

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

People from all over the world want to visit New York because it is a very fascinating city. There is a hustle and bustle of people everywhere which makes driving very difficult, almost impossible. It is home to millions of people with varied backgrounds and cultures. For many years it has welcomed immigrants seeking a better way of life. Hungarians started to emigrate from the late 19th century. They arrived by boat to Ellis Island to be checked in. Some of them got employment and remained in the city. My maternal grandparents arrived in 1895 and my father in 1910, one hundred years ago.

Hungarians are religious people and wanted a place to worship. They made sacrifices to purchase the New York church. They had foresight and made a very wise purchase. For over one hundred years the New York church has been a pillar or a rock for all people, especially for Hungarians. They sought out the church for not only spiritual guidance and worship, but also for social guidance and assistance. They were in a strange land and could not speak the language. They needed a lot of help. Ernie's parents arrived in 1914. They were baptized in that church and were later married there as well.

Through the years, many were led to Jesus Christ and remained faithful in their service to Him. During that time there were great numbers of immigrants and the church flourished. Later, as the older generation passed on to glory, the younger generation moved to the suburbs and settled into neighborhood churches. This put a strain on the church, but it survived.

In 1956 after the Hungarian revolt, a new group of Hungarians arrived and the church grew in membership. The past few years another group of immigrants have arrived. Most of them are Hungarians from Transylvania. They, too, want to worship God in their mother tongue. How fortunate they are to have the beautiful, refurbished church available with a full program for all ages. It has always been so. I remember the wonderful conventions, young people's conferences and the choir and orchestra. Also, the church suppers prepared by the church women. Fond memories!

All former pastors worked hard in fulfilling God's command to preach the Gospel and many accepted Christ and were baptized.

It was my joy and privilege to attend the Installation Celebration for their new pastor, Dr. Istvan Gergely. When I arrived, I was very happy to see the church pews full. There were only a few empty seats in the front. It was like old times!

When I heard Dr. Gergely's background, I was certain God chose him for that special cosmopolitan city. God has commissioned him to carry on the work the forefathers began to preach the Gospel. He is bilingual and will be able to communicate with everyone. At the Ordination Service he was greeted by many convention and church leaders. They prayed with him and for him. Let us all support him, and his ministry, and wish him God's richest blessing as he not only gives spiritual food to his congregation, but serves as a "pastor of the flock" as well.

Let us all welcome him, and his family, into our country, our convention, our church fellowship and into our hearts.

Ethel Petre Kish

INSTALLATION OF MINISTER AT FIRST HUNGARIAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEW YORK - OCTOBER 10, 2010

The Rev. Dr. István Gergely was installed as Minister of First Hungarian Baptist Church of New York on Sunday, October 10, 2010.

Rev. Gergely and his family come to the New York pastorate from Érmihályfalva, Romania. He served as President of the Hungarian Baptist Convention in Romania, after having held various leadership and teaching positions in the denomination and its educational institutions.

Reverend Gergely had received formal theological education at the following institutions: Baptist Theological Seminary, Bucharest; Spurgeon College (London); King's College (London) and the International Baptist Theology (Prague) - where he earned a Doctor of Theology degree.

Rev. Dr. James O. Stallings, Regional Minister of ABC, New York City was the main speaker of the Installation Service. Rev. Gergely was formally installed as minister of the New York congregation by the Rev. Dr. Géza Herjeczki, President of the Hungarian Baptist Convention of North America. Following the installation, greetings were offered by the former pastor of the church (Rev. Sándor Kulcsár, who retired from the pastorate after serving several Hungarian churches in Romania, and then the New York congregation for more than 20 years), fellow Hungarian Baptist ministers, and by representatives of different Hungarian congregations and organization. Consular General Zsófia Trombitás (herself the daughter of a well known Hungarian Reformed minister) extended the well wishes of the diplomatic core, delegated to New York by the Republic of Hungary.

The Installation Ceremony was attended by members of the congregation,

representatives of the Hungarian Baptist Convention of North America, attendees at the American Hungarian Baptist Youth Convention (the youth had their Fall Convention on the same weekend), and members of the larger Hungarian community.

Joseph Novak, Secretary

BAPTISTS INVOLVED IN CHILE RESCUE MISSION

Washington (BWA)— Baptists in Chile have been involved in the quest to rescue the 33 workers who were trapped inside a mine for more than two months in the South American country.

The Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Chile (UBACH) dispatched one of its pastors, Marcelo Leiva, to the site where he has, for the past several weeks, had ongoing telephone conversations and prayer sessions with the trapped mineworkers.

"He has been able to talk to them by phone, praying with them and reading the Bible," said Raquel Contreras, president of UBACH and president of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department. Leiva has been staying in a tent at the rescue mission site, and has also spent time with family members of the trapped mineworkers. "He stays there overnight, sleeping in tents, sharing the gospel, and extending the love of God to the families," Contreras told the BWA.

Contreras claimed that one of the miners "became a Christian," and "wrote his wife saying that she should talk to the pastor because he has become a new man and he wanted his wife to become 'new' too."

"Pastor Marcelo talked to her and guided her to know Jesus," the BWA women's leader reported.

One of the engineers involved in the drilling process is a Baptist church member in Chile. Baptists sent MP3 players into the mine with Christian songs, hymns and sermons, as well as Spanish language Bibles.

The Social Network of the Chilean Baptist Union, formed by UBACH and which has been involved in the reconstruction efforts following the massive earthquake that affected Chile on February 27, has been coordinating the outreach to the miners and their families.

Thirty three mineworkers got trapped inside the San José copper-gold mine in Copiapó, in Northern Chile, on August 5. It is expected that the men will be rescued over several days this week if everything goes according to plan. The protracted extraction process is the result of more than two months of intensive rescue plans and preparations. www.bwanet.org