

Epistle.

The 22nd CEG took place in Budapest, Hungary 12-15 April 2018. 54 people from 14 countries including 9 children, and 2 dogs gathered in the lovely premises of Hotel Walzer. With the Christmas decorations still hanging and violets in the backyard we were certain from the moment we had entered the place was special.

Friday proved to be an informationally overwhelming and emotionally intense day for many. In the morning Linda Carranza from the Budapest Quaker Meeting led a dynamic exercise during which we arrived at the conclusion that we have different intuitions about what nonviolence means, but we know we are all committed to finding ways to build peace.

Michael Simmons, also from the Budapest Quaker Meeting, illustrated the concept by describing nonviolent approaches applied during the Civil Rights Movement. We learned that in real life situations the application of nonviolent approaches is complex and nuanced. Not everybody is ready to put their life on the front line but everybody can play a useful role in furthering the cause.

Zoltan Varady from TTD continued the theme of practical nonviolence. TTD utilises non-confrontational approaches such as humor, especially satire, and social media to connect with young people in opposition to the leading parties.

On Saturday, James Peter, himself a refugee born in Sierra Leone, offered a presentation on the background, and past and present projects of the organisation MigHelp, which he had founded*. The mission of this organization is to help integrate immigrants into Hungarian society. This is achieved by means of organizing training courses for (the) immigrants, in particular driving and vocational courses, and even by securing places at universities.

In the evening our spirits were lifted by a short comical play produced by Cathy, Dejan and the kids. After that Friends appreciated the opportunity for sharing and reflection on the days' events in smaller groups.

Every day commenced and was concluded with musical offerings.

Thank you to Vera and everyone else who contributed to the organization and program.

This epistle was written with love, patience, and dedication by Anna, Mineta, Tamara.

- MigHelp also provides meeting space for the Budapest Quaker Meeting