

message for all MAGAZINE

Giving thanks for the past, looking to the future together

Ten years in the light of eternity

15 November 2008 was a special day in the history of Wycliffe Hungary. This was the day when we celebrated our 10th anniversary.

The theme for the day, **'Giving thanks for the past, looking to the future together,'** summarises all that the day was about: on the one hand we are thankful for all that God has accomplished through us so far, and on the other hand, in partnership with all like-minded local Christians, Churches and organizations, we would like to continue on the path towards the goals the Lord has set before our organization.

At the beginning of the event, we were greeted by representatives of Hungarian Church denominations, and our partner organizations. Each of them acknowledged the ministry that has so far been achieved in the Hungarian and worldwide Church through Wycliffe Hungary, its members and supporters. The biblical theme of the celebration was taken from **2 Thess. 3:1: 'that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly...'** **Dr. Peter Balla**, professor of theology, presented the relevance of this verse today in his opening devotion. **Wolfgang Binder**, Central and Eastern European Director of Wycliffe, gave a brief presentation on how the ministry of Wycliffe first started 74 years ago. In an enjoyable presentation, **Dr. Richard Hoyle** shared the impact of mother-tongue Bible translation on the spiritual life of a specific people group who had the privilege of receiving the scriptures for the first time 15 years ago. **Piet and Johanna Koen**, members of Wycliffe Holland, shared about their years of service in Hungary which led to the foundation of Wycliffe Hungary in 1998. They were followed by the current director of Wycliffe Hungary, **Attila Kovács**, who shared the highlights of the past ten years.

We also had a number of visitors from the international Wycliffe world who are worth mentioning, for example, **David Cummings**, who was the international president of Wycliffe for 15 years. **Victor Monus** and **David Foris**, two ethnically-Hungarian Canadian Wycliffe members, ►

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As the tree does not produce fruit without a living root system, so Wycliffe Hungary would not have grown without the Hungarian Church. We have become a blessing, not just through the ministry of our members, but to the Hungarian Church too, more than that, through us African (Gonja) Bible translation work is being supported by Hungarians.

► also joined us. Alongside the many financial and prayer supporters who were with us, it was also good to see many of our current and former Wycliffe members, and we were further honoured by the participation of some of the parents of our members.

Looking back over the past ten years, we, the current members of Wycliffe Hungary, think of God's provision and care with joyful hearts, and praise him for the many blessings we have experienced over these years. ***Over the past decade Wycliffe Hungary has grown to become one of the largest inter-denominational sending organizations in our country.*** As director of this ministry, I personally regard our greatest achievements to be fact that ***our organization is considered to be an essential part of the body of the Hungarian Church. Not as a result of an external initiative, but through the committed prayers and sacrificial giving of Hungarian Christians and churches and the active ministry of our members, it has been possible for the Lord's message to spread, for us to be involved in world mission.*** Using the freedom in our times and this period of grace, today, we Hungarian Christians can also work effectively for the spread of the gospel throughout the world! What a privilege!

It's possible that there are some who, when weighing up our situation and the results achieved so far, feel that in comparison with the mission activity of other stronger, more able nations we have not really accomplished much, in reality it's really only like five small loaves and two fish.... but we all know how many people Jesus fed with so little! On the surface, it really is true: in the eyes of the world we have not achieved great results. However, thankfully our Lord looks on our attempts with different eyes. He expects us to be generous and faithful with the little that he has entrusted to us, just like the widow who put her two small coins into the offering box (Mark 12: 41-44). The rest, the blessings, can be entrusted to Him. Only in eternity, when we see things from God's perspective, will we truly understand what the last ten years meant in the building of the Kingdom of God. I'm sure that then we will have much to give thanks for! It is our job to continue as faithful servants, with hearts filled with gratitude, to do all that He asks us to. With these thoughts, I would like to step into the future at the beginning of the next decade in the history of Wycliffe Hungary: ***'Speak Lord, for your servant hears.'*** (1 Sam. 3:9)

Attila Kovács



We wish you the blessings of the season!

Christmas in the year of the Bible

We Hungarians have so many Christmas traditions, poems, songs and memories that remind us of the birth of our Saviour. We Hungarians are unusually blessed, those of us who live today cannot think of a time when we didn't know or couldn't have known about Jesus, about the message the angels brought about a Saviour. Of course we have supplemented and many times covered the origins of the celebration with many other things, but we have the Word in our hands and it speaks in the language of our hearts directly to our hearts. Let's not lose the simple words in all the noise! In this year of the Bible, let the basis of our Christmas be the Bible. In this way every year can be the year of the Bible and every day of the year truly Christmas! (Zsuzsa Zentai)



How we were greeted on our 10th birthday:

'It was with great joy and excitement that I responded to your invitation to join you at this anniversary celebration. Not just because, at an international level, Wycliffe, SIL and the United Bible Societies enjoy a wonderful partnership, but also because here in Hungary the relationship between our organizations has been characterised by brotherly love, respect for each others' work, and a congenial atmosphere. In this Year of the Bible in Hungary, it is especially important to remember the sacrificial ministry of this small Wycliffe team in the service of the Bible and overseas mission. The work of Wycliffe helps to continually remind the Hungarian Church of the importance of Bible translation in mission. Alongside this they are living examples of individuals who are willing to volunteer and to serve in order that the Church will be built – a goal that many of us need to realize here in Hungary. May God bless the work of Wycliffe Hungary in the coming years!'

Dr. Ottó Pecsuk

General Secretary of the Hungarian Bible Society

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'I am very glad that Wycliffe has been able to serve the Hungarian Church for ten years, awakening it to its responsibility for worldwide mission. I am grateful that the founder of Wycliffe found it unacceptable that most people were unable to read the Scriptures in their mother-tongue. It is good to see the dedication, enthusiasm, high standards and wholeheartedness which characterise the work that Wycliffe does in our country in the interests of calling people to prayer and mobilizing believers to be obedient to the Great Commission. It is great to be in partnership with such a wonderful Hungarian and international organization.'

Attila Kapocs

Director of OM Hungary

'In the summer of 1984, while attending a service where a Hungarian pastor was given a blessing after his theological studies in the University, the thought came up: why shouldn't Hungarian Christians have the privilege of sending out Bible translators to ethnic groups that do not have the Word of God in their language yet? This did not seem possible as the regime in this country did not allow such missionary activities and a change did not seem feasible. However, our prayers were answered, the wall fell and the change in government came. What a joy it was to see the beginnings of a true missionary organization in February 1998. It has been a great joy to see a steady growth in leadership and membership. It is my prayer that you persevere, trusting God in blessed times and in difficulties. He is the One who calls people and appoints them for a task in His Kingdom. May many more Christians in this country start supporting the ministry of Wycliffe, so that more full-time workers can join the work! God's Word in the language of the heart will cause people to follow Jesus Christ, Who is the Saviour of the world. Praise God for ten years of Wycliffe Hungary.'

Piet Koen

Along with his wife Johanna, they are members of Wycliffe Netherlands. They played a central role in the establishment of Wycliffe in Hungary.

'I am thankful to God for the worldwide ministry of Wycliffe and I am proud that we Hungarians can take part in it through Wycliffe Hungary! There is still much to be done, but I would like to encourage you with the Apostle Paul's words about running the race: "I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven." (Phil. 3:14) We in the Hungarian Evangelical Church greet you in love, are glad to serve with you, and are ready to step into the future in partnership with you!'

Máté Győri

Pastor of the Kelenföld Evangelical Church