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I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

**JANUARY 2023**

*Happy New Year!*

*Jeremiah 29:11 (NAS)*

*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*

**What is God's plan** for you for the year ahead? A major part of His plan for you is that you be successful. God's plan for you is all through the Bible. Here's a partial list from Deuteronomy chapter 28: You are to be *blessed in the city, and blessed in the country, blessed when you come in, blessed when you go out. You are the head and not the tail, above and not beneath, a lender not a borrower and everything your hand finds to do, prospers!* This is the Word of God, and His word is truth.

**When you recognize** and walk in the truth which is the Word of God, you will know God has already written a plan for your life. And you need to know that it's a plan for good, and not for evil and to give you a future and a hope. He wants to give you the end that He planned, and God plans good plans! So Satan's plan is to ruin God's plan and to ruin your life, But God said, *"You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free."*

**Satan will try** to get you to lie about your life. Words like, *"I can never get ahead - or, I always get sick this time of year"* are not in line with what God's word says about you. Satan will try to get you to lie about your children. He'll try to get you to speak words to your children which are a lie. And he hopes you'll speak it long enough so he can fulfill it.

**The point is**, we can't agree with the world. If the world looks like it's failing, what should you say? *"Everything my hand finds to do will prosper. I am the head, not the tail, the lender, not the borrower."* You shall know (and speak) the truth and the truth will make you free!

**This also has** to do with vision. The Bible tells us (Prov. 29:18) that *"without vision the people perish."* This is one of the reasons to meditate on the Word. Satan wants you to

lie about your life but the truth of God's word will set you free and help you see!

**With godly vision** you can see the invisible. If you can see the invisible, you can do the impossible. And you are going to have to *see* the invisible, and when you do, you will be able to *do* the impossible. The battle is in your mind – that's where your senses operate from.

**God has a plan** for you, and Jesus came to help us fulfill that plan. God told Abraham: *"As far as you can see, I have given it to you."* How far can you see?

**We promised in** our last newsletter to give more details of our recent visit to Hungary. Actually, one of the most amazing things happened shortly after our visit. After living together for years, Csaba and Mária Vágó got married in Ózd. Why is this important? Because being legally married means that one of them gives up their monthly government "welfare" payments. For them, this is more than a step of faith, it is to live in obedience to the Word of God. This was something that was brought about by the stirring of the Holy Spirit, and not by coaxing and harassment from well meaning church leaders. This was submission to the Word of God, and trusting that He is able to take care of their needs.

**During our visit**, we held a "mini-conference" in Szakcs. This was a celebration of the third year anniversary of the Szakcs church. We are pleased with the progress of the church in Szakcs, and especially of the growth of leaders Norbi and Aniko Rozsa. They have shown a hunger to learn about God and His Word. We are thankful for Pastors Istvan and Szilvia Sule who drive 350 kilometers (over 218 miles) each way twice monthly (or more) to help oversee the church there. We believe that Norbi will soon be able to take over as Pastor of the Szakcs church.

**Besides the Szakcs** conference, meetings were held in Ózd with Dan and Marta and Pastor Thomas Lohnke from Langenthal, Switzerland teaching and ministering in the various sessions.



**Above left**, Pastor Istvan and Szilvia Sule stand with Csaba and Mária Vágó in Ózd at the civil ceremony of their marriage. This is significant, because after 33 years living together, formal marriage means that they will lose a significant part of their income from the government. They were more concerned with obedience to the Word of God than to depend on the government. The truth of the Word brings change! **Above center and right**: Some of the children in Ózd receive Christmas goodies thanks to partners of Light to the Nations. Actually, Santa (Mikulas) is separated from Christmas in Hungary, so that Christmas eve and Christmas day are reserved for celebrating the birth of Jesus. Mikulas comes on December 6, instead of the 25th.

**Below left**: Norbi Rozsa, leader of the church in Szakcs, Hungary begins preparation of the Christmas pig that was to become gifts to the members of the church in Szakcs. While butchering a pig may seem distasteful to some, it is a special treat to many in the Roma community. This is one of the greatest blessings they could have. Another great (and essential) blessing is firewood. Many Roma families heat and cook with wood burning stoves. The picture **Below center** shows the delivery truck and church leaders delivering wood furnished by Light to the Nations. **Below right**, Jozsef and Aniko Milak, receive firewood for the church and Bible school for this winter. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. **Bottom right**: For the first time ever, Szakcs had a Christmas tree! Here a young lad gets to help place the star on top.



We were pleasantly surprised by a fairly large group who came from Székelyhíd, Romania for the meetings in Ózd. They not only came to hear, but helped lead in praise and worship. It was great to reunite with old friends.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards Christmas gift packages of food for the churches there. We were able to provide nice packages of food, and even some pork for everyone. Also, the children received some Christmas goodies thanks to our partners.

Thank you partners, for your faithfulness in prayer and financial support. Our prayer is that because of your generous gifts, there is an abundance of the fruit that abounds to your account (Phil 4:15).

Have a happy and blessed new year!

*Dan & Marta Lewis*

