

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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A Lone Christian in Budapest Hungary

A recent correspondence with a fellow Christian in Alabama yielded an alarming discussion regarding a sound church in Budapest Hungary that has disbanded. The few members that the church had have defected to the local institutional churches of Christ. There is one woman 31 years of age that has not; however, completely given herself over to liberalism. She has been taught the truth and is currently encouraged to keep the doctrine of Christ in all purity by men like the brother in Alabama. There is also an older man in his 70's yet due to his age he is having a hard time traveling to assemble with anyone. What is this woman to do? Could you imagine being the only Christian in a county with 23 districts and a population of over 2 million?

Options:

There are options for this young woman. Research into this church in Budapest yielded an article written by Hugh Walton on October 1, 1998 in the Watchman Magazine. The article tells of the pains and persecutions that come with being in an overwhelming atheist society yet the church was thriving in 1998. I have cut and pasted the following statement from brother Walton so that these churches may be sought out. Hugh writes, "A church is being established in Szekesfehervar and we will be going down to meet with them every Sunday afternoon after we leave the services here. Our Hungarian preacher (a retired bus driver converted and preaching / jcr) and several others went down this past Lord's Day to meet with them while Ginny and I were visiting with the brethren in Prague, Czech Republic. This was a milestone for the work in Hungary - all Hungarian Christians met together in this church's first meeting! No Americans, or any other foreigner, were present! I praise God for His Son Jesus Christ and the blood He shed for churches such as these here in Budapest and Szekesfehervar, Hungary." I googled Hugh Walton's name so that I might contact him; however, the search yielded no familiar results. The first option for this young lady would be to check into the church at Szekesfehervar and Prague, Czech Republic. Szekesfehervar would be about a 75 mile drive for her and Prague more than twice that distance. Hopefully someone more informed on the current situation of the church in Hungary can notify our readers more precisely. Obviously things have changed since brother Walton wrote the article back in 1998.

Another option would be for sound preachers to return to Budapest Hungary and establish another church. How would you start a church in

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Revelation Study:

This evening we will pick up our study of the book of Revelation at chapter 16. Be sure to pick up an outline in the foyer.

Web Page:

Check out our web site if has been a while (Acts posted very soon)
www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

*"O God, thou art my God;
earnestly will I seek thee: My soul
thirst for thee, my flesh longs for
thee, in a dry and weary land,
where no water is"*

Psalms 63:1

an area where there is only one Christian? You could do no differently than what we read in our Bibles. Paul and his traveling companions went into areas where no church existed and established them by infiltrating the established religious assemblies (i.e., the synagogues and places where religiously minded people met [such as Lydia]) (see Acts 13:42-44; 16:13ff; 17:2; 18:4; 19:8). Said preacher would need to preach solid lessons on Bible authority and the sins that revolve around institutional practices. Said preacher would need to be ready and willing to debate the liberal churches of Christ, infiltrate the established religious assemblies, and be ready for the greatest degree of persecution. The best suited man for such a job would be one who approaches the situation with a grave and spiritual mind. Such a man would not take the trip for a vacation and neither would such a man go there to preach soft sermons filled with the fluff of feel good stories. A newly established church will need sound teaching on Bible basics and be firmly planted upon the authority of God Almighty. If not, the church will grow quickly and just as quickly dissolve (like the parable of the sower illustrates). Said events are happening all over the world. Churches are stagnant and dissolving because men are not doing the true work of the evangelist.

A third option for this young lady is to get busy herself. She ought to be motivated by women such as Lydia of Thyatira who was a business woman selling purple in Philippi (Acts 16:11ff), Priscilla of Italy who traveled to Corinth with her husband Aquila and preached the gospel both in Corinth and Asia (Acts 18:1ff), and Phoebe of Cenchreae, a servant in the church, who traveled to Rome and was commanded to be greeted of by the brethren there (Rom. 16:1-2). The book of Hebrews also tells of many faithful women as well (Heb. 11 all). Yes these are special women in the Bible many of which had faithful husbands with them. This young woman in Budapest; however, is all alone save the retired bus driver who lives far away. She is not without special gifts herself. She is fluid in six languages which ought to help her in communicating the gospel message. It would take great faith and understanding of God's word for this young lady yet with the Lord on her side she surely can do all things through him who provides strength (Phil. 4:13).

A fourth and necessary option is prayer. Let the young lady pray often (I Thess. 5:17; James 5:16). Let us all pray for her. Let us all research out this situation more and find what we might be able to do to help her have a place and brethren to worship the Lord in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:23).

Conclusion:

Much has changed in past eleven years in Budapest Hungary since brother Hugh Walton wrote his promising article. The church is disbanded and there remains one woman and a distant 70 year old retired bus driver who has been tempted to join with the liberals. What happened? There are around 26 preachers that I send this bulletin out to. If you know more about the work in Hungary and surrounding areas please do contact me. Secondly, if you have other suggestions for this young lady please let me know.

A Real MAN of God

The Bible tells of men who came upon the scene during wicked days and turn things around for a people who were headed in the wrong spiritual direction. Abraham is said to have "*believed in Jehovah; and he reckoned it to him for righteousness*" (Gen. 15:6). James adds, "*and he was called the friend of God*" (James 2:23b). The Bible states of Moses, "*And there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom Jehovah knew face to face*" (Deut. 34:10). Joshua too was a man of God. The Bible tells us, "*As Jehovah commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua: and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that Jehovah commanded Moses*" (Josh. 11:15). David was also known as a great man of God. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's heart (I Sam. 13:14) and he was known as the "*sweet psalmist of Israel*" due to the multitude of psalms to God he had written (see II Sam. 23:1). The Bible also tells of faithful apostles who were "*doomed to death*" (I Cor. 4:9) yet continued in faith for the sake of men's souls. What makes such men? This lesson shall take a closer look at men. We want to see what makes them tick and examine every part of their lives. Peace, happiness, and contentment belong to the man who will set his house and life in order now and forever more.

I. God's view and selection of the Man:

- A. Adam (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; I Tim. 2:11-14).
- B. Subjection of the woman
(I Cor. 11:8-10; 14:34-35; Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; I Pet. 3:5-6).

II. God ordains the MAN to lead:

- A. Church (Elders, deacons, and preachers)
- B. Home (Husband and Father)

III. The MAN's Relationships:

- A. Christ (loyal, loving, and submissive - Jn. 14:15)
- B. Wife (Eph. 5:25; I Pet. 3:7)
- C. Children (nurturing in truth, be there for them, communication, and discipline).

Conclusion:

Men of today and men of the future need a right approach to spirituality and human relationships. We are to be leaders of the home and church. We are never to delegate that God ordained position to a woman. The apostle Paul delivered a command to men when he said, "*quit you like men, be strong*" (I Cor. 16:13). That phrase, "*quit ye like men*" is one word in the Greek (i.e., *andrizomai*) which means, "to make a man of; to come to manhood, behave like a man" (Liddell and Scott's Greek English Lexicon pp. 65). Christian men need to stop cowering under the pressures of an ungodly and un-submissive wife and act like men. Again, men need to put God's word before society norms and behave like a man. A man is strong. A man is convicted. A man is not afraid to lead his family. A true man will love his wife and children and they will know their place. Real men will lead the church of Christ now and in the future by authoritative preaching and teaching.