



Presbyterians Sharing

November 2008 Update

PCC mission staff Brian Johnston directs the male choir of the Theological Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania during a performance for WMS visitors. Brian uses music as a means of teaching English to students.

Goal for 2008: \$8,950,000

Received by Oct. 31 2008: \$5,566,334

Received by Oct. 31 2007: \$5,563,446

Thank you for your faithful support of *Presbyterians Sharing*. Let us continue to work and pray together as we encourage congregations to reach and surpass their commitments to *Presbyterians Sharing* in 2008.

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support partnerships with the Hungarian Reformed Church in Hungary, Ukraine and Romania. PCC mission staff Mary Gorombey (Hungary), David Pandy-Szekeres (Ukraine) and Brian Johnston (Romania) are helping encourage the Hungarian Reformed Church in its mission and ministry work. Imola Lorinc, a first year student at the Theological Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Cluj, Romania shares her experiences of summer camps run by the churches in the region. The camps are supported by the Ars Longa Foundation and mission staff Brian Johnston and David Pandy-Szekeres. Canadian youth participated in these camps through *Youth in Mission*.

The Lord Blesses

*Nem lesz egyedül a szivem többé, Glóri halleluja
 Velem az én Uram mind örökké, Glóri halleluja...
 My heart will not be alone anymore, Glory alleluia.
 My Lord is with me for ever, Glory alleluia...*

This is a song sung by the children attending a day camp in Gilvánfa, Hungary. The camp was held in the southwest of Hungary July 12-26, 2008. It was an unforgettable experience for all the campers and the volunteers.

The village of Gilvánfa is populated mostly by gipsy people. There are a lot of children living in the village, children that were very excited by the fact that a two week camp would be held in their village. The children were also very happy that Canadian and American volunteers would join the local volunteers to run the camp. In addition to learning more about these countries, the children could learn some words in English.



PCC Moderator The Rev. Cheol Soon Park signs a mission covenant between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The Reformed Church in Romania in August 2008. Rev. Park signed on behalf of the PCC, and Bishop Laszlo Tokes and Bishop Geza Pap signed on behalf of the Reformed Church in Romania.



Participants at the summer camp in Gilvánfa. Canadian volunteers, sent through *Youth in Mission*, are Michelle Roberts (2nd row, 2nd in), Rachel Van Blaricom (back row, 2nd in), Rebecca Allen (back row, 4th in) and Jessica Chapman (back row, 3rd from the end.)

We, the volunteers, camped in a nearby village, Markóc, and drove to the Gilvánfa camp daily. Every morning at 10 o'clock a very large group of children were waiting for us at the end of the village on the local field. The day started with singing, telling a Bible story, explaining the meaning of that story and then playing games and making crafts. The children learned how to make kites, paper flowers and butterflies, masks, bracelets, funny games out of folding paper and other interesting things. The children learned some new group games and taught us some of the games that they liked. Two of the favourite games that they learned were 'Duck, duck, goose' and 'Japanese football', where they were allowed to roll the ball using their hands. The boys also had a very good time showing off their talents in their favourite game, football. At the end of every camp day children who behaved well and respected the camp's rules received balloons as a prize.

While the Gilvánfa camp was running two other camps started as well; one nearby in Kákics and one in Croatia. Unfortunately the Gilvánfa camp ended early because of bad weather, so I went to do the morning devotions at the nearby Kákics camp. We acted the different Bible stories out to make them fun and understandable. The children from this camp told us that they liked to sing very much and they proved it every time we sat down to sing. The daily activity at this camp also included games, crafts and having lunch. At the end of every day the volunteers had free time to speak to each other, getting to know

something about each other's culture and things that people at their age do in other countries.

During these two weeks I had the chance to work with people who I now admire for their courage and for the work that they do. I had an extraordinary time and experience that made me learn more about working in a group and working with children. It was also an excellent way to make new friends. I would gladly repeat this experience any time.

I would like to finish this report with another song that talks about how God works in mysterious ways and blesses us with things that makes us happy.

'Az Úr gondola rám, az Úr gondola rám,
Az Úr gondola rám és Ő megáld,
Az Úr gondola rám és Ő megáld. '

'The Lord thinks of me, the Lord thinks about me,
The Lord thinks of me and blesses me,
The Lord thinks of me and blesses me.'



PCC mission staff, Brian Johnston (center) with Theological Students who helped run the summer camps - Mikko (left) and the author, Imola (right).

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