

YOUNG AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

The theme of this year's October youth conference in New York City was *Ambassadors for Christ*. It's difficult being a young Christian in today's world, but what's even more difficult is being a young ambassador for Christ wherever he has placed us.

In Daniel chapter 1, verse 8, we read that "Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."

Daniel and his friends were not only faithful servants of God, but they were ambassadors for Him in an unholy land far from where they were born. They remained faithful to God and His laws because they knew that God would remain faithful to them. Daniel also knew that it was his responsibility to be an example and to be courageous when it would have been easiest to give in to the pressures around him.

God gave Daniel's life purpose and Daniel responded by being a faithful ambassador to his Heavenly Father. Today, we are all living in a distant and unholy land. God has placed us where we are with a purpose. He wants us to be His faithful servants and to represent Him in every situation, every day of our lives.

Because we live in this world, we often make compromises. Daniel and his friends, however, provide an example for us to follow. They demonstrate that we can limit the compromises we make with the world. Daniel was not afraid to stand up for what he knew was right, even though he knew the potential consequences of disobeying the King.

What were these consequences? Nebuchadnezzar was known as a ruthless king, one who even ordered his men to burn Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego alive in Daniel chapter 3. It must have taken incredible courage for Daniel to disobey this intolerable king. While we may not always agree with our politicians, they are unlikely to order us burned alive for obeying God's laws.

We will probably never rise to the prominence of Daniel, but that doesn't mean that we won't find ourselves in situations where we can either be true to God and His commands, or follow the world and all its sin. Although we may never become ambassadors for any nation in this world, we are all ambassadors for Christ.

Daniel chapter 1, verse 20 says "in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them (Daniel and his friends), he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm." If we pray for God to give us the courage to

stand up for Him and to help us in our daily lives to be better ambassadors for Him, then he will bless us, and we will be blessings for those around us, just as Daniel was.

Tamás Cserecsa (Toronto)

NEW LIFE

After the baptism, I will be a new person with a new life. Not physically, of course, I'm still going to have the same arms and legs, but spiritually.



I have decided to follow Jesus...

Last week, I told most of you a couple of reasons why I wanted to get baptized. The main reasons for me was because I wanted to have a new life with God and that I believed in him with all my heart and wanted to do whatever he wanted. I said this because it wouldn't really make sense to get baptized without any reason and, most importantly, without believing in him. Because then I would just go under water and get back up, and I could do that in a pool or at a beach. But on the other hand, I also knew that if I did believe in Jesus with all my heart and had a chance to be baptized, but didn't, that I probably wouldn't go to heaven. As Jesus said in John 3:3 "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

When I read this, I was like *Wow*. I wouldn't bear to think of being someone who believed in Jesus, but decided not to be baptized, because I want to see Jesus, I want to see the creator. I want to see friends and families and enjoy eternal life with them. So if anyone is ready for such steps and wants to have eternal life, then just talk to your pastor and pray about it.

Now, as we are going to get baptized, I'm pretty sure we know that it's not over and that we did all that we could. It's actually only the beginning of the long road we have ahead of us. God has given us a plan, a job to do; whether it's preaching, witnessing, going on missionaries, etc. And I believe that's why we are here getting baptized, because we are ready to do what he wants and that he will guide us (Psalms 119:105).

Now, we don't know what's in store for us, what the devil is going to try to do, but we shouldn't expect him to just let us

skip freely on the road to heaven. He's going to try his best to make us, make me fall and turn back the other way, away from God. But I know, that if I believe in Jesus, pray, and read the Bible, as well as fast, that nothing will stand in my way of seeing Jesus and having eternity in heaven, and continuing a witnessing life. (Rom 8:38-39)

Robi Juhász (Detroit)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!

