

**FEBRUARY 2024** 

# **REGARDING HATS...**

## Prayer

- Central Europe Field Director role for Hungary/Serbia As of January 1, Ron and Jean Seck retired and handed this role off to me. Thanks for your prayers as I seek to do this well.
- Melville, Saskatchewan I'll be with some leaders at Melville Baptist for a sister-church partnership orientation.
- Hatvan, Hungary I'll be meeting with Laci and Eszter Daróczi-Csuhai, global mission partners, and with the MEK Hungary staff Laci directs.
- For all of Gateway's ongoing sister-church partnerships in various stages of development and engagement in Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, and Cameroon.
- For more North American churches to engage in sister-church partnerships.

#### Praises

- Edmonton, Alberta It was good to share on sister-church partnerships at the Greater Edmonton Mission Conference and to preach at McKernan Baptist Church.
- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma It was a new (and good, and educational!) experience co-teaching a preconference workshop at the International Conference on Missions on the "7 Standards of Short-Term Mission" (<u>https://missionexcellence.global/7-standards</u>).
- Fair Oaks, California Led a Gateway training on short-term mission team leadership for NorCal churches, hosted by Sunrise Community Church. It was a good group!
- For the Christmas/holiday season and all the events and gatherings my family and I take part in.

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. EPHESIANS 4:11-12 (NRSV)

There's a training exercise for short-term mission teams where you're asked to share about your 'Hat, Home, and Heart' in order to get to know your other team members better. My usual response to the 'Hat' portion is that I wear MULTIPLE hats (I'm sure you do, too). Here's some of my current hats:



Gateway training in Osaka, Japan – 2017.

#### **Gateway Director**

This is the hat most of you would probably be familiar with me wearing, as I've had this hat for the past 22 years. Of course, the Gateway Director hat I wear involves the oversight, training, and leading of churches and other ministries in the ways of short-term mission, sister-church partnerships, and the leading of mission and vision trips, as well as international networking.

#### **Hockey Defenseman**



This hat (which actually requires the wearing of an actual hat/helmet) has been one I've worn for many years and still enjoy wearing as I seek to stay healthy and active. Many of

Playing hockey!

you know what's entailed in playing this position. It doesn't necessarily mean I'm scoring many goals, but hopefully it does mean that I'm helping make sure the other team is not.



With a short-term mission team in Hungary – 2023.

### Central Europe (Hungary/Serbia) Field Director (New Hat!)

As of January 1, I started to wear this hat as well. If you've followed my past newsletters, you'll be reminded that I've mentioned this responsibility more and more. And as 2024 moves forward, I've already begun a lot more interaction with our global mission partners in Hungary and Serbia, as well as making plans to travel there at least two times this year. In addition, I serve on the boards of MEK Hungary and ZZ Serbia, the organizations our partners direct, which is also another hat.

#### **Husband and Father**

My relationships to my wife and my son continue to reflect the most important hats in my life. We spend as much time together as we can, whether at home, on vacation, or just enjoying events and life. This is by far the most significant (and the most meaningful) hat I wear.



As I'm sure many of you could attest to, there are many more 'hats' that I could describe. And as I'm sure is the case for any of you reading this, balancing our hats is always one of the greatest challenges before us. Thanks for your prayers as I seek to balance mine.

For the Kingdom,

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