

ISTEN ALDJON meg!
God Bless! (completed action!)

It is June 5th! These days, the sun is rising around 4 a.m. and setting around 9 p.m. (or after). With June 21st just 2 weeks away, we have just a few hours of darkness so we must sleep quickly. What a difference in the amount of sunlight since February! After a May of torrential rains, gale-force winds, and late-winter temperatures, everyone in Eastern Europe is ready for sunshine and warmth in June! [Like many places in the USA, many homes in Eastern Europe were flooded in the past month. The flooding occurred in lots of the poorest Roma areas in the Northeast and Southwest of Hungary.]

In the midst of all of the storms in May, God sent blessings to Gandhi and to the Adkins . . .

Blessing in rural Hungary:
Ballagas Celebration with the Karcagi Family



May 1st is a national holiday in Europe, and we were delighted to spend that day with Tamas Karcagi and his family at his “graduation” celebration. We caravanned through the backroads of Hungary with Tamas’ homeroom teachers and their spouses, stopping only for flowers from a stranger’s yard! (Because everything is closed on national holidays, we had to improvise to get the hostess gift for Tamas’ mother! We hauled a carafe, a bottle of water, some ribbon and scissors, and hoped for a generous Hungarian with a green thumb!)



Tamas’ parents celebrated their youngest child’s graduation with a supper and music at the local community center in their village. Tamas’ mother cooked all the food; his father and sisters hosted the guests; friends and family helped to serve; their local priest did a blessing; and a karaoke/DJ provided the music. We had a wonderful time trying to visit with Tamas’ extended family—using our limited/horrible Hungarian and the help of a few translators, eating traditional foods elbow-to-elbow with the other guests, and dancing with Tamas’ mother, sisters, and aunts! The aunts even invited us to return for more dancing at the next family wedding.



Blessing in the mail: Girl Scout Cookies from the USA



Thanks to Alecia Elrod, Kat Joyner, Susan Dodson, Mr. Rollins (Matt Rollins' dad) at First Baptist Greenville, we found a huge carton of Girl Scout Cookies at our door in late April. We were so excited that we opened a couple of the boxes right on the spot! Some Thin Mints went right into the freezer. (Don't you love that single-serve tube?) Then, we stretched our gift to include our visiting colleagues from the Gypsy Team of missionaries in Europe AND the Gandhi students who went to English Camp with us in early May (see below).

Everyone loved the cookies. That big box of cookies brought blessings to lots and lots of people, including the Adkins!

Blessing in the raging storm: English Camp in Pecs-Varad



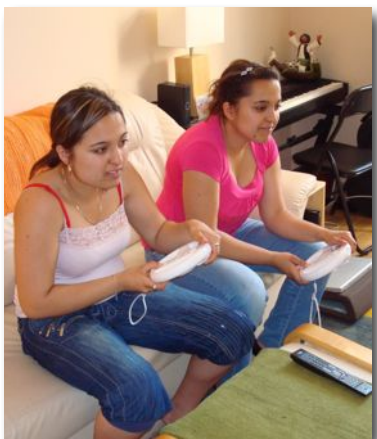
The rain fell in blinding sheets; the winds raged at about 65 miles per hour (blew away the shelter/tent); the temperatures fell into the 40s; and more than 40 of us were crammed into one medium-small room for all of our waking hours (3 days) . . . BUT God worked a miracle and blessed us with one of the best camps we've ever had! Thanks to the herculean efforts of the Campbell Divinity School/University mission team (Jonathon, Anna, Taylor, Savi, and Shirley) and the cheerful willingness of almost 30 Gandhi students, everyone had a wonderful time. In fact, all of the enforced "togetherness" probably helped to bond the group in ways that have never been possible before.

The Campbell mission team was prepared and primed for any eventuality. Not only did they overcome every obstacle in teaching, space, weather, time, and language, but also they did it with grace, joy, and enthusiasm. Their theme was “Superheroes”, and truly they embodied the whole idea. They talked about superheroes in the movies; they talked about superheroes in the Bible; and they acted like superheroes all weekend! The Gandhi students just adored them, and so did we!

Ably assisted by Annabell Gyaraki (Szilvia’s daughter from the Baptist Church in Pecs), Tammy Stocks (CBF missionary from Budapest), Gandhi teachers (Timi Tihany, Tibi Kalanyos, Rose Nagy, Jozsef Orsos), and Parker Murff (Jackson, MS and St. Andrews, Scotland) the group led devotions, taught English lessons, played games, sang songs, made crafts, served meals, showed movies, held a talent show, learned to dance and play Gypsy music, and visited with students for hours—all in a room about 60 x 20. It was great!

Using all of these folks-- Americans, Roma, and Hungarians, God turned a potential “bust” into a blessing. The Gandhi students will never forget the experience. You can see the results in the pictures!

Thank you for all of your generous gifts to the Gandhi Project through CBF. You funded this entire camp!



Blessings as we say goodbye: Farewell Dinners for special students

Oh how sad we are to leave these fascinating, intelligent, talented, and delightful student-friends at the Gandhi School! Although we know that this is the “right” time to go (not that we have an option), we will leave part of our hearts with these students. So, we are trying to invite small groups of them to our flat in Pecs, to serve them dinners, to share memories, to say goodbye, and to give them some things from our flat. We are having a wonderful time, even in the sadness of saying goodbye.

