



MINUTE FOR MISSION

September 1, 2006

A Secret Battle

In December 1989, the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu ended due in part to the brave opposition of the Reformed congregation of Temesvár/Timisoara, where I was pastor.

Members of the congregation stood their ground as they faced prison, beatings, and, for some, death. The communist authorities came to remove me from the church. But a miracle happened on that cold day. The members of the congregation left their homes and marched to the church. They sang hymns and assembled on the sidewalk and in the streets, surrounding the church as a living chain. By the evening they grew into a sea of people and a sea of candles. The candlelight broke the darkness. The secret police, uniformed officers, and provocateurs, who were trying to incite a riot, could not act. They were confused. They were confronted by the courage in faith of our Reformed congregation. The atheist dictatorship fell soon after that.

In the Hungarian Reformed Church of Romania, we believe in the Word of God. It is the Word that is our "sword" in our daily living. As a minority population (7 percent), we endure persecution daily. Our people hold onto their faith because God has sustained them in the past and God is their hope for the future.



Members of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Romania hold onto their faith because God has sustained them in the past and God is their hope for the future.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

September 1, 2006

A Secret Battle

In December 1989, the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu ended due in part to the brave opposition of the Reformed congregation of Temesvár/Timisoara, where I was pastor.

Members of the congregation stood their ground as they faced prison, beatings, and, for some, death. The communist authorities came to remove me from the church. But a miracle happened on that cold day. The members of the congregation left their homes and marched to the church. They sang hymns and assembled on the sidewalk and in the streets, surrounding the church as a living chain. By the evening they grew into a sea of people and a sea of candles. The candlelight broke the darkness. The secret police, uniformed officers, and provocateurs, who were trying to incite a riot, could not act. They were confused. They were confronted by the courage in faith of our Reformed congregation. The atheist dictatorship fell soon after that.

In the Hungarian Reformed Church of Romania, we believe in the Word of God. It is the Word that is our "sword" in our daily living. As a minority population (7 percent), we endure persecution daily. Our people hold onto their faith because God has sustained them in the past and God is their hope for the future.



Members of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Romania hold onto their faith because God has sustained them in the past and God is their hope for the future.

After the fall of the communist government we trained new pastors and re-established schools, tasks formerly prohibited by the state. Progress has been made in these areas, but even though the government changed hands it still holds 2,000 of our church properties that have been confiscated since 1945.

Our link with the United States is our Presbytery Partnership with Lehigh Presbytery in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Presbytery members' mission trips to Romania remind them not to take their blessings for granted. Their care toward our people, who literally depend on God for daily bread, brings continuous encouragement to us.

Bishop László T kés
Királyhágómellék Church District
Hungarian Reformed Church of Romania
antaljanos@partium.ro

After the fall of the communist government we trained new pastors and re-established schools, tasks formerly prohibited by the state. Progress has been made in these areas, but even though the government changed hands it still holds 2,000 of our church properties that have been confiscated since 1945.

Our link with the United States is our Presbytery Partnership with Lehigh Presbytery in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Presbytery members' mission trips to Romania remind them not to take their blessings for granted. Their care toward our people, who literally depend on God for daily bread, brings continuous encouragement to us.

Bishop László T kés
Királyhágómellék Church District
Hungarian Reformed Church of Romania
antaljanos@partium.ro

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.