



Holy Trinity Claygate

Following Jesus Together

SUMMER MISSION TO UKRAINE 2009

*Friday 24 July -
Monday 3 August 2009*

*(with an option to stay in Budapest
and return on Tuesday 4 August)*

1. INTRODUCTION AND WHY?

Holy Trinity Claygate and Petersfield United Reformed Churches first developed a link with three Christian communities in Ukraine in 2004. To that end successful visits to Akli, Uj Akli and Gyula took place over five previous summers (2004-2008) providing places for church members to serve in various capacities and also to experience life living with Christian families in remote Ukraine villages for just over a week.

As part of the ongoing planning it has been decided to focus our support to provide more sustainability long-term and to offer more "year round" support. The Summer 2009 mission will be the cornerstone and core part of our mission to Ukraine and a great opportunity for participants to both serve and share with the communities there.

2. WHERE?

Trans-Carpathia is the part of Ukraine, west of the Carpathian Mountains which contains a large ethnic mix and was taken from Hungary in 1919 to become part of Czechoslovakia, then formed part of the Soviet Union after World War II and latterly part of an independent Ukraine. With all these border changes the population has been through much change and Christians in particular have been called to witness their faith both under communism and more recently as great poverty and unemployment take their toll.

The Mission takes place in an area of Ukraine near the tri-point of the Romanian - Hungarian - Ukrainian Border. The villages are remote, so it is important to be prepared for the basic conditions in villagers homes (e.g. no inside loos!).

The location can be reached from Budapest in around 8 hours and as Budapest will be the flight arrival location, participation in the Mission could be combined with a few days there or other parts of Eastern Europe.

3. WHAT ARE WE INTENDING TO ACHIEVE?

What we achieve will depend on the volunteers coming forward and on the key priorities identified by the churches there. Attila and Jenő (the two local ministers) have identified Children, Youth and Medical/Dental Needs as the focus for the summer trip as well as sharing the Christian message with local villagers over the period of our stay.

We aim to be a helpful Christian presence in the villages for the eight days of the summer trip and provide a route to more local sustainability.

So for the core in the summer we want to provide Gospel based teaching and other activities for children in local schools as well as local youth up to the ages of about 19. We also intend to provide a basic medical service for villagers (including dentists and opticians if available) and hope to have a community based mission visiting local Christian and non-Christian families.

4. WHO ARE WE SEEKING TO RECRUIT?

Despite some specialisms that would be particularly helpful, we are looking for any church members, from young people to the retired, who have a commitment to serve the Lord in the most appropriate way. Young people under 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent (or should speak to Drew Waller about the possibility of serving in the youth team) but will be expected to serve independently as appropriate – we will also do our best to accommodate families together in the villages. We do want people to be tolerant and willing to serve at any task – this is much more important than experience in any similar projects. We also welcome other suggestions – in the past two people came and volunteered to set up a “hair-dressing” service which was very well received! There is however an obligation to be involved in a number of planning and orientation sessions in the UK in the run up to the trips.

We are urging people to apply early and anticipate being able to confirm places by the end of November or early December. We will be interviewing applicants to ensure a fair balance – if you not accepted your deposit will be returned promptly.

5. WHAT IS THE ITINERARY AND COSTS?

The summer group will leave on flights from London on Friday 24 July, staying overnight in Budapest and then travelling to Ukraine early on Saturday 25 July. We will be staying in the villages until after church on Sunday 2 August, returning to stay overnight in Budapest before flying back to the UK on Monday 3 August – with an option to stay in the wonderful city of Budapest for a day of R+R (albeit independently – but in a good hotel!) and return on Tuesday 4 August.

The basic trip will cost £690 (£490 for children under 18) to include return airfares, transfers to villages and meals en route, two overnight stays in Budapest and a contribution to the villages to include board and lodging as well as to the overall programme costs. It will be the individual’s responsibility to make sure that they are sufficiently covered with appropriate insurance. Transfer to and from the UK airport (and also Budapest airport) will also be the responsibility of the individual. As we try to economise on costs to ensure that the maximum possible amount is donated to support the villages, we will be seeking to get a variety of flights (e.g. Easyjet, Wizzair) and you should be prepared to travel from any London airport at any time on the departure date and returning on 3/4 August.

Unfortunately due to the anticipated increase in flight prices in late December anyone applying after the closing date will be subject to an additional supplement dependent on the increase (anticipated to be around £50)

Grants of £100 - £350 per person are available for anyone who will find it difficult to meet the full costs of the trip – and more in particular circumstances. Please approach Andrew, Ian, Michael or Philip Plyming in confidence to discuss further and agree the appropriate grant level.

6. ONE DAY EXTENSION POSSIBILITY

Why not extend your visit by one day and see the wonderful city of Budapest? During the summer trip there is an option to return on 4 August and stay an extra day in Budapest. The cost of this (including extra overnight accommodation and breakfast but excluding additional meals) is only £50 per person.

7. WHAT IF I CANNOT COME BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

If you are not able to come (or indeed if you are!) there will be a need for basic items (e.g. stationery, toys, books and clothes) to support the trip as well as for specific help in planning the activities - and for extra funds for medicines, school, church and other materials. An admin assistant is also very much needed.

8. WHO ARE THE LEADERS?

Ian Vale will be leading the work in the villages and overseeing all mission activities – building on the programme developed in 2008.

Andrew Tarcy will be co-leading the visit. Speaking fluent Hungarian he has led five previous similar projects and knows the area well.

Michael Webb-Peploe will be leading the medical and dental teams and has already developed much expertise from five trips there in 2004-8

We will be working through and with the local ministers in Akli and (Szolos) Gyula and will also have the support of a number of translators from local universities and schools to make sure that we are understood!

9. HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY?

Please free to contact the leaders listed below if you wish to find out more.

You might also find it useful to speak to some of the group who went in summer 2008 (or earlier years) to get an impression of what to expect.

Andrew Tarcy 01372 470963 email: andrew@tarcy.co.uk

Ian Vale 01372 467134 email: IanVale@fsmarketing.uk.com

Michael Webb-Peploe 01372 464879 email: m.webb-peploe@doctors.org.uk

Application forms are available from Holy Trinity Church Office and we need to receive all applications with £200 deposit by Monday 17 November - so please be prepared!

Diary dates

19 October	Information meetings after all church services
17 November	Last date to return application forms and £200 deposit
Early December	Confirmation of applicants place
1 March	Next instalment of £200 due
1 June	Final instalment due
24 July	Depart for Ukraine – various London airports and times
3/4 August	Return to the UK - various times according to availability