Blessing in our Family: Mary's Law School Graduation

When we loaded the Budapest-bound van with suitcases and team members from the Campbell mission team, we loaded our own suitcases as well. After a day of shopping and sightseeing with the team, we handed them over to Tammy Stocks and headed to New Haven, CT (USA) for Mary Patricia's graduation from Yale Law School. Katie Beth met us from Dallas; my mother came from Shreveport, LA; Glen's sister, Laura Young, came from Bassett, VA; and Dori Radnai (Gandhi graduate at prep school) came from Massachusetts! The whole weekend was a blessing for our family!

While we were there, we drove up to attend Dori Radnai's graduation at Northfield Mount Hermon prep school and bring her back to New Haven. We also stopped en route to see Gabor Gurbacs at Deerfield, Mass. So the weekend was packed with reunions and graduations!



Blessing to come: YOU and the USA-bound Gandhi Ensemble



The miracle is happening! The countdown has started! The trip is approaching! Only 2 weeks until the Gandhi ensemble, Laci Bogdan, and the Adkins leave for a 3-week tour of the USA. Everyone is dancing on their tiptoes with excitement. Most of the students have their passports; we've seen the ticket reservations; we're having preparation meetings and rehearsals in our flat; we're collecting the suitcases; and we're handing out the ziplock bags (for toiletries)! I have taken the girls to shop for performance outfits, and

Glen is taking the boys today. (THAT experience is a newsletter in itself!)

YOU have been the blessing here. This tour is being funded, completely, by churches and individuals—along with a gift from Katie Beth’s office. We cannot begin to thank you for gifts of money, energy, time, resources, interest, and prayer. What a blessing you have already given to these students, and we are not even out of Hungary, yet.

We are hoping and praying that this trip will be life-changing for these 10 students in many ways . . . spiritually, emotionally, educationally, professionally (future), and motivationally (is that a word?). Please pray for this!

Glen has already distributed the tour itinerary to you. You can also see the concert schedule at iamroma.com. If you can join us somewhere along our route, we would LOVE to see you!

Blessing: Prayer

Thank you for the blessing of your faithful prayer. Your prayers have brought us to this place and provided the means for God to send all of these blessings. Truly, we believe in the power of prayer—all prayers!

1. Please pray for Gabor Gurbacs and his family (brother and mother). His father died just last week while Gabor was still at Deerfield awaiting his flight home. Gabor must now handle all of the legal arrangements, act as parent to his younger brother, be the emotional strength for his mother, and prepare to enter Williams College (Massachusetts) this fall. Those of you who have met him know that Gabor is a remarkable young man who has always carried a heavy load of responsibility. This is another tremendously sad and heavy weight in his young life.
2. Please pray for Dori Radnai and her future. She successfully completed her year at Northfield Mount Hermon prep school, and she has been accepted to Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. Dori “found her voice” while she was at NMH, and we are so proud of her. An accomplished young Roma woman, with a focused and articulate voice, she will be able to work future wonders with European Roma women and children. Meredith College has awarded Dori ½ of her tuition in scholarship, and she is actively seeking other scholarships here in Hungary, through Roma education sources and the Hungarian embassy. We are hoping that she will be able to begin in the fall.
3. Please pray for the Gandhi students who are traveling with us to the USA. Laci (Laht-see) Bogdan will go with FBC Huntsville, AL to their mission trip in Massachusetts, followed by a few days with Northminster BC in Jackson, MS. The Gandhi Ensemble—Joshua, Szabi (Sah-bi), Istvan (Eesht-van), Peter, Nelli, Klaudia (Claudia), Andi Orsos, Andi Varga, and Laura will be performing about 19 times in the 3 weeks. Our chaperone/translator, Laci (Laht-see) Vofeny, is a 26 year old, Gandhi-graduate, BA/MA university student in English at the Pecs University. [We are hoping to interest him in trying PhD work in the USA.] You can imagine all of the ways that these

students will need your prayers, so please continue to pray for one or all of them! (and us!)

4. Please pray for the recent graduates-- Ricsi, Timi, Barbi, Tamas, Moni, Magdi, Eszti, Evelin, Jani, Krisztian, Kati, Szasza, Adri . . . and former graduates—E.T., Zsuzsi, Csabi, Jozsi, Imi, Timi, Sanyi, Ildi, Arabella, Ivetta, . . . They are trying to move forward; they are trying to get some kind of professional or academic training and degrees; they want to accomplish something in their lives; and they are swimming upstream! God can use these talented and clever young people if they will keep moving forward. We can pray for God's power to give them strength, fortitude, focus, and purpose so that they do not become discouraged and give up!

Blessing: You

Again, thank you for your interest, your support, your encouragement, your gifts, your prayers, your cards and letters, your faithfulness. Although our time here is coming to a close, we are still honored to be your representatives, your hearts/hands/feet, and your ambassadors on this mission field. What a joy and blessing this has been for us! We have agreed that we would do this, again, in a "skinny minute." We are so thankful that God called us here, and we are so thankful that you came with us in every way!



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If you would like to designate your Global Missions gift to the Gandhi School ministry and the Adkins' ministry at the Gandhi School please let CBF know your contribution is for the Gandhi School Project Account #85183. For the CBF website click on the CBF logo.

