

Children's Ministries

Hi Everyone,

Before you please find the newest News Pages. It is filled with ideas and stories from Hungary. You cannot not be inspired by what you read. So much creativity and ways to reach others with the gospel. Perhaps after reading these stories you will get ideas of your own. Things that will work in your part of the world. One thing we need to remember is that it is not our work but God's work and when we are open to His leading we are sure to come up with innovative ideas to reach those around us.

This morning on my way to work I was stuck in a traffic jam so moving forward was very slow. A little girl was walking with her mother. I think she was around 3 years old. The mother was texting and not really looking around. The little girl stopped and pointed up to a cherry tree in bloom and said, "look mummy isn't it beautiful". The mother stopped and for the first time actually took time to look.

We live in a world which is just dominated by devices and we miss out on a lot of what God has made for us because we are just not looking. It is bluebell time here in England and I can tell you it is beautiful when you see fields of bluebells like a carpet spread before you. How can we not be amazed at a wonderful God who gave us colour, shapes, sizes and wonder. When we see this we cannot but want to spread the gospel of Jesus to those we meet.

May God bless each of us as we work for Him, in His time, with the Holy Spirit's advise and help.

Clair

Clair Sanches-Schutte
Children's and Women's
Ministries director
Trans-European Division



NEWS FROM THE HUNGARIAN UNION CONFERENCE

Dóra Mihalec, Children's Ministries Director

Summer Bible Camp, Balatonlelle - Princesses and princes are needed!

"Please, could you make the camp two weeks long next year? One week is too short." "Aunt Dóri! This is the coolest camp I have ever been to." Such sentences are which bring tears to our eyes. We, as children sabbath school teachers, are encouraged by them: it is worth all the energy, nights of hard work and tiredness to organise this camp.

Between 3-9 July 2017, we have chosen the campsite of Balatonlelle to be the castle of Shushan, where Queen Esther and the mighty king Ahasuerus and of course Haman has waited with the 115 princesses and princes, whose story the children could see day after day. After the cheerful scenes depicting the story of Queen Esther, throughout the morning, children were working on picking out the morals of the story in four groups.



Of course, the programmes loved by the kids could not be missed either. A trip to Rádpusztá, where, as contemporary knights, they could ride on horses, try archery and the best of all: not only boys. We have also had a so-called endurance test, during which we took a trip to the ice cream shop, and Friday afternoon we were watching the sundown from a ship. The highlight of the camp was the Purim holiday on the Sabbath. The whole week children were preparing for it during the afternoon programmes: they could make crowns, and tailor costumes for themselves. On Sabbath, the enthusiastic princesses and princes have filled up the church hall, and according to the habits, when hearing the name of Haman, a loud "Boo!" and hearing the name of Esther, a loud "Hurray!" cry showed their high spirits. Their joy was further indicated by their loud singing, the ladies of Esther (the teachers) have elevated it even higher when they started throwing candies between the rows. We also have found out why everyone needed to prepare a crown: because all of us are children of God, so all of us are princesses and princes. I believe that the ceremonial worship was closed worthily by the beautifully decorated lunch tables and the small treats on them.

The list of the programmes were not over yet, because every afternoon we have had some kind of contest, living board game, water obstacle-race and in the evening all the children were listening to the stories of kings Sam and Dave with open eyes (whom we only found out on the last day in reality were David and Solomon).

Children's nook in Tata

In the autumn of 2017, the Tata church has tried to reach the children and young people of the area through a natural way. They started to organise a creative programme series.

In a city like this, which is famous because of its beautiful nature reserve which even continues inside the city limits, its sports teams and its lakes, what could be more natural than to find people where they are? Next to the Öreg-lake, in the park, while they are taking a walk, cycling, pushing baby buggies or walking with their dogs and children.



First of all, we have looked at the official opportunities, then we have bought an event tent, put it on a meadow next to the lake and the road, and we only needed something to fill it with.

On 22nd October, we had the first of such opportunities. We wrote "Autumn Children's Nook" on the tent, where we had 3-4 creative programmes: making chestnut figurines, mushroom houses, unique bird-feeders. We have given every child some birdseed as well as some good advice how to start feeding the birds. The youngest of the children could colour some pictures and make plasticine figures. After the creative programmes, the parents could take pictures of their children in an autumn environment. During all of this, some volunteers handed out fruits and warm tea. It was an amazing feeling that it could be seen that all the church members could easily find their place in the programme. Of course, we have given some information about the next date when we will continue the programme for those who are interested. We were hoping that we will see some of the familiar faces in December as well.



