



# MISKOLC PRAYER LETTER

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

AUGUST 2025

*Dear Brothers and praying Friends,*

*Thomas Brooks once said: "There is nothing which puts a more serious frame into a man's spirit then to know the worth of his time." Indeed, time is precious, yet it passes by quickly. Theologians are debating what God's relation to time is, but one thing is sure: we – as creatures – are in its grip. Knowing this, I am so thankful for the year which is behind me. The Lord filled it with meaningful meetings and events, and as I look back, I feel that little of it was wasted. Moreover, the Lord was gracious to us in many ways as you will discover this in the coming paragraphs.*

1 A survey of what has happened since last August; a few noteworthy events. In *September* I had a nice time with Falko Drijfhout (EPCEW) who visited us with his wife. Then I preached at the **Women's Conference** held nearby. In *October* I attended a Presbytery meeting in Transylvania. Early *November* we had our **Reformation Conference** in Miskolc. Then I was able to move my father into a new apartment (this meant selling his old house). It was amazing to see how smoothly these legal transactions went. Undoubtedly, the Lord's hand was behind these. In *December* we held our **first evangelistic service** for Ukrainian refugees with 80 people participating.



Ukrainian refugees after evangelistic service

In *January* I had a trip to Ukraine, visiting churches and preaching. In *February* I had some medical tests which thankfully turned out well. In *March* we organized our **second evangelistic service** for Ukrainian refugees. Following this, my soul was uplifted as I attended the second **Reformed Colloquium** in Budapest featuring Ian Hamilton, Joseph Pipa and Jon Payne. In *April* the main event was the **Easter Conference**, our guest speaker being Joel Richards (PCA). In early *May* we gathered for the **General Assembly** in Szovata (Romania); after this unexpectedly I needed gallbladder surgery. The Lord was gracious by providing funds to cover the

medical costs, and also by giving me a full recovery in less than three weeks. In *June* I had a memorable visit to New Zealand. I was invited to speak in several Reformed churches (RCNZ). I preached and gave an introduction into the secular and church history of Hungary. Furthermore, I spoke on our ministry related to Ukrainian refugees. This was a precious time of refreshment and experiencing Reformed Catholicity. Returning home, I had a blessed fellowship with pastor Greg Bylsma (URCNA) and his wife; then I served at our **Youth Camp**. The main thing in *July* was the wedding of my son Balázs held in Transylvania. He married Tekla, the daughter of a pastor colleague. This was a joyful event.



A family photo from the wedding

After this we rushed back to Miskolc to have our **English camp**. Again, a youth group from various OPC churches came over to help. Then the **Gypsy children** had their special camp. In *August* I attended the **Pastors' Conference** in Szovata, our lecturer being C. N. Willborne from *Greenville Seminary*. Returning to Miskolc we had a **Church Retreat** in a nearby resort, where I lectured on personal evangelism.



Pastors' Conference in Szovata

**2** I am writing this annual prayer letter from the shadow of three wars. One is further away from us, the other two are closer. Can you guess what I mean? The distant war is the one raging in the

Middle East, the closer one is in Ukraine, and the closest one is spiritual in its nature, yet very real and demanding. Therefore allow me to write the second part of my letter through “war-lenses” and using military terminology.

Let's start with the war in Ukraine. Since last summer I've been there twice. I preached and tried to encourage the brothers. We also reached out to the ethnic Ukrainians living in Miskolc. In fact we organized this past Saturday (Aug. 30) our **third evangelistic service** with a pastor from Ukraine being their preacher. We had over 70 in attendance and after the message we distributed food packages. So word and deed (Col 3:17) went together and that is encouraging. On the other hand, war is so grim. As I write, one lined popped up in my mind from the movie *Pappilon*. A prisoner was executed with this remark: “Keeping you is no benefit, destroying you is no loss”. The mindset of the war is very similar. What a statement on the cheapness of human life! And what a contrast when we think of Jesus' view: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (Jn 10:10-11)

Regarding our church in Miskolc, here is my *front-line* report. We experienced *spiritual battles*, but many things happened for which we are thankful. Our troops followed the marching orders (Mt 28:18-20) and *hostages were rescued* from the enemy, meaning that new members joined our church, mostly young people! It is humbling to see that the Gospel is still compelling even after thousands of years. There is no need for jettisoning our beliefs. We can proclaim boldly the unvarnished truths of God's Word. The *preparation for these battles* were done during the worship services, Bible studies,

prayer meetings, conferences and home fellowships (we just started a third home-fellowship in a new location) for which we are so grateful. No *senior officers* were lost during last year. We shouldn't take this for granted since often prominent Christian leaders are disqualified from ministry. We are so fragile. The enemy is singling out leaders (1Kings 22:32), so we have to pray for our elders. No *casualties*

either, that is, we did not have disciplinary cases. We had to be aware of *friendly fire* as well. Satan is a master of creating opposition and diversion within the church. Thankfully, we were able to maintain the *unity* and the *morale* of our church. It is easy to give in to discouragements and become battle-weary, but our Lord was faithful.

*Here are some prayer points for your consideration:*

**3 FAMILY** Keep praying for my father who will turn 90 years old in October. He is still without a living hope. Pray for the newlyweds. Pray for my wife Krisztina as she is starting her teaching at the school. Pray for Áron and Zsófia's consistent walk with the Lord, also for Thomas (I was his guardian) who showed up again. Pray for me as I cut back some activities in order to optimize my schedule. Pray for the Spirit's work in our lives.

**CHURCH** Pray for growth both in sanctification and in numbers; pray for our ministry among Gypsies. We are also thinking about launching one or two new pilot projects: a street mission and possibly a ministry toward homeless people. Pray for wisdom and a good timing.

**HOMESCHOOLING** I had several meetings, but no breakthrough. Hungary is facing elections next year and the battle for the power is so intense that no one is paying attention to such ‘irrelevant issue’ as freedom of education. So keep praying.

**UKRAINE** Pray for the end of the war and for my ongoing ministry. Even with recent talks between the two presidents in Alaska, peace still remains somewhat elusive.

**NEEDS** I do have some smaller personal, medical and ministry related needs. If you would like to contribute, please contact me for details. But above all, pray for God's provision.

*The commander of the army of the Lord (Jos 5:14) be with you,*

*Imre*