

engage
Kids

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HIM Europe



**“HUNGARY”
FOR ADVENTURE**

NEW PLACES NEW FACES

“Margot*, I finally made it here to see you! Thanks so much for meeting me at the airport and helping me find my way around. I’d be lost otherwise.” Louie plopped onto the bench seat beside his friend Margot. She made room for Louie’s bag as the trolley moved into traffic.

Margot smiled shyly at Louie. “I’ve looked forward to this day for a long time. Some call Budapest the most beautiful city in the world. I’m excited to show you around. The trolleybus is one of my favorite ways to see the sights. The city’s first trolley line started over ninety years ago.”

“I’ve never been on a trolley like this before. I’ve also never traveled with a mink like you before! It’s all so grand! How long have we been pen pals anyway?” From his sholuder bag Louie pulled a letter Margot had written him. “You’ve told me so much about this place that I couldn’t wait to see everything.”

“Heather Durham gave me a letter about two years ago. In that letter Mrs. Tonya said her friend Louie was looking for someone to write to in Europe. I live near the Durhams, so Heather immediately thought of me. I’ve been writing to you ever since. Look!” Margot pointed out the window. “That’s St. Stephen’s Basilica—one of the most famous churches in the city.”

“Oh wow...can we go inside? Will we see the famous Danube River? And I heard about a castle. Where is that?”

What else will we see? What do the Durhams do? Wait... you said 'in Europe' a minute ago. This is Budapest. Is that the same as Europe?" Louie finally stopped long enough for a breath.

Margot giggled. "You live in Hobe Sound, Florida, in the United States, right? That's a town, state, and country on the North American continent. I live in Budapest, Hungary, in Europe. That's my city, country, and continent."

"Got it. So is Hungary as big as my appetite—for food AND adventure?" Louie's eyes sparkled.

Margot liked Louie's enthusiasm. "Hungary is about the same size as your state of Indiana, and our next stop is a café I know you'll love. It's not far from the Danube River. We'll tackle that huge appetite of yours right away." Margot held onto the seat in front of her as the trolley made a sharp turn. "When we meet the Durhams later, you can ask them ALL your missions questions. While sight-seeing is fun, I know you came to see how God is working in Europe."

"Indeed, I did." Louie leaned back in his seat and thanked God for Margot and the blessing of this amazing trip.

*Mar-gō





CONTINENT TRIVIA

Have you ever wanted to explore Europe? Maybe you could start with these questions and answers.

How would I get there? You'd fly across the Atlantic Ocean first. A flight from New York City to Paris, France, is around 8 hours long.

Q: Have you ever flown somewhere? How long was your flight?

How big is Europe? Europe is bigger than Australia and slightly larger than the United States.

Q: Can you name some other continents?



How many countries are in Europe? Officially, 44—but 7 additional countries, like Russia and Turkey, are partly in Europe and partly in Asia.

Q: Can you name all the countries in North America?

Which European country is the largest? Slightly smaller than Texas, Ukraine is the largest country located entirely on continental Europe. The European portion of Russia is half the size of the United States and over 6 times the size of Ukraine.



Q: Do you have a map or globe? Can you find Russia or Ukraine on it?

Which European country is the smallest? Vatican City is less than one-fourth of a square mile in size, and its population is around 880 people.

Q: How many people live in your town?



Could someone drive across Europe? Yes! But driving from one corner of Europe to the other would take about 7 days. You could drive from one side of the US to the other in around 5 days.

Q: How far is the drive to your grandma's house? What is your favorite activity during long car rides?



MEMORY VERSE

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one.

Ephesians 2:14 (ESV)

GOD GIVES FREEDOM

“Thank you so much! This looks fabulous!” Louie’s cheery voice echoed through the quiet café. The clerk looked up, startled. A customer or two glanced at Louie.

Margot reached up to adjust her green bow and whispered, “Louie! Um...could you...can you maybe talk a little more quietly?” She quickly moved to a table by the window and sat down.

Louie followed her, confused. “Did I do something wrong? I didn’t mean to embarrass you.”

“No, not really. You are kind and friendly. But Europeans are a quiet people. We aren’t used to saying much in public to people we don’t know.”

“Ah. I see. Why is that?” Louie wondered. He added some sugar to his hot tea and took a sip. “So delicious...”

Margot tried to explain. “Communism. It’s a big word, but that kind of government stole the light and life from people in many European countries. For years they lived in fear.”

“Fear of what?” Louie asked.

“Many things, including going hungry and getting arrested for saying that Communism is bad. This bad government tried to shut God out. Without God the people lost hope and did not trust anyone. Years and years of living in fear still affect the culture today.”

Louie’s eyes filled with tears. “Oh, Margot! I’m SO sorry! Here. Have some of my croissant. Food always makes me feel better.”

Margot giggled a bit and took the piece Louie offered. “Something happened though around thirty years ago. The government changed, and missionaries came, bringing hope and light with them. People heard about Jesus for the very first time.”

“Is that when HIM got involved?” Louie wondered. He also wondered if he could get another croissant. He was still hungry.

“Yes! A group of young people visited Russia in 1992. Soon the French, Grout, and Saxton families felt God’s call to start working in Europe. HIM has ministered here ever since—in schools, churches, orphanages, and more. They hand out food, supplies, and Bibles wherever they can.” Margot looked at her watch. “We should catch the next trolley. The Durhams are waiting to see you! But before we go, look at this.” She slid a photo across the table.

“Sweet lady! What’s her story?” asked Louie.

“On a 1994 missions trip some young people stayed with this Russian *babushka* or grandmother like the one in this picture. This *babushka* had prayed for more than twenty years for a Christian to come and stay in her home. Her prayers were answered, and she got a Bible too!”

“I’m excited to learn more! Let’s catch that trolley.” Louie said in a dramatic whisper. Margot just smiled. Louie’s visit was going to be so much fun!



Russian *babushka*
with a Bible

Louie's Treehouse Lain



WHERE ARE LOUIE AND MARGOT?

Louie has met Margot in Hungary, but their plans for Europe include stops in other countries too. We will follow their progress by updating this map each time they move to a new place.



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