

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

September 15th, 2019

The Hungarian Journal



(A picture of a sunset at the Betlehem Evangelikus Pihenőház in Bodrogkeresztúr, Hungary)

“Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find peace you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.”

- Jan Richardson, from paintedprayerbook.com

© Jan Richardson, from her book “The Cure for Sorrow”

The Journey Begins

Jó napot kívánok (good day in Hungarian) to you! I am so excited to update you on my journey since leaving Norfolk, Virginia in August. I spent a week with 61 other YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission), the ELCA's Global Mission team, and YAGM alumni in Chicago, Illinois. We all embarked on this call to be God's servants together. We prayed together, we worshipped together. We were open and vulnerable with each other, and we had some tough conversations together. We talked about interfaith relationships, cross cultural experiences, safety precautions, power and privilege and how that affects us in our lives in the United States, but especially as American missionaries.

On August 21st, the Central Europe cohort flew out of Chicago to Budapest, where we met up with Pastor Zachary Courter and Pastor Rachel Eskesen, our country coordinators. We spent a few days in Budapest before heading off to Bodrogkeresztúr, Hungary. We stayed there for two weeks, learning our respective languages and building community with each other. We explored the region, going and worshipping at two congregations in Görögszállás and Nyírtelek, Hungary. We then returned to Budapest on September 7th, and then had our sending service on the 10th. Zach, Adam, and Alexis traveled to their sites in Serbia while the rest of us traveled across Hungary to our sites.



(Pictured: The Central Europe Cohort in front of the Parliament Building in Budapest. From Back Left: Alexis, Zach, Nathan, Adam. From Front Right: Maren, Ali, Mary, Kendra)
Photo credit: Pastor Zach Courter

Working 9 to 5

I have two site placements that I will be at throughout my year here. My first and primary site is at the Igazgyöngy Alapítvány (The Real Pearl Foundation), an arts education center that serves the surrounding villages of Berettyóúfalu, Hungary (which is where the organization is located and where I'm living). The Real Pearl foundation's goals are to provide arts education to children in impoverished communities, community development and job creation, and to

participate in conversations with Roma communities to empower them. My coworkers are amazing and I couldn't be more thankful for a group of people who have already accepted me and made me a part of their community.

My second site placement is at the Lutheran church in Debrecen, 40km away from Berettyóújfalu. I will worship there on Sundays and work there one day a week, helping out in whatever way I can. Today was my first Sunday attending worship, and although I'm not entirely sure what's being said, I do know how a congregation sounds when they begin reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed. No matter what language I worship in, I know that the Holy Spirit is there in the congregation, and it's working through all of us in many ways.



(The Central Europe Cohort before worship in Görögszállás and Nyírtelek, Hungary)

Photo Credit: Pastor Rachel Eskesen

Hungarian Dictionary

I thought it would be nice to include a section of Hungarian words that I've learned so far. Here are some of the basics:

Szia! - Hello/goodbye - a more informal greeting

Igen/Nem - Yes/No

Köszönöm - Thank you

Kávé - Coffee

Thank you for supporting me on this journey. Even though I've just wrapped up my first week here, I can't wait for the rest of this year to see what it holds. I can't wait for more stories of faith, accompaniment, and God's love to share with you all.

Szia!

-Maren



(At the Budapest sign on Margaret Island in Budapest, Hungary. Photo credit: Mary Corkery)

Resources

This will be a section that I share any resources that I like and/or find to be helpful this year.

- *The Cure for Sorrow* by Jan Richardson
- 13th - Documentary
- A People Uncounted: The Untold Story of the Roma - Documentary
 - A Trailer for A People Uncounted: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjHYgSBpQQQ>
- Igazgyöngy Alapítvány (The Real Pearl Foundation) Website
 - <https://igazgyongyalapitvany.hu/en/home/>

Thank you to my sponsors this month!

Thank you to Betty Schomberg for supporting a day of my year in Hungary: August 25th.

If you would like to sponsor a specific day of my year, follow this link

(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10CkjAvxCL-81RwSCgNoGSsCeFkEpWzrMLqIMfoxlpQ8/edit?usp=sharing>) to go to my sponsorship calendar to see what days are still available, and follow the instructions there to donate. If you haven't donated yet and would like to, go to <http://support.elca.org/goto/yagmmaren> and click the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you!