

Kornya Program

The official evangelism and church planting strategy of the Hungarian Baptist Union for the period 2014-34.

The Kornya Program's basic word

***Psalm 126:6** He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. (ESV)*

We have understood that our church planting activity is the key to our future!

Our desire is to see 100 new churches planted in 20 years.

Our goal is to facilitate this by supporting and cooperating with autonomous congregations/churches.

The Mission challenge - Big deeds, big price!, as William Carey, the father of modern mission, put it: „Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”

Content elements of the Kornya Program:

- The "Kornya Program" is a partnership of churches, districts, existing church plantings, mission workers with a degree in theology, pastors and young people open to ministry.
- Training in church planting (theory and practice) for pastors who are open to it.
- Church planting training (theory and practice) for young people interested in this kind of ministry. (We have such training at the Baptist Theological Seminary.)
- Training (theory and practice) in church planting for district ministers, so that viable district stations can be formed into church plantings.
- To orient mission activity in Baptist institutions (High School, social institution, etc.) towards church planting.
- Involving school pastors in the church planting ministry.
- Planting new churches in university centres through university mission.
- Supporting our existing churches to plant new churches and to foster church planting.
- Collaborating with our existing churches to foster and support new church plantings.
- Starting new churches in cities where there is no evangelical church.
- Starting new churches in cities where there is no Baptist church.
- Starting new churches in those cities where the size of the city and the nature of the mission allows for the planting of new churches in cooperation with the existing Baptist church.

- Evangelist training and support for evangelistic ministries – Kornya Program Evangelist Training (KEK) from 2025. (With this program, we want to help advance the development of the evangelistic movement.)
- Planting small mission groups (multiplying and evangelizing).
- Kornya Visiting Ministry (Visiting church planters and families, and meeting with pastors and leaders of stronger churches).
- Criteria and tools for selecting church planters.
 - Church planter profile inventory.
 - Church planter candidate preliminary assessment questionnaire.
- Liturgical suggestions for church planting leaders for special services. (marriage, engagement, funeral, child presentation)

Encouragement

1. by Bertalan A. Kirner about Mihály Kornya

"He did not have an organised church waiting for him with pulpit, members, choir, chariot, lunch, dinner, resting accommodation.

Neither in village nor in town. No one had gone before him... he had to take the gospel himself... The wheat, already grown, can be brought here and there, put in storage; but until there is no wheat, -no crop,- no "seed", there is much toil to cope with."

- The growth of churches did not occur by migrating from one evangelical community to another, but began and grew with sincere converts and people who had come to a new and changed life in Christ.
- However, to achieve this, the 'plough in the mission fallow ground' had to be sown deep first.

2. What was Mihály Kornya's secret?

Mihály Kornya (Nagyszalonta, 22 February 1844 - Bihardiószeg, 3 January 1917) was the most dynamic personality of the Hungarian Baptist mission period of more than a century and a half in the Carpathian Basin. He is often called the peasant apostle or peasant prophet. Yes, it is not an exaggeration to say that he carried out the most influential apostolic ministry in the history of his time and of our community.

He was a co-worker with Christ in the conversion of thousands and the birth of hundreds of churches. God gave the growth, but he and his co-workers "planted and watered" with dedicated service.

We are not mistaken in saying that Mihály Kornya played a key role in the birth of the Hungarian and Romanian Baptist churches by the Holy Spirit. Regarding many churches, he could rightly say, using the words of the apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 4:15 *For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*
(ESV)

Yes, it was a period of awakening, perhaps the biggest ever for our community. What were the main characteristics of this period and of Mihály Kornya's ministry and attitude (without claiming completeness) - What was the secret of Mihály Kornya?

1) Dedication and abundant seed sowing

For about 30 years prior to the period of Mihály Kornya, as the traveling Bible sellers, who as employees of the British and Foreign Bible Society, sold tens of thousands of Bibles in the territory of historical Hungary (Serbia, Hungary, Transylvania, Slovakia), were engaged in a sacrificial pioneering evangelistic ministry. Among them was János Rottmayer (1818-1901), the first Hungarian Baptist in the modern sense of the word, who returned from Hamburg in 1846 with his fellow carpenters as a converted and baptized believer.

