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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

## MARCH 2023

### Hebrews 12:1

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

**Notice the scripture** above begins with the word, “therefore”. Therefore has to do with something that was said earlier, so because of that, the writer is about to tell us something related to it. The previous chapter in Hebrews is chapter 11, that we sometimes call the great Hall of Fame of faith. Those faith heroes are apparently part of that great cloud of witnesses!

**There are some** awesome messages about laying aside things that slow us down, but for this newsletter, I want to focus on the race - your race and my race. In our last newsletter, we wrote about the Apostle Paul and how some awful things were waiting for him as he purposed to finish his race. In Acts 20:24 Paul made the statement, “...*none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may **finish my race (course) with joy**, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*”

**For several weeks** our Wednesday Skype teaching has been focusing on finishing our race, and if you don't understand the whole picture of following the call of God on your life, you might not see much joy in it! Too many people only want a gospel that tells them what they want to hear. They believe that the main reason to be a Christian is for God to help them live their best life. They don't want to hear about persecution or sacrifice. The Bible has some news for them!

**Think about what** Paul went through to finish his race. Shipwrecked, beaten, jailed, snake bit, stoned and left for dead! When do we get to the joy part? It's all in what you look at. If you're going to finish, you can't be focused on “*It's so cold.*” or “*it's so hot it. My feet are sore!*” what are you supposed to do? “*I see the finish line!*” “*It's going*

*to be great when I cross that line!*” You go where you look. Look down, you go down, look back, lose your place. What should I be looking at? Look at the second verse in Hebrews 12.

**Heb. 12:2** *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who **for the joy** that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**How do I run** my race? Follow the lead of Jesus. He's already shown us how its done. It's a distance race, not a sprint. Don't look behind - look unto Jesus! How did He run His race? He kept His eyes beyond the sham trial, beyond the scourging, beyond the cross! We have to see beyond what we can see with our natural eyes

**If you're doing** something He told you to do, and it's hard, and it costs you and there's a lot of sacrifice, but it's going to help others get set free, then you can do it for the joy of them being helped and set free. That's how we can finish our race with joy!

**We have mentioned** in other newsletters how a couple from Szakcs, Hungary, Jozsi Bacsu and Aniko have been putting Biblical principles into action concerning their chicken raising business. They have been so successful, that three other families from the Szakcs church want to start their own chicken/egg business. This seems to us a perfect time to start providing eggs and chickens to others. The price of eggs where we live has gone up astronomically, and eggs in Hungary are no different.

**We have committed** to the purchase of three incubators, 50 eggs for each incubator, and enough feed to get each new “chicken farm” started. Each “startup” package costs about \$120 (US) for a total \$360. Anyone who would like to help with this project, your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

**We are excited** to tell you that two new LTTN video Bible schools are starting in Romania soon. More details next month.



Because of the egg-straordinary success of Jozsi Bacsí and Aniko three other couples have asked for an Incubator like the one **Above left**, to begin their own egg/chicken business. It seems to us to be an ideal time to start such a business. **Above center**: Even after a small beginning, Jozsi Bacsí and Aniko are getting this many eggs every day. **Above right**: Notice the little boy staring intently at Pastor Istvan Sule. This young lad leaned in and listened intently the whole time Pastor Istvan was teaching. Twice a month Pastor Istvan and his wife Szilvia drive from Ózd, Hungary 360 kilometers (223.7 miles) each way to teach in the Light to the nations church in Szakcs, and to mentor church leaders Norbi and Aniko Rozsa (not to mention at least one young boy).

**Below left**: Students in the Szakcs Light to the Nations video Bible school take notes during one of the lessons. **Below center**: Church leader Norbi Rozsa oversees the final exam following one of the series. **Below right**: Laci Bacsí couldn't make it when the test was given to the rest of the students, so Norbi is shown here administering the test privately.



**Your commitment to** Light to the Nations (or any ministry whose work is to build the kingdom of God) we believe, is part of the race you are running in your life. Every believer has a service - a ministry they can do. Every believer has graces, giftings, and anointings and most of these are not in the area of preaching and teaching. A small part of the body of Christ has speaking gifts. But all of the body is anointed to serve.

**We would like** to thank everyone for your support of Light to the Nations, both with prayer and with finances. We want you to know you are extremely important to this ministry. May you continue to run (and finish) your race with joy! Thank you!

Love and blessings,

*Dan + Marta Lewis*