



# Mike & Sarah Frueh

Andrew and Katie

missionaries to Nyíregyháza, Hungary

Quarterly Update

July 2025

Dear Praying Friends,

Sarah and I appreciate your patience as we navigate our next steps here in our ministry in Hungary. The situation with the independent Baptist churches here has been very complex, and I think I have a better understanding of the needs and our role in meeting them than I did when we first moved to Hungary almost 10 years ago. Thank you for praying for our family personally during this time, as it has been very challenging and often discouraging. I will try to give a recap of the past few months in ministry here, what we are doing these summer months, and then try to summarize the next steps we will take this fall.

## Personal interaction

I think the biggest area of growth in our lives in the last four years has been our ability to personally interact spiritually with people in Hungarian. I know many of you have been praying for that. I am comfortable preaching in Hungarian and enjoy doing that when I have the opportunity, but two-way, directed conversations are much more difficult. Going door to door, I met an older lady a few months ago who was out working in her garden, and we had a gospel conversation. For the first time in our ministry here, I felt freedom and ease in asking directed questions and creating bridges to gospel truth in a spontaneous conversation with someone I didn't already know personally. This illustrates how difficult the Hungarian language is, but it was an exciting moment for me personally. Working by ourselves here has forced both of us into situations like this, which has been a great help.

We have had quite a few opportunities to have people in our home over the last months. We had a closing activity for the children's English class, in which most of the families participated. We have had several of our personal friends and contacts over for dinner as well. These interactions are very important to our Hungarian acquaintances and provide an opportunity to introduce people to a functional Christian home, which is completely foreign to most of them. Our next-door neighbor, Luca, remarked after a visit that we should teach other families here about child training. By the grace of God, our personal life and testimony have an impact on people.

Meeting in our home has also provided opportunities to share how we interact with God in our everyday lives. We have the chance to talk about answers to prayer and things we are burdened for. For most people here, God is just something you talk about once a week at church, if you even go to church to begin with.

I had been praying for an opportunity to speak about spiritual things with Imre, whose family lives across the street. His daughter, Lili, is friends with Katie and Andrew, and they play together frequently. God gave me that opportunity (in Hungarian) last week when we randomly met at a park with our kids. Imre, like most Hungarians today, has a buffet-style personal religion that is a mix of Catholicism, Eastern mysticism, and pantheism. God enabled me to present the biblical gospel and ask a number of directed questions about the foundation for Imre's faith. Please pray for him.

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We are still planning to meet this month with Ibolya (from the preschool), Regina's family, and Timi's family (both contacts from the Special Olympics group), and hopefully with Anett and her family (a contact through the school where we have helped teach English).

### Ministry with other churches

The past few months have given us several opportunities to serve and minister with Életvíz Baptist Church in Budapest with our friends, Zoli and Johanna Kiss. We always enjoy being with their church people, and the Christian fellowship is a blessing to us. It has also been a blessing to discuss our future plans and burdens with spiritually minded, like-minded Hungarian leaders.

I hope to continue ministry with the other independent churches here as we move forward. God wants to revive and empower us as a group of separated believers, and He has raised up a core of committed folks who want to be a part of this movement. In a lot of ways, we have been battling for the soul of this group of churches over the last 10 years. I have seen the hand of God in preserving them, dealing with sin, and continuing to enable them to move forward by faith. That is encouraging to me.

In a few weeks, we will participate in an annual family camp involving several of these churches. Sarah and I will be leading the children's ministry, and Jim and Myra Wright will be ministering to the adults. We appreciate your prayers as we plan the lessons and try to prepare an engaging program for the young people. Like everything else we do here, directing a group of kids at a summer program is always harder in a foreign language.

### Education

Sarah and I have had two goals for our kids with regard to their education: 1) We want them to develop personally and mentally, and be diligent students, and 2) We want them to integrate into Hungarian life and society where we live. We have used the public education system thus far in the interest of the second goal and will evaluate that choice step-by-step as we go forward. Hungarian public education is primarily focused on education (imagine that), and is much more serious than it is in America. A majority of parents here are committed to raising well-educated, disciplined kids, and the school atmosphere reflects that. Hungary, for the most part, is a socially conservative society.

We have been especially burdened for Andrew to be able to communicate more freely in Hungarian, and we believe he is capable of that in spite of his disability. God has blessed him tremendously over the last three years and has provided us with some wonderful people to help him. His therapists are constantly amazed at his ability and growth. His primary therapist, Gabi, really encouraged us to get Andrew into a typical, integrated school for first grade this September. It was a blessing to get a professional state evaluation in April that gave us permission to do this. These kinds of evaluations are always somewhat negative if you're a parent of a child with special needs, but they evaluated Andrew on a high enough level to attend a typical school, for which we are very thankful.

The one catch to this is that, due to Hungarian being his second language, he will need an assistant in the classroom. It has been a little more difficult to find a school that has an available assistant. Several of the places we have tried already have the maximum number of special students enrolled. We appreciate your prayers for this.

God has provided a young college student here to help Andrew this summer with his Hungarian speaking ability. Lea comes to our home four times a week and spends two hours communicating with Andrew one-on-one. The special needs association we are a part of offered to finance this completely, which was a blessing.

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## Future plans

After months of communication with our sending pastor, mission board, and other leaders here in Hungary, Sarah and I have decided to move back to Nagykanizsa, where we initially began our ministry years ago. God has been directing my heart this way over the past year and a half, especially. The group of believers there whom we ministered to in the past has been without a pastor or spiritual direction for several years now. They have Baptist or baptistic backgrounds and have been seeking spiritual help. The situation is complicated, but I believe God has opened a door for ministry to them at this time, and we need to take advantage of the opportunity.

We have certainly loved ministering in Nyíregyháza, and God has grown us tremendously, especially in our ability to minister personally to people in the Hungarian language. In that light, I think our time here was not wasted, and many people heard the Gospel. It was never ideal to try to plant a church by ourselves, especially as Americans, and we have been confronted with that reality over the last four years. Given the dynamics of the group of independent churches we work with, it was our only realistic option for ministry at the time.

I have had a strong sense, however, for the last several years that God was closing the door in Nyíregyháza and opening the door again to ministry with the faithful believers in Nagykanizsa, whom we have known for many years. We are in the process right now of moving there to begin ministry with these believers. I believe that this will bear much fruit in the years ahead. Over the last year, in particular, I have seen the hand of God in putting the details in place for this move to happen. We have a great need for specific prayer, as there are many spiritual adversaries who want to oppose us as we endeavor to walk through this door by the grace of God. We really sense that in our spirits right now and appreciate your help in that regard.

As always, we are thankful for your prayers!

Mike, for the Fruehs

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| 1) English class party in our home            | 2) Viki at Andrew's kindergarten graduation |
| 3) Andrew with his teachers, Judit and Rozika | 4) Special Olympics ping pong event         |
| 5) Katie and Lili, Imre's daughter            | 6) Lea working with Andrew on Hungarian     |



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