



FRIENDS OF HUNGARY

JUNE 2010

This is an update of my recent visit two weeks ago to Budapest in Hungary.

On this visit I tried very hard to get under the skin and inside the Hungarian, which is quite difficult, due to language and culture differences. First of all I noticed the depressing situation on the streets again, whilst at the same time thinking about our wee Bonnie Scotland where everything is available - and how much I also regret the amount of resources we waste each day. Yes, there is the thrift shop and many charity shops in Perthshire, but what they can't sell or has reached its sell by date, ends up in the land refill or is taken care of by the local council, where as in Hungary it would be gratefully accepted and re-used by someone in need. Looking around Budapest the homeless and the elderly and disabled just have to fend for themselves on the streets where more and more street gangs, prostitutes and all sorts are adding misery to the struggle of everyday life.

Although things are grim, Hungarians keep smiling and are proud of their city and country. During my stay I visited Jesus Caritas, The Vodavone Group, Maltai, The Little Sisters of Love, MBK Bank, Citicorp, Erstebank, McDonalds, Burgerking and the new Costa Coffee to do some active fundraising and managed to get the soup kitchen on the road for a trial period for six days as I am still awaiting licences from the local authority. While visiting one of the larger Churches in Budapest, I was made aware of a large suburb called "Ujpest" in Budapest that is located some 35 minutes outside the city centre where approx 125,000 people are living. I was invited to visit the Caritas in Ujpest which is based in the local R.K Church and has a lot of very hard working volunteers. I made in all three visits to the Church and Caritas in Ujpest to assess the needs of the community and to get inside information on how Caritas is trying with the means they have to keep afloat and help the homeless, the elderly and young mothers. Seeing the need in this part of the city, a decision was made that the most effective way to help and benefit the large community would be by working with the Church and Caritas in Ujpest, who are well motivated and have two priests in this part of Budapest. It has been agreed that all transported clothing, food and shoeboxes will be delivered to Kaposztasmegyeri Misszio based in Ujpest (Budapest) Hungary.

I have received full documentation of the Ujpest Church and Caritas and copies can be obtained on request. There is so much information and many photographs available now that I feel that it is now the time to have an evening to show the images to all and launch the shoebox appeal (ongoing) for Caritas in Ujpest.

I am also looking for donations and support to pay for the growing transport costs, as the second shipment is leaving Aberfeldy end of June.

VENUE : IMAGES OF BUDAPEST 2010

Date: of the venue Saturday 5th June 2010

There will be two sessions on the day to hopefully allow everyone the opportunity to come along and learn about this project and ask any questions they may have.

Time: 3pm – 5.30pm and then from 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Place: Auditorium Locus centre

Places available: 49 places only / tickets at the door £2.75 per person (children up to 12 £1.25)
first come first served

There are some amazing images, and a DVD from the Church and Caritas in Ujpest will be shown.

Your support is also needed. Together we can achieve the” unthinkable”

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

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