

Westminster Biblical Missions

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE FIELD – Fall 2017

Field Chairman Rev. Doug Schlegel reporting

Dear Co-Laborers in Missions

This newsletter presents the work as it stands in Transylvania both in the village of Szék and the surrounding countryside. Regarding the work in Transylvania and in the village of Szék, the labors of Rev. Vigh continue under difficult circumstances and in some ways the circumstances have grown worse. But the work continues and there are encouraging developments. Since spring, the following activities have been pursued:



- Perhaps the most significant development over the last six months is that **the church in Szék (and by extension, WBM) is now legally registered with the Romanian government.**
- The church services continue to be held regularly each Lord's Day in the basement of the Vigh's home. Rev. Vigh reports that the visitors they had seen still attend both services on the Lord's Day. This is a great encouragement to Rev. Vigh. The downside to this is that these new visitors are from Magyardécse which is 40 miles away. The outreach in the village of Szék is still difficult due to the cultural pressure, but Rev. Vigh continues to faithfully strive there.



*Magyardécse Bible Study >
(men in the background)*

*< New Church Sign
(after Government registration)*



- Rev. Vigh continues to hold weekly Bible studies in Szék and in Magyardécse. The studies in Szék are at homes in the village as well as at the meeting hall. People continue to come who would otherwise not participate during the Lord's Day services.
- The attempts to carry on a Bible study in the nearby town of Szamosújvár have been set aside for now, but Rev. Vigh has weekly contact with people there and hopes that the Lord will open a door. This is an initiative which he has been pursuing for some time, but the obstacles, mainly a meeting place, cannot be overcome yet.
- In the village of Magyardécse, a 45 min drive north of Szék under best conditions in the mountains, the outreach continues to be encouraging. Rev. Vigh reports that:



- 1) Magyardécse (like Szék) is a "Reformed" village and most, if not all of the attendees, have been baptized and raised in the Hungarian Reformed Church. Yet, they are almost biblically illiterate.
- 2) The strident opposition from the local Hungarian Reformed pastors in general, and from the pastor in Magyardécse in particular, is getting worse. As I reported last time, this is based upon his objection to Rev. Vigh's message of the need for true repentance, and lives of thankful obedience.

MAGYARDESCE BIBLE STUDY

According to the locals, since the people have been baptized and confirmed in the Hungarian Reformed Church, they should not engage in this kind of self-examination as it is not "Reformed." Yet, it appears that the Lord has determined to bless these labors. Recently, Rev. Vigh has written to me as follows: "I ask your prayer support regarding this because things are getting really serious. Pray for me that I may do only what the Lord is asking me to do and to have strength to persist in the midst of all the attacks. There are 6-8 people who repented, became born again Christians and they are very unsatisfied with what is going on in Hungarian Reformed Church." Praise God! Reading this I think you can see that, as is often the case, as the truth advances, the enemy attacks more furiously.

Regarding plans for the near future:

- Rev. Vigh was not able to resume activities for children during the summer months due to some special civic events. (I have to admit that I don't entirely understand this, but I did notice a significant social media accounting of these events.) Since the summer activities were not pursued, there are plans to hold a 3-day event at the end of October during another holiday period.
- Rev. Vigh also reports that he plans to organize **larger-scale** evangelistic events in the coming year and especially using the remembrance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as a means of attracting attendees. It has been my observation that there is better response to these activities there than here in America, and I think that this is a **good** idea.
- Rev. Vigh would like to **continue** the recent annual evangelistic meetings during the winter (early January). He says that it is "very important." I have told him that this is my desire too, **if there is funding**.

OUR SZEK BIBLE STUDY



Your prayers and support are critical to help Pastor Istvan shepherd these fledgling groups!

- *Please pray that the opposition both in Szek and Magyardesce will not hinder the work, and that the Lord will bless the Bible teaching and preaching in both places.*
- *Brothers and sisters, your financial support of God's people in these villages is urgently needed in order for the work we have described to continue to expand. WBM has a very modest budget for this field and is in need of funds each month for the support of Rev. Vigh and the children's outreach.*
- *Please do what you can to help, and spread the word to family and friends who have an interest in spreading the reformed faith in this part of Eastern Europe.*

Thank you for your prayers and loving support. May Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, bless you all.

In His service with you,

Douglas Schlegel, Field Chairman

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