... it is Fall again. Many are asking the same question: where is the time running? Yet all of us have 24 hours in a day. The Lord has been good to give a measure of health and strength, and all that we need each day. By His grace, we sing "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" Psalm 118:24. Yet we complain and murmur about everything, and God hates complaining, murmuring, or even worrying. When we worry we demonstrate that we believe the Lord cannot take care of us. We were discussing this subject in our prayer group recently. I shared what I learned from Karl and it is worth repeating: "When we trust we do not worry; when we worry we do not trust." He also said "worry is like a rocking chair, moving yet taking us nowhere." In several places in the Old Testament we read about unthankful people. The Lord was grieved with the people of Israel. In Exodus 16 there was murmuring against Moses and Aaron. Finally Moses told the people "... your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD." (Exodus 16:8). In Exodus 16:12, the Lord states "I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel." We can substitute our names in the same verse, because He knows us, hears us, and we belong to Him.

I have a small garden where I sowed many seeds in the Spring. Cucumbers, beans, tomatos. Later, I harvested a lot. I shared them with my neighbors and they also enjoyed them. We also sow spiritual seeds with our testimony, and the Lord gives the harvest. We have God's word, God's manual that helps us "... grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18.

Murmuring and complaining is a tool in the devil's hand. We might receive what we want, but God's supplies what we need. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. The world hears us murmuring but let them rather hear our praises. "Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow"

Every day is a blessing. I am waiting for the Lord to return, but until He does, and as He gives me strength, I will continue in my work.

Terezia Faulkner

CHRISTIANS IN BAGHDAD LIVING IN FEAR

Baptists and other Christians in Baghdad say they are living in fear following an attack on a Roman Catholic Church in the Iraqi capital that left more than 50 Christians dead.

The massacre occurred on October 31 when al-Qaida-aligned gunmen attacked worshippers from Our Lady of Salvation Chaldean Catholic Church in central Baghdad leaving at least 58 dead, the majority of them worshippers, including two priests, and another 75 wounded.

Tony Peck, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) regional secretary for Europe and general secretary for the European Baptist Federation (EBF), reports the pastor of the Baptist Church in Baghdad informed him that the "Christian community is now very fearful for its safety" and that "some of the Baptist believers are talking about moving away from Baghdad to North Iraq, others to Jordan and Syria." ...

Peck fears that "this very understandable response would leave the Christian church in Iraq even weaker than before." It has been estimated that since the invasion of Iraq by the United States and its allies in 2003, approximately half the Christian population have fled the Middle Eastern country, leaving an estimated 550,000 believers. Many of those who remain are increasingly harassed and often experience violence.

News reports suggest that part of the motivation for the attack was the plan by a pastor in Florida in the United States to burn the Quran, Islam's holy book, in September. The pastor abandoned his plans, under pressure. "It shows again how Christians in the West must be wise and considerate in the way they engage critically with Islam," Peck declared.

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

Sister *Ethel Kish* had encouraged us during the 2009 Convention to establish an "*Honorary and Memorial Fund*" for the purpose of supporting the missionary initiatives of our young people. Donations from this fund will be allocated by the Missionary and Benevolence Board at its mid-year meetings. The written applications addressed to the MBB should state the goals and the duration of the mission trip, and should include a letter of support from the pastor of the applicant.

The initial deposit is the money donated in memory of *Ernest J. Kish*.

We request donations to the Fund mailed to the Treasurer.

In the wake of the attack, Baptists in Baghdad are considering changing the day of worship from Sunday to Friday, the traditional day of worship for Muslims, and a practice already adopted by Christians in several Muslim-majority countries.

"We deeply regret the unjustifiable murder of Roman Catholic Christians during worship last Sunday in Baghdad," said BWA director of Freedom and Justice, Raimundo Barreto. "We affirm our profound solidarity with the Christian community in Iraq as they mourn those who lost their lives. We assure our brothers and sisters in Iraq of the prayerful support from the larger Christian family around the world," Barreto stated. "As followers of Jesus Christ we advocate for true and lasting peace in that region. We call on Christians all over the world to diligently work to prevent any escalation of violence, by not repaying evil with evil, but by overcoming evil with good" (Romans 12:17, 21).

Peck asked the Baptist pastor in Baghdad to assure believers in the city of the prayers of the worldwide Baptist family.

