he even shows up at our worship services. We are still helping him with guidance and financially, whenever we consider it necessary.



Just the two of us

Finally, here are some prayer items and other needs:



Please intercede for my father. He is 89 years old and getting very weak. He was exposed many times to the gospel, but as far as we can discern, he is not a Christian. Pray for my preaching and counseling; for a wise stewardship of my time; and for refreshing quite times with the Lord. I also have to look into one medical issue: due to my snoring I might have developed sleep apnea. Pray for a clear diagnosis, if any. Pray also for Krisztina, as she is helping me in many capacities and for our children and their solid walk with the Lord.



The issue of homeschooling (HS) is still on my heart. As you know, after 30 years of freedom, our government banned this form of education a few years ago. I am still thinking on ways to promote HS and on finding means to change the law. Last October I attended an important conference in Zagreb (Croatia) for consultation with other European state leaders. So pray for new ideas and for an opening on this front.



Pray for our ministry among Gypsy children. We are working regularly with 18-20 children twice a month. They get food while here and we are helping them in other ways as well. Our church has limited financial resources, so if you consider partnering with us in this, please let me know.



Pray for our ongoing ministries related to the war in Ukraine. It is so unpredictable what is coming and how we should respond adequately to the new challenges. Right now they started having blackouts again and only the Lord knows what the winter will bring. Please contact me, if you have a burden in contributing to these needs.



Pray for my safety as I drive. I still travel a lot by car in Hungary, Ukraine and Romania and we have our own crazy drivers too.

*May the Lord bless all of you,
Imre*