

## 100th Annual Convention - June 29 - July 1, 2007 Hungarian Baptist Convention of North America

It's been a busy year at the Hungarian Baptist Camp in Ontario, Canada. With the first floor of the new building already completed for last summer's convention, members of the First Hungarian Baptist Church in Toronto worked tirelessly to the last minute to complete the second floor of the building in time for this year's convention. On behalf of those who put their time, effort and money into this vast

fortably than ever before because of the second floor of the new building.

The First Hungarian Baptist Church in Toronto has held about half of its Sunday services at the camp this summer with the biggest one being on the Labour Day weekend, when our Hungarian friends from all denominations will join us in Rama for a day to worship, pray, picnic, and spend time together. This day, Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 will be in con-

ing thanks for all the blessings God has left us with so far this year, and in praying for what is left to come, not only this year, but in the future as well, so that the Hungarian Baptist Camp in Canada can continue to grow and be a place where we can all be together to worship his name.

*Tamás Cserecsa*

## FOOD 4 THE SOUL

*„Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5)*

In this sentence man is portrayed in two possible postures as to the realities of life. Let us start with the second, in order to avoid a common mistake in the interpretation of this verse. Without question, right understanding of life is the goal set forth by the Teacher speaking to us in Proverbs. The messages in this book appeal to our search for meaning, and the conclusions encased in proverbial clarity show man's ability for analytical thinking. Understanding handed down from previous generations coupled with our own knowledge and experiences fuel the engine of societal and personal progress. Belittling our God-given ability and responsibility to reason would lead us to a position of disobedience as to God's creative purposes.

Unintelligent living cannot be sanctified by revealed truth. The Gospel has no footing in our soul until at least a very basic openness for truth is present. As sectors for truth are being deleted (or filled with emotionalism) by newer waves of postmodern un-thinking, modern man, stooped to the religion of self-hood, cannot worship the God of Truth revealed in Christ Jesus. This is to say, the prohibition is not against careful thinking, but against misplaced trust.

What the Teacher is saying that, God is to be worshipped in order for human understanding to have its rightful place. Faith and knowledge, worship of God and human progress are joined together as expressions of wisdom. “Fools despise wisdom and instruction...,” BUT, “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...” (Prov 1,7).

The verb “trust” connotes the idea of prostrating oneself to the point of lying helplessly face downwards. “Leaning” is to “support one self”. In other words, this wonderful verse in Proverbs tells us, to “trust ourselves under the protection of God we worship, instead of placing our expectations solely on our understanding



**Flag raising ceremony with Paul Juras.  
The new building, second floor just opened.**



**Youth meeting lead by Barna Cserepka.  
Mrs. Frank Schaffer widow of one of the  
Camp-founder with Rev. Vadasz.**



undertaking, I'd like to thank those from around North America who also sacrificed by either taking time out of their busy lives to help in the building process, or gave generously to ensure that the finances needed to finish such a huge project were always there.

The 100<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the Hungarian Baptist Convention of North America was held at the Camp from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Nearly 300 people attended, and enjoyed the new kitchen, dining room and accommodations, many of them for the first time. The new building was also officially opened at this time.

The convention was followed directly by the annual and growing-in-size kids' camp. For the next week over 70 children, youth helpers, and adult volunteer staff participated in the kids' camp more com-

junction with the annual closing conference that is being held on that weekend, and we invite as many of you as possible to attend and be with us.

Unlike other years, the camp does not close down with the end of the conference in September. Between September 28-30, anyone who loves to fish is welcome to join us at the camp for the (1<sup>st</sup> annual???) fishing camp. Details can be found in the July-August edition of the Gospel Messenger. Furthermore, a significant part of the fall youth conference will be held at the camp. Look for details to follow, but it is likely that of the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the conference, the latter two days will be spent in Rama.

I ask now that you join the First Hungarian Baptist Church in Toronto in giv-

of life". Again, the message in this verse is about the dangers of misplaced trust and not about the fallacies of human knowledge.

Lord, we realize that searching for truth we must find our rightful place in your presence. Help us to learn right living as worshippers of Christ, who is the Fountain of Life Everlasting. Thank you for the blessings of life! Amen.

*Pastor Novak*

Also on the Net: [f4s.blogspot.com](http://f4s.blogspot.com)

## Ruth Graham remembered

Hundreds of friends and family members packed the Montreat Conference Center June 16 to remember Ruth Graham and hear all five of her children — as well as her husband in an unscheduled moment — recount stories about her devotion to God and family.

The public service was held at the 2,000-seat facility, which was filled to capacity. Prior to the service hundreds of people also lined the route from the funeral home to the conference center to pay their respects. The next day she was buried in a private ceremony.

Ruth Graham's longtime pastor, Richard White of Montreat Presbyterian Church, encouraged attendees at the public service to keep their focus on Christ.

"If you're here today and say, 'Ruth Graham was a great woman,' you've missed the point of her life," White said. "The reason Ruth Graham was a great woman is because she had a great Savior and a great love for Jesus Christ."

Graham died June 14 at age 87 surrounded by husband Billy Graham and their children. The Grahams were married 63 years and were just two months shy of another anniversary. Toward the end of the service, after all five children had finished speaking, the longtime evangelist, who is 88, rose from his front-row seat to address the crowd.

