

message for all MAGAZINE

What's my role?

- Notes from camp

Wycliffe Hungary

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Like us, perhaps you too ask yourself the question: 'Where am I needed? Whom can I help? Can my skills and abilities be put to use somewhere? What task has my Creator intended for me?' Deep down, it is the aim of each one of us to find our role: that task where finally we can become useful in the hand of God..

Someone once said that, if you want to be successful and accomplish great things for God, don't ask Him to bless what you are doing: find out what God is doing and join Him in it! Wycliffe Bible Translators has been offering this opportunity for 75 years. Even now there are more than 3,000 jobs waiting to be filled all over the world, and over and above this we have a continuous need for partners who contribute to the success of our work in the spiritual field via their prayers and/or by providing material assistance via their financial support. It doesn't matter in which way someone gets involved in this great task, since every role is equally important. The key is never what is visible, but rather our faithfulness!

Mobilizing Hungarian Christians.... presenting to them the needs and the opportunities... getting local people involved in global mission... advising and assisting those seriously interested in mission-work – these are all aims for which Wycliffe is working today. It's our unconcealed desire that, in Hungary too, many Christian believers will find their role in the global Bible translation movement. That is why we publish this magazine, books and brochures; that is why we maintain and update a website; that is why we visit congregations and other groups; and that is why we organize various events, for example the Mission Information Day (MINAP – see p.4), and perhaps our most important event: the **Wycliffe Mission Camp**. The Camp, lasting one week and held every two years, is for those who wish to know more about foreign missions than is possible in a single presentation. The participants have the chance to hear and ask about all the ins and outs of mission work in person from those who have given their lives to the task and who have years of first-hand experience of such work. Those who are looking to find their role in mission work will easily find it here, just like the majority of Wycliffe Hungary's members, who began their journey at a similar camp. This year's was our 11th such event... ▶



If you want to be successful and accomplish great things for God, don't ask Him to bless what you're doing: find out what God's doing and join Him in it!

It's our unconcealed desire that, in Hungary too, many Christian believers will find their role in the global Bible translation movement. That is why we seek to pass on information in many different ways.

Wide spectrum of participants

It was amazing! The camp held at the beginning of July at Órbottyán (near Budapest) had the widest-ever range of participants. Teachers, computer-experts, health-care workers, managers, high-school graduates, university and Ph.D. students, and even a university lecturer participated in our camp. It's great that they already knew that **Bible translation requires teamwork in which we are seeking staff not only for linguistic work but for many other tasks too**. (If you would like to know more about this, you'd be interested in the following Hungarian-language webpage: www.wycliffe.hu/kulmisszio.html).

Fellowship with each other and with God

Although the sixteen participants, over and above their varied occupations, came from six different denominations and included Hungarians from beyond the borders of Hungary, we experienced great unity in our fellowship. Our personal backgrounds faded away, and no longer did we discuss our different points of view, but rather we focused on the true message of the Word of God, free from anything superfluous.

This was a special time, because in such unity we no longer

seek to prove that we are right, but rather we seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (see Mt. 6:33!). If in this way our hearts are open to the will of God, then He responds: He shows us His plan and His work, in which, although greater than our imagination, we may have an important role, if we are willing to get involved.

It was more like a training week than a spiritual retreat, but nonetheless we were able to learn amazing things about God as together we caught a glimpse of part of what God is doing today in our world.

Mobilization at its best

At the same time this camp really mobilized us – and not just the participants, but also the leaders too. We have never received so many questions or so much interest in specific tasks, as we did during this camp.

There was someone who came with a specific plan, who had selected in advance a task and the location to serve in; others simply came to learn, to hear more about the situation worldwide, the challenges, and the opportunities to get involved. Each one began to look for the area in which they could get involved in global mission. ►



► The Hungarian leaders (Attila Kovács and Zsuzsa Zentai) and the by now well-known team of guests (Richard and Anne Hoyle, and Wolfgang Binder) all agreed that God had worked in a special way during the week.... As for the enthusiasm of the participants, it hasn't faded since then, and some have already begun the application process. We believe that each one will find their role within the Bible translation movement, whether as a missionary abroad or as a supporter.

What is the message of the event for those who weren't able to attend?

This is the age of globalization and rapid technological development, yet it has never been clearer how great is the need and how huge is the task that faces us. Today too, **200 million people from almost 2,400 people groups put to us the question:** 'Have you found your role in foreign mission? Are you willing to get involved in God's work? Since you have access to the entire Word of God, will you help us, in whose language God's message has never been spoken?' Don't leave them without an answer!

Zsuzsa Zentai

'Who are you? You were intended
as a comforter, a balm,
a refuge, a pillar, a wing.
Your role's been assigned:
don't rest till you find it.
Only there will you be
the one you were meant to be.
Otherwise dreary and purposeless
will your life be.
You'll be the seed that fell on stones,
a letter that went astray;
medicine that is wasted,
that the patient never receives.
A pole without a flag,
a cob without corn,
a pot without flowers;
and neither heaven nor earth
will be able to make use of you.'

Extract from János Bódás' verse,
'Your role's been assigned'.

THE TREE THAT BEARS FRUIT...

Each part of a tree contributes to producing fruit. The role of the roots and the trunk is just as important as the branches that carry the fruit itself. This image illustrates all the different ways it is possible to get involved in Wycliffe's work, and that any one task is no less important than the other. After all, without the concerted work of the various areas of service, no fruit is produced, and the 'tree' is no longer capable of functioning. The following list shows that, although we have different roles in the process of producing fruit, each area of service is required. At the same time it should provide help to those who are still looking for their role in world mission, but haven't found it yet. Now's the chance!

Roots - The background, which supports, feeds, gives: this is where the producing of fruit begins, and although this is the least visible part, it is often the most extensive part of the tree. The roots represent a fixed-point for the entire tree, and they dig deeper and deeper in order to support more and more new shoots. This is the role filled by believers who pray and provide financial support, who represent a secure base for mission work abroad.

Trunk - The connection, the link: the trunk is a supporting pillar and at the same time a channel. It coordinates the functioning of the tree, and transports the nutrients gathered by the roots to the appropriate place. It collects the needed resources, and then shares them. It represents skilful and continuous support for the branches, with which it is in direct contact. This role is taken by the support staff working within the Wycliffe organization. These include staff working in the office in the sending country, and also members working on the mission field in support roles, for example teachers, computer experts, printing specialists, pilots, accountants, managers, administrators, etc. Without them, the translators wouldn't be able to concentrate on their work in an undisturbed way.

**'The one who plants
and the one who waters
work together with the
same purpose. And both
will be rewarded for
their own hard work.'**

(1 Cor. 3:8, NLT)

Branches - The parts that form, carry and ripen the fruit; extending far, to heights unattainable by the roots or the trunk, but not selfishly – instead, to fulfil the aim intended when the tree was planted. They need the nutrients sent from the roots, so that from them a completely different kind of food will emerge. The smallest parts of the tree, nonetheless they are capable of

carrying great loads. They understand the best what it means when the tree is battered by the wind, rain and frost, but they experience the greatest joy too when finally the harvest arrives.

Our members who are involved in

the process of Bible translation and the work of making use of the Scriptures (translators, consultants, literacy-teachers, the so-called 'Scripture-in-use' staff, etc.) can experience something similar. There is a great need for servants who will get involved in the work on this level too.

Therefore, we pray that as many as possible from Hungarian congregations will find their role in the work of spreading the Word, and so fulfil their calling.

