

News from Csaba

and the New Hope Hungarian Ministry in Romania

February 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year has begun which will surprise us with new possibilities, new challenges, new joys and new trials. We surely already have our plans and expectations with respect to what we are going to do this year, how to work, where to spend our holidays, and what we are going to do with our spare time. Hopefully we will have plenty of occasions to achieve our expectations. The question is only whether these plans will be achieved

with blessing or without blessing? On the turn of the year I read these words

from Deut 28:1-8:

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: 3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. 4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock--the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. 6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. 7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. 8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

Blessing is essential for life. You may work hard, you may be ambitious, you may be precautious, you may have vision for your future, but without blessing you will not get the results you are looking for. If you receive the blessing of God you will rejoice in it despite every difficulty that may appear along your way (see Jacob in service at Laban). Without blessing plenty is insufficient, with blessing a little is enough, and occasionally even abundant.

If I look at the words above I realize that most things that one strives for and fights for all year long to achieve, is rarely achieved or only by great losses, however, was actually prepared by God from the very beginning for those who “*fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands*” (in the King James version it is written: “*if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God*”). What does it mean to carefully listen? It means to value every single occasion where God is talking to us and perform his commands as He wishes. If we do so, He promises to bless us in everything we do and everywhere we go. How shall 2010 be in our homes? Will it be with or without blessings? May God give us His blessings.

Among the major happenings of the past few months I would like to mention Christmas. Here in Transylvania we have a lot of traditions related to Christmas. People are excited to organize different programs and present them on Christmas Eve in the churches. Or they go from house to house, singing Christmas carols. But Christmas is also one of the most important occasions for the church to fulfill its commitment regarding missions. On this occasion you see people in the church who are otherwise absent all year long. They come to listen to their children or grandchildren performing in some program organized for the congregation. I often spoke out about what a great shame it is that some people do



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not come for God to the church, nor to listen to his Word, but they come to see their children singing or reciting a poem, or acting out the Christmas story. Therefore we always chose the poems, songs and other Christmas presentations in a way that we pray may touch the hearts and minds of those listening and watching. May God use these occasions to speak to those indifferent people and call them as His disciples.



The most daunting task is always the organization of the acting out of the Christmas story. It is not easy to find the right way to do it year by year, or to find the right persons to perform the various roles. This year the message of the show, performed by a small group of teenagers, was the most thought provoking. The question their performance posed was, “How would we – people eventually reading the Christmas story to our children or grandchildren – welcome Joseph and Maria if they knocked at our doors?” The head of the family did not let them in, but the children are prepared to welcome them into their home. When the heart of the father is almost overcome by the imploring words of the children,

suddenly the mother appears from the kitchen shouting at Joseph and Maria, reprimanding them for disturbing the family’s Christmas celebration. Then she sends them away to some social institution or to a church. Joseph and Maria go away, but the home of this family is covered by a cloud of unhappiness. They never retold the Christmas story to each other again. The question posed at the end of this show was: “Do you have a place for Jesus in your Christmas celebration? Or is it merely the tinkling Christmas atmosphere, celebrated with empty hearts?” We received many positive reactions from the church members after the presentation. They told us that they were very touched by the program, but especially by this performance.

Brothers and Sisters, please pray for all those who attended our Christmas celebrations that our Father may start to work in their hearts, that they may get curious about Jesus and receive Him into their lives. I would also like you to pray for the sermons this year in our congregations that God may give us the spirit of revelation and that the people may be attracted to Christ through His work in us. Pray especially for our work among the teenagers and the youth that they may devote themselves early to the service of our Lord.

May God bless you all in the New Year!

In Him,
Csaba Sikó



The Sikó Family