



Stocks Report

Ralph and Tammy serving with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship among the Romany (Gypsies)
November 2009

10 Year Jubilee Celebration



They came from all areas of Hungary by car, train, and bus to celebrate. It was a day of testimonies, preaching, singing, and sharing of memories. We had gathered to mark 10 years of formal ministry by the Hungarian Baptist Union among the Roma

(Gypsies) of Hungary. The Union organized the first Roma conference in 1999 in the village of Csobanka where a local Baptist church had planted a Roma church. The pastor of the church was Jozsef Csuha, who is now the Hungarian Baptist Roma Ministries coordinator. From those humble beginnings has grown a committee of Hungarians and Roma working together, 24 Roma churches and missions, training for leaders, accountability in church resources, and many other positive things. At the meeting many expressed gratitude and thankfulness to God for blessing the work. Looking to the future, the leaders hope to grow the ministry to Roma, their brothers, in the Ukraine and Romania. God is at work...

**Thank you CBF supporters. Your prayer support, as well as your financial gifts, has helped this ministry grow into the vibrant outreach it is today.



Visiting, Encouraging, Listening

On the last weekend of each month Ralph and Budapest pastor, Tivadar Szegedi, travel to the village of Szakmarcserke in northeast Hungary. They visit the local Roma leaders to offer encouragement, talk through difficulties they may be experiencing, and just listen. It gives the pastors the opportunity to verbalize and seek advice from Tivadar, a pastor with many years experience. This is vital in helping the Roma churches and missions grow and stay healthy.

Thanksgiving

The holiday we Americans celebrate on the third Thursday of November is truly an American tradition. Ralph and I usually celebrate with American friends and feast on the traditional foods, or close substitutes, while we count our blessings. In Hungary, we have thanksgiving celebrations in the Baptist churches. A Sunday is set aside in the fall to give God thanks for all He has done the past year. Most of the churches use this as an opportunity to bless their pastor by collecting grocery items and giving from the abundance of their gardens as a love offering. The day is celebrated with long services and delicious food. It reminds me of the homecoming celebrations often seen in rural churches in the USA. Visitors, former church members, and family members come to help mark the occasion. We were privileged to attend the Thanksgiving Day, Halaadó Nap, in the church we attended while living in Derecske our first



term. It was fun to see the youth we knew now grown with kids of their own and to catch up with old friends. "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow..."



Our Summer in Review

After almost a year in the US where we accomplished many things including several opportunities in churches to tell the Roma stories, attending our daughter's college graduation and Ralph's seminary graduation, and getting our son settled in college, we arrived back in Hungary in July. We quickly



found a place to live and jumped back into the Roma ministry. We hosted a team from Emerywood Baptist Church to do Summer Bible Camp in two villages, assisted the Adkins with the Gandhi High School choir tour in Hungary and Slovakia, and re-acquainted ourselves with friends and Roma leaders. It's good to be back!

Prayer Requests and Thanksgivings:

Thank you for your faithful prayer.

- Pray for the Gandhi High School in Pecs. Pray for a spirit of peace to prevail for students, teachers, and administration.
- Pray for the Gypsy Smith Leadership session being held Nov 16-20. Pray for Ralph and Glen Adkins as they lead. Pray the Roma leaders will come. Pray for Tammy & Clista Adkins as they provide Staff Appreciation Celebrations for the Ruth School during that week. Ask God to provide opportunities to make the staff feel loved and appreciated. Pray His message will shine through.
- Praise God for the wonderful celebration of the 10th anniversary of Roma ministry through the Hungarian Baptist Union.
- Ask God to guide us as we continue in ministry in Hungary. Ask Him to help us make good decisions and show us the opportunities He would have us follow up on.
- Please know that we will be thinking of you and giving thanks for you during this Thanksgiving season.

Don't Forget to Check Out our Ministry Blog

We update our blog as often as possible. Please take a look to see prayer requests, pictures and more details of the stories mentioned in our newsletter. Check it out at <http://stocksreportromaministry.blogspot.com>

Tammy & Ralph Stocks
CBF Field Personnel
Romany (Gypsy) Team; Budapest, Hungary

Want to know more about CBF's work among the Gypsies? Take a look at our team blog for stories and updates from other countries: <http://cbfgypsyministries.blogspot.com>

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