

MISSION TRIP TO HUNGARY (GYOR)

JA-church, July 2023

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Several years ago, the JA church of Den Haag, together with the church of Norway, travelled to Budapest (Hungary) to bring the one God gospel of Jesus Christ to this beautiful country with such a rich European history. During that trip in 2017, several souls were baptized, and many heard the message about one God and baptism in Jesus Name. For the next couple of years, there were some challenges, and the work was on a lower level for a while. We did not think we would travel again to Hungary and see the church flourish. But then the Holland church started praying again for Hungary. At some point a young lady called Alexandra, whom we had met on an earlier mission trip, contacted me through email and started asking questions about baptism. It turned out she had been touched by the message of Bishop Paul Thomas and his personal testimony about meeting the Lord. All these years she had been holding on to the one God doctrine despite being alone. Her enduring faith unfortunately led to her and her family being isolated, and they suffered some level of persecution. However, through the years she held on to her belief in Jesus by the grace of God.

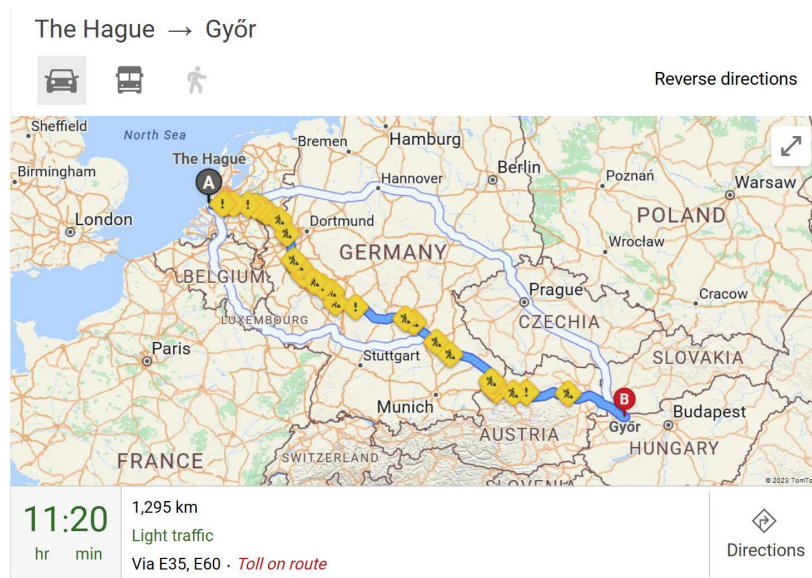
John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God

After communicating per email for some months, it was clear to me that Alexandra was serious about baptism in Jesus Name.

Heb 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

We decided to organize a trip to Hungary in July 2023, with the intention of baptizing this one soul, and making room for the preaching of the gospel. The dates were set to July 17th to 22nd.

Below you can see the route as we travelled some 1300 km through Germany, Austria, and Hungary. We arrived in Győr on the 18th of July in the evening. Our hotel was also the meeting place as it had several well-equipped meeting rooms. We arrived in the region that was once the center of the empire of Attila the Hun in the 5th century, the heathen king who resisted Rome and led to its destruction as an empire. We were wondering how the message of one God would be received, as traditional religion was quite strong in this area.



The following morning, we were happy to meet up with Alexandra, her husband Josef and son Christoph. We were also blessed to have Csilla and her family attending the meeting. Translation was performed by a gentleman called Thomas. He also expressed his amazement and interest in the message of One God, the identity of Christ and the new birth in Jesus Name.

In my message, the emphasis was on the verse Acts 2:38 which contains the core elements of Christian baptism:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

I explained that this verse is the foundation of the Christian salvation message. Water is the connection between heaven and earth. It is only in the water where the Lord enters our life for salvation by cutting away the body of corruption. He then proceeds to clothe us with the white robe of Christ. This all happens in the few seconds that we are connected to the watery grave.

Baptism is therefore *not* a ritual or a religious requirement. Nor is it a way to become a member of a church organization. Water baptism is a commandment from Jesus Himself (John 3:5) and its application is necessary for salvation (1 Pe 3:18, Mark 16:16). From the Bible we know that baptism must be performed in the Name of Jesus Christ alone. The common use of titles Father, Son and Holy Ghost in many baptisms are based on the later development of the theological and philosophical Trinity. However, "Father", "Son" and "Holy Spirit" and titles for the Lord Jesus but are *not* His Name. Only the Name of Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew meaning "the Lord saves") contains the necessary power and authority to forgive sins (as the Bible says: *He had authority on earth to forgive sins*).

The practice of baptism in Jesus Name is based on the Biblical belief that God is numerically one. This means that God is a single heavenly Person (Deut 6:4, Mark 12:32) according to the pages of the Bible. The concept of a Trinity must be rejected, as it is not found on the pages

of the Bible. No apostle ever taught that God is a Trinity of distinct and equal persons. On the contrary, God always introduces Himself as “I” and “Me” never as “They” or “Them”. A careful student of Church history will sooner or later understand that the doctrine of the Trinity is an innovation from the second and third centuries after Christ and that it comes from the minds of clever theologians and popes, but not from the apostles of Christ. The Trinity is not God, but it is a thing, an object, an idea. Whoever worships an object is called an idolator. True worshippers however worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

The relationship between Father and Son in the Bible is to be understood as one of different roles of the *same* person and not in terms of separate persons. The Son of God, biblically speaking, is the flesh and blood body in which the Father revealed Himself to the world more than 2000 years ago. Therefore, the Son of God is really the Father Himself, but then visible as the Man Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus pointed to Himself when the apostle Philip asked Him to “show us the Father” upon which Jesus stated: “he that has seen Me has seen the Father”.

Any person who understands Jesus in this way and believes with their whole heart, can be baptized. It was on the morning of the 20th of July 2023 that we set out to the waters of the Donau river to baptize three souls and wash their sins away. As I was speaking about baptism in the context of salvation and the Name of Jesus, suddenly waves of water gushed ashore on this otherwise calm morning. The Lord Jesus was indeed present in our midst!



In addition to Alexandra, also her husband Jozef and son Christoph were baptized in Jesus Name. Several others attended the Bible study and baptism, such as Thomas who translated for us and Csilla and her family who love Christ and were blessed to hear the Word of God. We were blessed to meet them and hope to continue the fellowship in the future.



After enjoying a nice Hungarian lunch and having some extended fellowship with the church of Hungary, we made our way back home. On the way, we stayed one night in Austria and visited the capital, Vienna. Here we are visiting the Belvedere palace, which was one of the many palaces of the Austria-Hungarian monarchy of the 18th century. The former greatness of these countries is a testimony to the ever-changing tide of human history.



The next day we made our way back through Austria and Germany, stopping in Salzburg, before making our way home safely. Praise the Lord for His glory!

Next steps for the church of Hungary are the establishment of a new church organization. There are plans for a monthly Bible study online as well as setting up a website in the local language of Hungary.

Europe must be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

It is the right time now, as people are fed up with false religions, materialism, and hedonism.

People everywhere are thirsty and hungry for the truth of the Bible. This is the time to reach a dying planet with the lifesaving message of One God Jesus and His plan of salvation. May the waters of Europe be used to save many souls.

Amen.

Den Haag, 31.07.2023