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Pray with Hungary on Sunday, April 29, 2018

BY [HA-UN PRISCILLA YANG](#) ON APRIL 23, 2018

Lectionary Selection: 1 John 4:7-21

Prayers for Hungary:

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of love. Thank you for your indiscriminate acceptance of all people. Sometimes it is hard to understand, accept, and love those who are different, and sometimes there is fear because of the differences. Fill our hearts with your love. Open our

hearts and minds to the new perspectives and help us to see the similarities that bind us together. Give us the courage to connect with those who are different, and allow us to find you in surprising ways.



Today we pray for the Refugee Ministry and the Roma Mission of the Reformed Church in Hungary. As our world changes, there is increasing fear of those who are different from us. In this time, we must remember that every person we encounter is someone who is loved and treasured. In the Refugee Ministry, I lift up the wonderful staff of Kalunba Social Services Ltd. Please provide the staff with the wisdom and strength to carry on in their mission in providing the necessities for refugees to find a safe home and a caring community. In the Roma Mission, we pray for the Gypsy (Roma) youth and children. There are more and more children turning to drugs, alcohol and prostitution. Please surround the children with people to love and guide them. Wrap your arms of grace around them, and fill our hearts with the same compassion and love to be a pillar of strength in their lives. Empower us to meet each person as one who is worthy and deeply loved.

In the loving name of Jesus, Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Hungary:

In the current political climate in Hungary, fear of difference lingers in the hearts of the people.

As part of my mission with the Reformed Church in Hungary (RCH), I work with those who are being marginalized. Specifically, I serve as a volunteer at Kalunba Social Services Ltd. and a conversation partner at a local school. Serving in these placements have opened my heart and mind. Working with the refugees, I hear so many stories, not only of the difficulties they went through, but also the stories of hope and love. The people who provided a hand or a shoulder in their journey have made them into the strong people they are today. The conviction of the staff at Kalunba is inspiring. Their love is felt in

their patience and willingness to help with each individual who comes to them for help. With the children at the local school, I enjoy the conversations of enthusiasm and curiosity. Although we occasionally run into outbursts, every week, I love going back to see the children grow and their willingness to learn increase.

For me, 1 John 4:7-21 is a reminder that “there is not fear in love,” and only perfect love can drive out fear. I say I love God, but this is only true if I can also love my brothers and sisters in Christ.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by Ha-un Priscilla Yang)

Global Ministries Mission Coworker in Hungary:

Priscilla Yang is a member of First Christian Church of North Hollywood, Studio City, California. She serves the Reformed Church of Hungary. Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples' Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

More information on Hungary:

<http://www.globalministries.org/hungary>



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Hungary

Hungary is located in Central Europe, northwest of Romania.

The Reformed Church in Hungary, with two million members, is the largest Protestant church in Hungary. It maintains its firm commitment to the Reformed tradition established in central Europe in the earliest days of the Reformation, and subsequently defended against threats from other faiths, most recently from Marxist atheism. The traditional emphasis of the Reformed Church in Hungary on the importance of education has fixed its priority concern now – despite the diminished resources left by the period of communist rule – on enhancing the work of its four theological schools and restoring a network of secondary church schools throughout the country. Another concern is to provide practical and moral support to the minority ethnic Hungarian Reformed Churches in all the countries surrounding Hungary.

Pray for: The church to find creative responses to the new opportunities which have followed the collapse of communism. A growing commitment to reconciliation and cooperation to overcome historic tensions between Hungary and neighboring countries, especially Romania and Slovakia, where ethnic Hungarian minorities feel the pressure of discrimination and injustice.

Population (2014 est) – 9,919,128

Area – 57,810 mi

Capital – Budapest

Ethnic Background

Hungarian – 92.3%

Roma – 1.9%

Other or unknown – 5.8%

Exports – machinery and equipment, other manufactures, food products, raw materials, fuels and electricity

Imports – machinery and equipment, other manufactures, fuels and electricity, food products, raw materials

Life Expectancy (2014 est) – M 72 years F 79 years

Infant Mortality (2014 est) – 5.09 deaths/1,000 live births

Adult Illiteracy Rate – 1%