



MISKOLC PRAYER LETTER AUGUST 2023

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Dear Brothers and praying Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, who is “mighty to save” (Is 63:1) and in order to do this, He did not hesitate to send Jesus into this world with a clear mission. I like very much how David Livingstone puts it: “God had only one Son, and He was a missionary.” As a result of His accomplished mission on the cross, we are reconciled and justified with our God. Now He is our Father, who liberated us to serve Him till the end of this age. As His adopted children we are joining this mission with other Christians gathered in local churches, which are heavenly colonies on this earth.

Here is a brief summary on what has happened in one of these colonies located in Miskolc. I intend to look back on what is behind us, but also give you some hints about what is ahead of us. We are sharing these partly because we want you to rejoice with us in the advancement of God’s kingdom, and partly because we covet your prayers and – if the Lord moves and guides you – support in these ministries.

As for the past year, we have a hectic period behind us with many challenges, but all these just proved again the sufficiency of our Lord in everything. After all, He is the Lord of all graces, and all blessings flow from Him.



The **war in Ukraine** impacted us in many ways and we had to respond adequately. Most of you are aware about our manifold involvement in this. I shared with you twelve prayer letters and supervised our aid-efforts for the last 18 months. We had several families to whom we offered shelter even this summer, but the influx of refugees decreased. We also helped a lot in Ukraine, as life there is becoming increasingly difficult and stressful, with the collapse of their economy, the mandatory enrollments, etc. Unfortunately, no one has seen the light at the end of the tunnel yet. However, the Lord enabled us to minister to these people.



Meanwhile, **our church** experienced significant growth both in attendance and membership. This added to my work, since I am involved in the discipleship course designed for new applicants. I am trying to meet with each individual and go over the basics of our faith. As for my expository preaching, I am doing a series on the gospel of Luke.

During the past year we were able to continue our regular church programs as well, among other things

the various conferences and camps in Miskolc. So we had our Easter conference, then a theological conference in May featuring Dr. Richard Phillips on the Doctrines of Grace. During the summer we organized our regular English camp (this is an outreach effort by offering a free English course to those interested using the text of the Bible). Dr. Paul Archbald from New Zealand helped us with teaching the Advanced group. In August we just had a church retreat in a camp facility in the woods. The main topic of the retreat was the sanctification of the believer.



Dr. Richard Phillips with pastors in Miskolc



Then there was the ongoing **ministry among Gypsy people** – which has two facets. Partly we work regularly with some children in Miskolc, partly with adults and families in a village nearby, called Sóstófalva. Both ministries have expanding possibilities. As you probably know, any work with Gypsies is very complex and produces results only on long term. One of our ruling elders is in charge of this program.



Ministry among Gypsy children



On a **personal note**, as some of you are aware, last year I took responsibility for an orphan by becoming his guardian. Thomas stayed with us until he turned 18 a few weeks ago. I invested a lot of time in dealing with him – and without going into details – I had not one boring day while he was here. 😊 I pray and hope that the Lord will use this time in his life.



Imre's family with Thomas (left)

In April one of my dreams became true, since I was able to attend for the first time the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology (its 50th edition) dedicated to the Solas of the Reformation. I found each message very edifying and enjoyed the fellowship with like-minded brethren. I also visited a few churches and friends while in US.

As for the remaining part of this year, we have scheduled a conference on mercy ministries and deacons. This will be the first conference ever for deacons in Hungary, since even 500 years after the Reformation the office of deacon is still in-existent in the historic Reformed church. We are the first Reformed denomination which started ordaining deacons as officers. Shortly after this we will have our Reformation day conference.

As I close, I would like to mention some prayer items and financial needs:

- 1) One frustrating segment of my ministry is related to homeschooling. At the moment – due to restrictive regulations – homeschooling is technically banned in Hungary. This is a painful issue, since our right wing government changed the legislation. So I am looking for ways to change the course. Please pray for this.
- 2) We hope to continue and expand our ministry among Gypsies. This has a financial side too, since these people have no resources. Our local church has also limitations in funding these efforts. Beside preaching the gospel, we are trying to provide some diaconical help where needed.
- 3) Please pray for me and for Krisztina to find enough time for spiritual refreshment and rest. Last year we just had our 25th marriage anniversary. As first generation missionaries and church planters, these years were heavy on us. Pray also for our children Aron (24), Balázs (22) and Zsófia (20) and for their walk with the Lord.
- 4) With the winter approaching I am trying to build up a small fund for Ukraine. We will continue to subsidize people affected by this war one way or the other both sides of the border. Please consider this prayerfully and contact me if you have questions regarding the financial information and ways to transfer donations.

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
(Rom 15:13)*

Blessings to you all,

Imre