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April 7, 2006

A Significant Week of Ministry in Hungary

Praises

- Jeff's team spoke to over 1100 students as they visited high schools around Budapest.
- Over 600 Hungarian students heard the gospel at the Battle of the Bands outreach.
- Jeff's team was a great encouragement to the long and short-term missionaries serving in Hungary's high school ministry.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that seeds planted through the relationships we built will bear the fruit of changed lives both this spring and this summer at the SpeakOut English camps.
- Pray for the followup of the 525 contacts from Battle of the Bands outreach. Pray that some of those students would come to Christ in the near future.
- Jeff's team advertised SpeakOut as they visited the classrooms. Pray that many Hungarians would come to the SpeakOut Camp this summer as a result of our efforts.
- Pray that 5-11 more American students would help staff SpeakOut this summer. They may have to turn any Hungarian students away otherwise.

"I have never seen anything like this before in Hungary," a veteran Campus Crusade staff member told Jeff. Over 600 high school students packed into an old movie theater in Budapest. It was the second largest student outreach that Campus Crusade has done in Hungary.

Fifteen local bands competed in a "Battle of the Bands." ShoeShine, a band from the International Christian School of Budapest, entertained the crowd throughout the evening.

About an hour into the event, ShoeShine's lead singer shared his testimony and connected it to his love of music. At one point he said, "Life is like a concert and Christianity is the rock and roll."

Over 500 Hungarian students filled out contact cards at the outreach. The Budapest team will follow up these students in the coming weeks.

The Battle of the Bands was the climax to a week of speaking to over 1100 students in Hungarian high schools. Each day, my team helped the Budapest team visit schools throughout the city. Most mornings we had to be out the door at 6:30 a.m.

My team accomplished at least five things :

We promoted the Battle of the Bands in each of the 80+ classrooms that we spoke to. I venture to guess that at least half of those who attended the outreach heard about it through our efforts.



Marshall (left) and Caleb (right) lead a game in one of the over 90 classrooms that our team visited during our mission trip to Budapest, Hungary.

We built relationships with Hungarian high school students that the Budapest team will continue to follow up. We planted seeds that we hope others will harvest later this spring or this summer at the SpeakOut camps.

We promoted the SpeakOut Summer English Camp. We built relationships with a number of students who indicated high interest in attending the camps this summer.

We accelerated the ministry of the Budapest team. We were able to expose more high schools to the outreach and SpeakOut camps than the Budapest team could have done alone in that time frame.

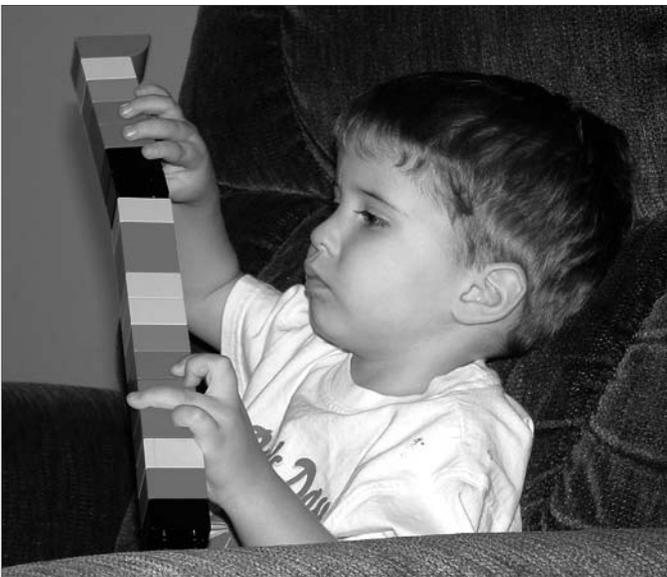
We also encouraged the Budapest team with our hard work, our hearts for the lost Hungarian students and our willingness to do whatever it took throughout the week.



Kid's Corner

(Clockwise from the top left)

- Our little monkey, Ryan.
- Katy playing on the swing set.
- Mommy was reading her magazine. Then Ryan and Katy joined in.
- Ryan likes to build things with Legos.
- Katy dressed for a princess birthday party of one of her friends from church.



Stories from Budapest Spring Mission Trip



While in a Hungarian classroom, I had the exciting opportunity to share the gospel to 5 teenage boys and their 60-year-old teacher. I mentioned that I enjoy talking to Hungarians about God, what they believe and what I believe. The teacher (pictured above, top right corner) said that he did not think many Hungarians believed in God and that he did not. Then he challenged me to convince him to believe in God and the Bible.

I reached into my backpack for a Hungarian gospel booklet and explained the basic points of the gospel. I explained how Jesus died for our sins and that we each had the choose to accept that gift to pay for our sins.

I shared a little bit of my testimony with them. Although I had a belief in God and Jesus before coming to college, things about God had not been very important to me until someone explained the gospel to me. After hearing the gospel, I recognized that being a good person was not enough to please God. The teacher, Ferenc (Frank in English) said that he used to think that he was good but now sees evil in himself.

I sense that Ferenc is very open to the gospel. I told one of the staff in Budapest to make it a point to talk to him the next time they visit that school. It is exciting how God used the teacher to open the door for me to share the gospel. At least four of the students took the gospel booklets from me and they seemed very interested.

You will find more stories about our mission trip at bridgforthfamily.com. You will also find links to a photo sharing website that I have posted pictures that I took during our time in Budapest.



During the Battle of the Bands Outreach, Lindsey (second from the left) and Melissa (far right) spent the evening with 2 girls that they had met at a girl's only party a couple days before. The girls were more interested in talking about boys, but Lindsey and Melissa were able to turn the conversation to God. Lindsey was able to give them booklets with the gospel presentation.

One of the girls mentioned that she was waiting for God to reveal Himself to her much like He had done in Melissa's life. Melissa had shared her testimony at a girl's only party. The 2 Hungarian girls are very interested in attending the SpeakOut summer English camps sponsored by Campus Crusade. During the camp, the girls will hear the gospel many times as they build relationships with the American Christians who will staff the camps.



Nine of the 11 members of my Budapest mission team met for a reunion the Sunday after we returned home. We spent about thirty minutes praying for Hungary and students that we met.