

Dear Friends

We hope you're well.

Since last summer I have been partly attending a pentecostal church plant which surprisingly sprang up in a local town about 20 minutes away. It's not my natural environment, but I'm open and it's not like there are so many churches to choose from. Helpfully the church meets on Wednesdays / Fridays rather than "competing" for the Sunday morning slot. In the autumn, it seemed every week people were making decisions for Christ, and last month around 10 people were baptised ... but how much of this is down to the way newcomers are grilled and intimidated? (And most of those who were baptised don't even attend).

Therein lies one of the difficulties, along with the 'different' theology that is taught. (I don't want to call it "bad theology", assuming that my understanding of God and the Bible is correct, but each time there are plenty of assertions that I disagree with). **Please pray** the upcoming meeting to discuss difficulties with the pastor, representatives of our church and the national leaders will be constructive not destructive, and we can work together to build a healthier church, for His Kingdom.

At the other end of the spectrum, where we are often disappointed with the formality and rigidity is our local village church (Reformed, Calvinist) where attendance is definitely growing. Despite working with a few men from church (basically all the men from church, but we're few in number) in September to get the house ready, our new pastor still hasn't moved to the village, but we hope when he does, his proximity and availability will start to bring changes.

As you can probably imagine, there is a huge difference between the two churches...yet in neither do I find the kind of worship I can connect with, and both have significantly divergent ideas and practices about Bible reading and prayer. In both cases I've struggled with the decision to keep attending, keep being part of that church community or not, and how to be a positive influence, yet I know God is using us in both places.

Coffeeshop

Over autumn and winter, the coffeeshop was only open on Saturdays. I've really appreciated the extra "free" time which has enabled me to catch up with many practical/DIY tasks, travel to Budapest for meetings and attend conferences and that otherwise I wouldn't have been able to. As always with me, I didn't get as much completed as I had hoped, but I do feel "ready" to get stuck back into the coffeeshop as my main work commitment for the next half year. I have applied for the funding mentioned, and hopefully the playground, bikes/kayaks and interior improvements will be sorted in April, though there is still an obstacle to overcome with regards to some documents.

Please continue to pray for our work. Thank you to everyone who supports our work and projects with one-off or ongoing financial support, we couldn't do it without this partnership.

James, Virág and the girls