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**Gerő
Sándorné**
1927-2010

Groska Julianna 1927 május 13-án született Nyíregyházán. Édesanyja baptista, édesapja pedig evangélikus vallású volt. A legkorábbi említésre méltó esemény a gyermek életében egy ökumenikus gesztus volt az evangélikus rokonság részéről. Ők ugyanis annyira aggódtak az újszülött lelki üdvéért, hogy elcsenték a bölcsőjéből, és titokban megkereszteltették. A fogadalmat, melyet keresztzülei tettek, később maga is megerősítette, amikor elfogadta az Úr Jézust megváltójának, és bemejtkezett.

Édesanyánk soha sem beszélt azokról a rendkívül nehéz időkről amikor fiatalágát élte. A megélhetés nem lehetett könnyű Magyarországon a második világháború idején. Egy nagy családnak, hét gyermekkel, különösen komoly nélkülözéseket kellett elviselnie.

A háború befejeződött 1945-ben, de a megélhetés még sokáig nem lett könnyebb. Végül is egy reménysugar tűnt fel.

Hír jött Angliából, hogy angol családok befogadnak menekülteket kelet-európai országokból. Julika és nővére Erzsébet elhatározták, hogy megpróbálnak kivándorolni. Édesanyám lázasan kezdett az angol nyelv tanulásába.

A régi fotókat nézve könnyű elképzelni milyen nagy feltűnést keltett ez a két gyönyörű, karcsú magyar lány, amikor megérkeztek Angliába. A családok, amelyek befogadták őket, saját gyermekeiként bántak velük. Ők vezették a háztartást és tanulták az angol nyelvet.

Azonban hiába éltek jó módban és kényelemben hazájuktól távol, nővéreink Erzsébetnek csilapíthatatlan volt a honvágya. Végül úgy határoztak, hazalátogatnak. Ez a látogatás egyirányú utcának bizonyult, mivel az új, kommunista vezetés lezárta a határokat, így szóba sem jöhetett, hogy visszatérjenek Angliába. Hát így kapta édesanyánk a "nyelveken szólás" ajándékát.

Végig fenntartotta a baráti szálakat az angliai családokkal. Barátnője, Margaret, aki szintén lelkészhez ment férjhez, sok évvel később meglátogatott minket Magyarországon férjével és gyermekeivel. Az angol nyelvtudását pedig édesanyánk az Úr szolgálatára használta. Mindig szívesen vállalt tolmácsolást, ha angolul beszélő vendég látogatott Magyarországra. A közelmúltban került kezünkbe például a köszönőlevél és fénykép, amit Ruth Graham, Billy Graham felesége küldött neki magyarországi evangélicizációs látogatásuk után. A négy év, amelyet Torontóban töltött az ottani Magyar Baptista Gyülekezet szolgálatában, mint a lelkipásztor felesége, pedig tovább erősítette az alapot élete következő állomásaihoz.

De térjünk vissza az 1949-es évhöz, amikor egy hollóhajú, szürke szemű fiatal lelkész, aki éppen csak most kezdte a szolgálatát egy kis faluban, a Pest megyei Szadán, megkérte a kezét, s ő igent mondott. Egy teljesen új életformához kellett alkalmazkodnia. Az ötvenes évek fokozódó kommunista elnyomását és vallás-ellenes ideológiájának következményeit itt, Szadán élte át családjuk. Mint lelkipásztor családnak, nekünk nem járt élelmiszer-jegy. A közösség eldöntötte, hogy a közösség segítette átvészelné az a nehéz időszakot, meg édesanyánk ötletgazdagsága. A gyülekezet vett egy kecskét, annak a tején nőttünk fel. Édesanyánk pedig angliai ruháit bontotta el és újra kötötte-varrta, ahogy nőttünk, többször is. Mint gyermekek nem arra emlékszünk vissza, hogy szegény égből éltünk, hanem hogy milyen sok örömteli élményben volt részünk, úgy a családban, mint a gyülekezetben.

Fia, akit édesapánk megdöbbenésére Erik-nek nevezett, 1951-ben született.