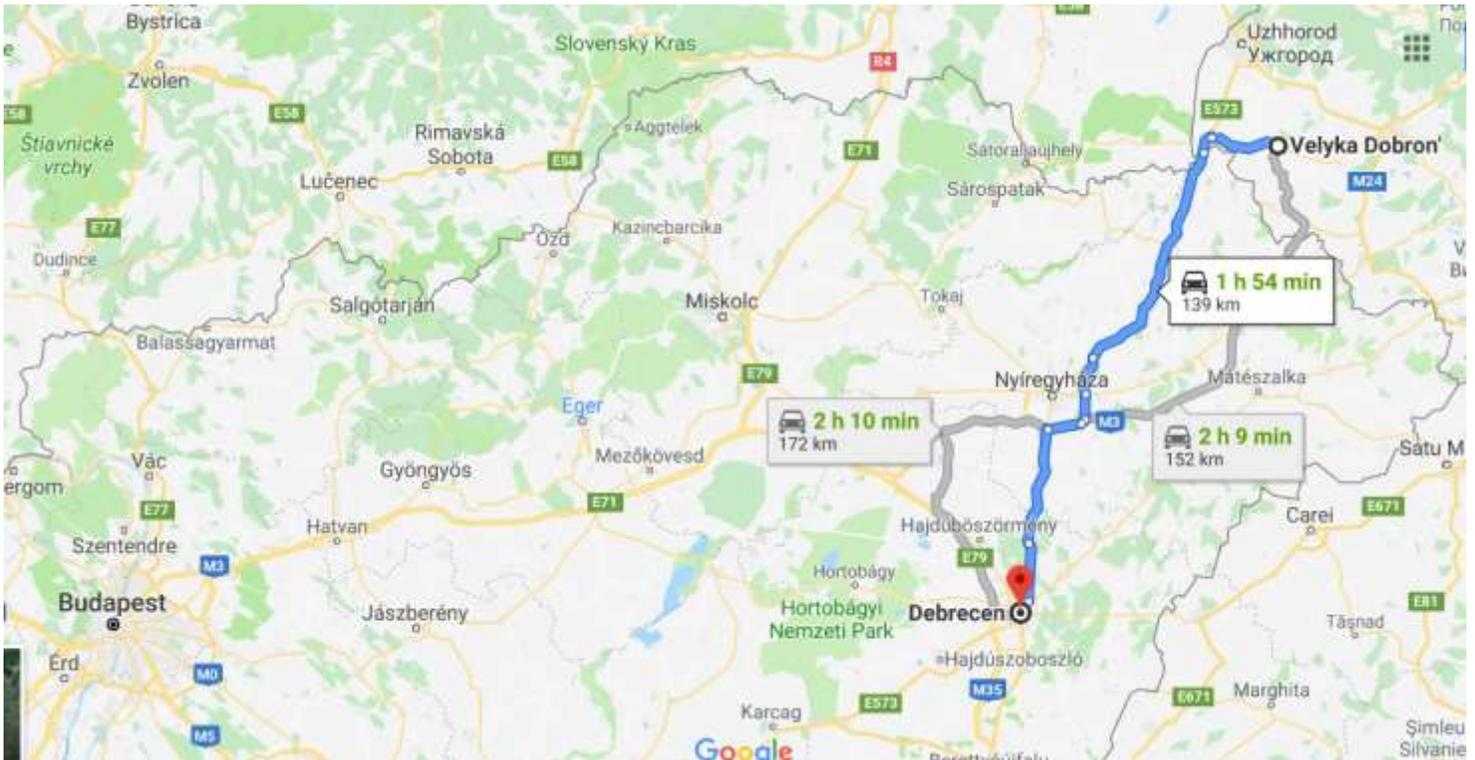


# Hungarian Reformed Convocation and Fair, Debrecen, Hungary May 18th



**Early on May 18th**, 4:45 am, Director Katko loaded up the new van and set off with eight of the older girls and myself for the annual Reformed Convocation and street fair in Debrecen, Hungary. We left early because crossing the border can be horribly unpredictable. We were lucky to cross after a one hour delay - there was no customs agent available for the first 30 minutes! It was then a comfortable two hour drive to the city center.



We set up our booth and had a chance to explore before things got too busy. A tram line runs down the middle of the blocked off street which opens up into a large square in front of the major church. A smaller church at the opposite end of the street hosted an all day concert with choral groups from around the country. Booths lined each side promoting different charities, orphanages, and other church related groups. Good Samaritan Children's Home was one of the designated groups to share in the general collection.





Director Laszlo Katko, Jr., (top left) on the main square before the crowds arrived.

A quiet square (above) just off the main square and part of the university.

The wide sidewalk paralleling the street and tram line opens up into a large square with benches and a large fountain (left). A quiet respite on the warmest day of the year.

An unusual multi-level fountain (below) on the main square fronts a large hotel and business complex (below left).





**Throughout the day** different singing groups and folk dancers performed on the stage in front of the large church and were also projected on large screens throughout the square. In early afternoon 15-20 communion tables were erected throughout the square and at 3pm a regular church service began from the stage. The culmination of the 1 1/2 hour service was a massive Lord's Supper with at least 5000 worshippers partaking. Laci Katko, pastor Zsolt Kotyuk, and I patiently waited our turn after about 30 minutes in one of the long lines.



**After a long day** manning the booth and interacting with the vast crowds, everyone appreciated the stop at McDonald's in Nyiregyhaza on the way home. Big Mac Menus (Meals) for all... Laci shares an outdoor table with Jolika Paladi and Vicki Barate. A smaller, similar fund raising Fair specifically for the handicapped is coming up in a few weeks.