And this is what happened. During our winter programme, we saw familiar faces, which we organized in one of the rooms of the event centre. There were so many children and parents that it was really hard to finish everything on time: 3D winter postcards, cotton wool snowmen, clove oranges, etc.

We were so happy to see that there is no doubt about that there is a need for this kind of ministry in the city. It is also important to see the opportunities that God gives us and to plan accordingly. And the joy of the enthusiastic children is always an inspiring gift to get from it.

Vera Bóka

Training for children's Sabbath school teachers and parents

A national training was held on 19th November, 2017 for children's Sabbath school teachers and interested parents. The training was held in the Újbuda church where the local teachers have turned out to be amazing hosts.

We have dealt with topics which are relevant to both the teachers and parents, as the participants' number was over sixty. The opening worship was held by Dr. Gábor Mihalec titled "What can we teach our children?"

During the opening session, we could learn through the story of Samuel that the most a parent can give their children is to teach them to listen to the voice of God. Following the talks, Gábor gave us his ideas about the roles of men in nurturing children in the faith.

We could find that there is a connection between how much our children remain in the church and whether the father takes part in the life of the church. We have looked at several biblical father examples. Are the children in our churches affected by gambling and internet addiction?

We have asked from Gábor Horváth, pastor and addictologist, in his next talk. Unfortunately, everyone is affected by some kind of addiction because they offer an easy fix for the lack of attention and the occasional pains and feeling of emptiness.

We then tried to point out the specialties of each of the different generations (X, Y, Z, and Alpha) and how they relate to digitalization. This can offer a lot of help to those parents who were born in a different age so that they could understand their teenager children who are not immigrants, but rather natives of the digital world.

In the afternoon, Jánosné Zsóka Bodnár introduced the programme called Girls for Christ which is a great opportunity for the inclusion of teenager girls in the churches.

During the afternoon programme the participants were introduced to the activities and pamphlets prepared by the Children's Ministries, and could take part in a brainstorming session where they could share the tried and working methods of the local churches with all the other people present.



The meeting of rescue teams

In the last three months during children sabbath school lessons, we have looked at the story of the ten plagues and how God has saved Israel, how he has rescued them from the plagues and how it was possible for them to escape from the slavery of Egypt.

We have been talking a lot with children about the last plague and tried to help them to understand the saving love of God and how important it is to keep the commandments of God, as it can save lives. We have learnt golden texts: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them." (Psalms 34:7) and talked about how good it is that everyone has a guardian angel.



Afterwards, we made a pin, as it was advised in the study material which we wrote the words on: "God's rescue team".

As I have received the food and water bucket list prepared for the Global Youth Day I immediately connected it with the study material and planned to visit the ambulance station in Orosháza.

One of our church members works at the station so I asked him to talk with the leader and ask for a date. So on 24th March, this year, a Sabbath afternoon we have visited the station, and the children were preparing enthusiastically.

On the previous day, with the help of the parents, everyone prepared some cookies, and during the Sabbath morning worship we made a poster saying:



"Dear paramedics!
We Adventist children would like to thank you that you do so much for us: You are smart, quick, nice, courageous, strong, persistent, and you reassure ill people."

The attributes were dictated by the children and they worded the letter as well. We closed the letter with the following Bible verse:

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1Cor 13:13) We chose this verse because without love this kind of work cannot be done. Even the paramedics confirmed this. We spent almost two hours with them, talking and watching a practical demonstration.



They were happy to see the children and to get the treats, and our poster was hung on the notice board of the station.

The meeting of the two rescue teams was a huge experience for everyone.



I can only encourage everyone to go out and do outreach with the children. Our children are enthusiastic, nice, they are not shy and do any kind of service happily. We can learn a lot from them.

Ildikó Rajki

Children sabbath school teacher and leader, Orosháza Church

Every day is an adventure

The "Every day is an adventure" programme, as its name suggests holds a tiny, interesting and novel "adventure", a task every day of the year for children. Our goal was to draw children closer to God, help them to nurture their relationship with their friends, parents, siblings through the tasks given to them. We encourage them to give witness to their faith and to occasionally invite their friends, classmates or old people to church. In other words, we want to include them in the work of the church. The primary focus of collecting the "adventures" were those elementary school students who already can read and write. However, we did not exclude older students, because we are dealing with topics which teenagers are interested in, too. Who am I? Do my classmates like me? And what about God? At the same time with parental help even children in kindergarten can solve the tasks, they can draw instead of writing.