"Ruth was an incredible woman. I wish you could look in her casket because she is so beautiful," he said. "I sat there a long time last night looking at her, and I prayed, because I knew she had a great reception in heaven."

Ruth Graham composed many poems, one of which was read at the service by her daughter, Virginia (Gigi). The poem begins, "And when I die, I hope my soul ascends slowly, so that I may watch the earth receding out of sight, its vastness growing smaller as I rise, savoring its recession with delight."

Said one of her sons, evangelist Franklin Graham, "Mama was a lot of fun, but

she also believed the Bible, lived the Bible and taught the Bible. She believed Jesus Christ died for our sins, that He is in heaven and will come back someday.

"Mama lived what she believed," he continued. "The Mama we saw at home was the one the world saw — there weren't two Ruth Grahams. Mama, thank you for your example, your love, your wit, your humor, your craziness — I love you for all of it and I'm going to miss you terribly."

Anne, another daughter, recounted her mother's devotion to her husband, who often was on the road preaching.

"She loved our daddy, but greater was her love for God. She taught us to love our daddy and to love Jesus," she said.

Graham's son Ned read from a book of Puritan prayers, which his mother enjoyed. Graham's daughter Ruth talked about how her mother's childhood in China — she was the daughter of missionaries — prepared her for a life with a traveling husband.

Graham's older sister, Rosa Montgomery, joked how she and Ruth were "made in China" and told how they spent the final few months reminiscing about their childhood. "Weren't we lucky to have such good parents?" she asked.

Graham was buried the next day in a private service on the grounds of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C. She was buried in a simple plywood coffin that was made by prisoners at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La. Franklin Graham learned of the coffins while visiting the facility in 2005 and requested two of them for his parents. They are lined with a mattress pad and cost around \$200 to make, and the names of the prisoners who built them are burned into the wood. Many of the prisoners now are committed Christians and pray over the coffins, according to a press release.

"You are such a wonderful family — she loved you all," Billy Graham told those assembled at the private service. "The Bible says the Lord has prepared a place for us and I know He has prepared a home for her — I hope she saves a room for me."

"I believe the Lord has brought us to this point. I am looking forward to the day when we'll have the next service here," he added, referring to his own.

Ruth Graham was buried at the foot of a cross-shaped walkway. At the end of the graveside service, Billy Graham took a red rose, kissed it and prayed silently for several minutes before placing it on the casket. Each of the five children also placed a red rose on the casket. After the guests left, the children and their father remained at the casket several more moments for personal reflection.

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## ÁHÍTATOS PERCEK

### Megtartatás a tűz közepében Dániel 3,19-33

Vajon hogyan olvassák ezt a történetet azok, akik azt mondják: csak akkor élhetsz át csodát, ha teljesen hiszel benne, és nem lesz meg a csoda, ha nem hiszel eléggé? (Mit is mondott Jézusnak az apa? "Hiszek, segíts hitetlenségemen!") Még jó, hogy az Úr Jézus nem küldte el: "Barátom, ennél többet kellene felmutatnod egy csodához..."

Örök példa előttünk ez a három fiú. Keresztyén szállóige lett mondásuk: "de ha nem tenné is". Ez az igazi hit! Mert nem a csodában hisz, nem abban, hogy mindenképp megvalósul, abban sem, hogy mindenképp meg kellene különböznöm, hanem a mindenható Istenben, aki úgy fog tenni, ahogy a legjobbnak látja, és az válik mindannyiunk hasznára.

A "de ha nem tenné is" nem a három fiú bizonytalanságára utal, hanem arra, hogy nem a megmenekülésünk a lényeg, ugyanis nem azért hiszünk Istenben, mert meg fog menteni, hanem azért, mert akármit tesz, akkor is ő az Isten, rajta kívül nincs más! Ez a hit!

Hiszem, hogy az övé vagyok, és az is maradok, bármit teygenek velem itt a földön. Mit is mondott Pál? Szeressétek az Urat, ha nem akartok meghalni? Nem. *Az életem sem drága nekem...*

*Szommer Hajnalka, Áhítat 2007*

## EVEZZ, CSAK EVEZZ...

A technika haladásával egyre több lehetőség nyílik az evangélium hirdetésére is. Itt van például ez a blog. Azt sem tudja az ember, hogy mit jelent a szó, de már alkalmazni tudja a rendszert, amit kifejez. Talán - *elektronikus napló* - a szó jelentése, vagy valami aféle. A *blogger* szó pedig, azoknak az embereknek a megnevezése, akik rendszeresen írogatnak a *blog*-jukba.

Említettem az evangélium hirdetését. Igen, erre tettem fel az életem. Húsz évvel ezelőtt kaptam elhívást Istentől erre a szolgálatra. Már túl vagyok pár ezer igehirdetésen, mégis minden szolgálat előtt egyfajta félelem, megterheltség és izgalom vesz erőt rajtam. Az igehirdetés szolgálatát nem lehet csak úgy megszokni. Annnyira egyedi, semmi máshoz nem hasonlítható. Amikor ott állsz a szószéken, a gyülekezet előtt, és érzed, hogy nem egyedül állsz ott. Amikor beszélsz, VALAKI mintha ott állna melletted a szószéken, mintha a váladra tenné a kezét és így biztatna: - *Ne félj! Csak bátran! Légy erős! Én veled Vagyok!*