But let us also mention Antal Novák (1824-1900), who also spread the Bible and at the same time preached the gospel enthusiastically. Our brethren did this despite the fact that for many years their persistent spiritual work yielded few visible results. Thus, when Henrik Meyer (1842-1919), the pioneer leader of the Baptist mission in Hungary, arrived in our country on March 6, 1873, he was greeted by a well-worked mission field, richly sown with the seed of the gospel.

In the early 1870s, there were only a handful of Baptists living in the Carpathian Basin. By the late 1920s, including family members, their number had grown to about forty thousand in the area of Truncated-Hungary.¹

2) Characteristics of the movement

- It was an evangelising and church planting movement.
- The organisation provided a framework for life and it was not thought that life could be created through organisation and administration.
- At the same time they were characterised by strategic thinking and planning.
- Throughout they remained committed to the free practice of religion, what we call the "Free Church in a Free State" principle.

¹ Ország-Világ, 1930 (51. évfolyam, 1-52. szám) | Arcanum Digitális Tudománytár. adtplus.arcanum.hu.
(Hozzáférés: 2021. március 18.)

- They knew both practical realities and spiritual truths. Being involved in practical life, they knew the situation and the "language" of those among whom and towards whom they ministered.

3) Respect for authority - spiritual coverage

They understood and practised the spiritual truth as stated in the last sentence of the Old Testament:

Malachi 4:6 *And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” (ESV)*

Mihály Kornya was converted in 1874, in Nagyszalonta, in response to the preaching of Antal Novák, and he was baptised by Henrik Meyer in Gyula on 26 August 1875. His wife and six other residents of Nagyszalonta were baptised at the same time. The Baptist Church of Nagyszalonta held its services at his house, which had 47 members by 1879.

For years he preached the gospel in the surrounding villages. Henrik Mayer ordained him as a deacon on November 11, 1877, and then On June 8, 1881, he was elected as a presbyter together with Mihály Tóth and his brother-in-law László Balogh. On the next day of his ordination as presbyter he performed his first baptism in the village of Fekete-Tót. Previously, Mayer also baptized those prepared by Kornya.

4) Comrade loyalty

Kornya has always been persistent and with he turned with a loyal heart towards his fellow servants, his superiors, his FRIENDS (e.g. Henrik Meyer)! He did so, despite having to live through the turning away of some of those who still knew the Lord through him.

He did not see in his fellow servants and leaders a rival, but rather comrades.

It reveals much about him that when he passed away on January 3, 1917, at his funeral in Bihardiószeg on January 6, Meyer Henrik read from 2 Samuel 1:17-26. This passage of verse reads:

2 Samuel 1:26 *I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women. (ESV)*

5) A passionate spirit of service

- The Holy Spirit was able to manifest Himself in a vibrant and imaginative way throughout his life.

- He was not a slave to mission methods.

6) LOVE and passion

2 Corinthians 11:2 *For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)*

Paul describes the special relationship between the church and Christ our Lord in the image of the bridegroom and the bride. This picture is not uncommon in the Scriptures, since God - referring to the importance of the covenant - also names his people Israel as his wife through the Old Testament prophets.

The bride waits and longs to meet her bridegroom, to spend time with him, and then to be married.

The bride eagerly prepares for the wedding, which she therefore prepares for with great diligence.

Meeting the groom is also an exciting moment of getting to know him and planning together.

Let us not be satisfied with anything less than the bride's passionate and pure 'love' for her groom, that renews itself and flares up again and again.

This mutual affection, or even 'love', passion and relationship with the Bridegroom, was at the heart of the mission and servant life of Mihály Kornya and his peers.

Let's never forget!

Big deeds, big price!, as William Carey, the father of modern mission, put it:
„Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”

Questions (We discuss the questions in groups.)

- 1) *Historia est magistra vitae* (this is a fundamental truth) / History is the teacher of life.
What can we learn from Church history to make our own ministry more effective?
- 2) In church planting mission in our own country, What we do? How we do it?
Why we do it?

- 3) What are the areas in local mission that need renewal? How can we help this happen?