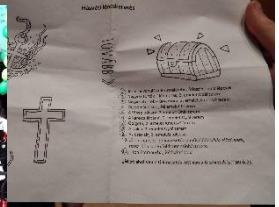
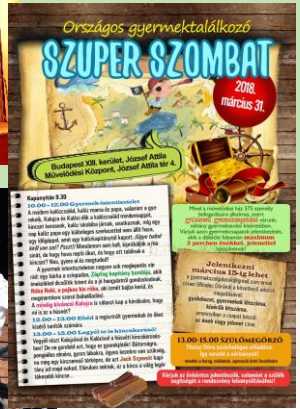
The workbook can be downloaded from the internet. It can be printed out all at once on a calendar, or separately each month. Each completed task is rewarded by a part cut out of the calendar that can be stuck to its place in the collector. Arriving at half and the end of the month, these parts show a picture that can be coloured. What is really good about "Every day is an adventure" is that it can be started anytime throughout the year, not only in January. We have written it so that it can be used in any calendar year so that if the children are up to it, they can start them over a few years later.

The authors of the workbook are Klára Ócsainé Bartalos, Piroska Lukácsné Bódi, Edit Szabó Zsoltné Papp, Szabina Molnár Veres, Andrea Kánya, Edina Fürjné Simon and Dóra Mihalec.

Super Sabbath – A superb day!

The modern pirate family, the pirate mother and father and their kids, the somewhat cheeky but smart Kaluci and Kalujza are living the everyday lives of pirates. The kids are attending pirate school, are bored and of course are looking for treasure, so that they can also have an iPhone 10, just as their classmates do. But one day the pirate father brings home a curious machine, a time machine which he got from another pirate, Jack Spinach, together with a map leading to the greatest treasure of the world. Needless to say that the family right away wanted to try the machine as they were greedy and wanted to find the treasure. However, they wonderingly found that there are two buttons on the machine: before Christ and after Christ. But who is this Christ? - they asked.

This is how the second national children meeting of Hungary, the Super Sabbath started on the 13th March 2018 in Budapest. The almost 300 participants, the countless starry and excited eyes of the children were looking at what adventures the modern pirate family will go through and whether they will find the treasure or not throughout the whole morning. The joyful songs were accompanied by Captain Molar and his band. Of course, the stage could not miss the ship, because no pirate family could live without a good boat.



The pirate family and the participants, with the help of time travel, could take part in the story of Jonah (thanks to the children and pastor of the Kecskemét church) and could get to know the loving God, who gives pardon to everyone who asks it of him. But because there were two buttons on the machine, we had to try the other one as well, namely which said: "after Christ". During the "lengthy" time travels "so that no one would get bored", the children of the participating churches performed songs, poems and music. Even the youngest of the children stood in front of the audience adroit.

Arriving at the time "Anno Domini" our heroes have met apostle Paul, whom the captain Julius has just brought to Rome. They were interested in whether the God that Paul served is the same that they have got to know previously are one and the same and of course they wanted to know who the person of whom the buttons were named after, Jesus Christ is. Paul wanted to answer the children's questions in an understandable way, so he invited Robert Fox and his friends, who we have met last year, who have shown us what sacrifice Jesus offered for us, in a puppet performance. He has sacrificed his life to save us.

Because Rome is on the map, our friends, the pirate family have picked up Paul and the captain, brought them to the deck of their ship and started their journey to Rome. But of course they have encountered a storm... they did, too.

Escaping the stormy sea and hearing the testimony of Paul convinced the family of the existence of the true God and they found out that the biggest treasure that they are looking for is none other than Jesus Christ and his Easter sacrifice, whom they have invited into their hearts.



In the afternoon, the participant children could take part in the treasure hunt, too. While we have prepared crafts and face painting programmes for the younger children, most of them were so eager that they also headed off to find the treasure. During the Easter treasure hunt, the teams could walk through the last days, hours and finally the resurrection of Jesus, where they also could be part of these events. They symbolically washed each other's feet, tasted the Passover dinner, cried hooray to Jesus arriving in Jerusalem, etc. Of course, at every stage, they were greeted with a task connected to the story, through which they could collect the treasure in their chest, and finally could find out what the treasure really is according to the Bible. Such treasures are love, the clever mouth, Jesus Christ, etc.

Of course, children had the opportunity, just as they did last year, to give their parents into a parent-sitter programme, where Dóra Theisz talked about "How to train your dragon" through her lecture.

We owe great gratitude to God that he has once again blessed this day richly so that children and adults have had fun as well.