

engage
Kids

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HIM EUROPE



BUILDING BRIDGES

MEET THE DURHAMS

“Please be careful, Louie! I wish you’d sit back down...” Margot gripped the edge of her seat. Louie stood TOO close to the edge of their Danube River tour boat, though it moved smoothly through the water. Louie waved enthusiastically to some children watching from the riverbank, grinned, and sat beside Margot. For about twenty seconds.

“I’ll try to sit, but this is just so fun. The river is beautiful, the buildings are beautiful, the people are beautiful, and...ohhhh... Just LOOK at that bridge!” With that, Louie popped up and dashed to the front of the boat. “Come on, Margot! The view is great!”

Encouraged by Louie’s enthusiasm, Margot carefully moved to Louie’s side. She agreed. The view was fabulous.



“That bridge is the famous Széchenyi (Seh-CHEN-yee) Chain Bridge, originally built over 175 years ago to connect and unify the two parts of the city—Buda and Pest. It’s always lit up beautifully at night. And seeing it means we aren’t far from Deak Square, where Ed and Heather Durham are waiting.”

Just as Margot suspected, their boat ride ended, and the friends hopped off. As Louie chatted about all he had seen, Margot gently guided him toward their meeting place.

“Louie! So glad you made it to Budapest! We’ve been looking forward to this visit.” Ed held out his hand, and Louie shook it. Heather wrapped Margot in a big hug.

“As Director of HIM Europe, I’ve got a job for you—if you’re ready.” Ed handed Louie a stack of small books.

“I am indeed ready. Lead on, good sir!” Louie saluted with his free hand. “What am I to do?”

“Well, Deak Square is a popular place with restaurants, shops, the park, and that big Ferris wheel. Today some German motorcyclists are visiting, and I hope to talk to some of them and give them a copy of this book, called *Chains*. It’s written in German. If they read it, they will learn how Jesus can break the chains of sin.”

Heather told Margot, “You and I will sit over on this park bench and pray for them, okay? Then after a while we’ll all visit the nearby hospital.”

“Why? Are you hurt?” Louie was confused. Margot just giggled.

Heather smiled and winked at Louie. “No, I’m fine. When we handed out tracts there the other day, we made some new friends. We want to check on them. They’ll love meeting you.”

Louie smiled back. “Ah. You’re building bridges, I see.”

“Building what? Oh yes! You’re exactly right, Louie. We build relationships so we can connect people to Jesus.”

Ed patted Louie’s shoulder, then pointed to some bikers walking their way. “Let’s go build a bridge, shall we?”

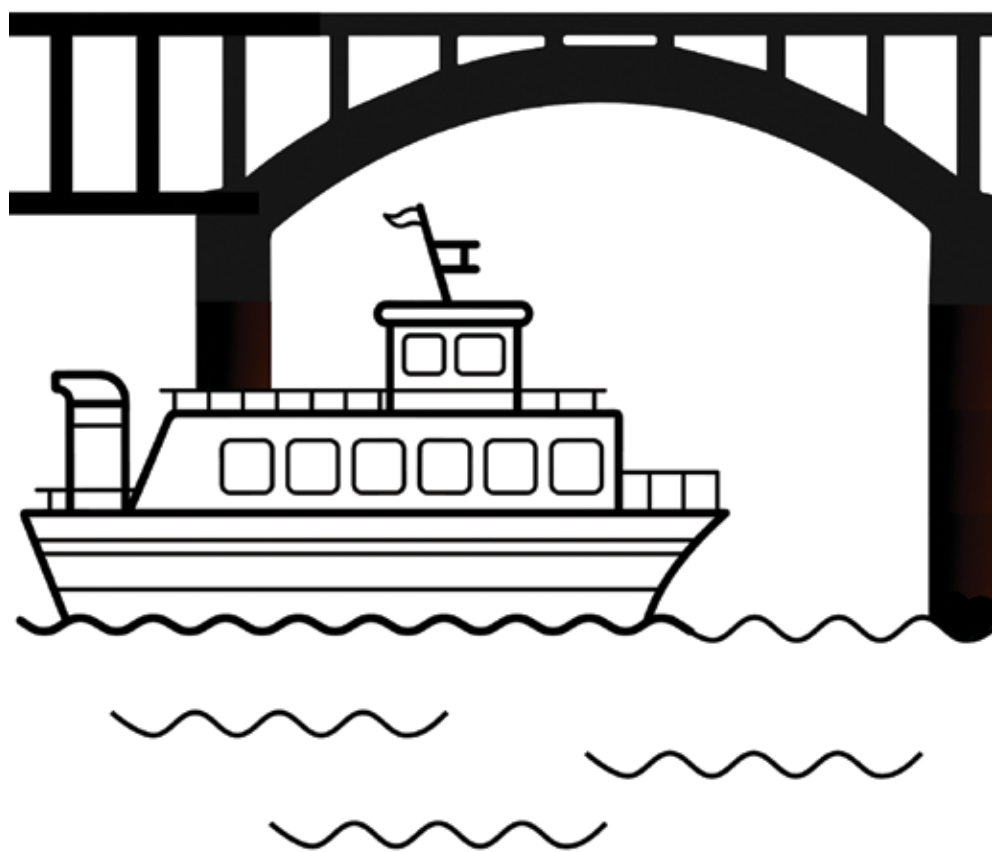
NOT JUST WATER

On their boat tour Louie and Margo went under the Széchenyi Bridge in Budapest, Hungary. With the help of your parents, look up some pictures of bridges. Use things in your house to build a bridge. While you build, discuss the answers to the following questions.

- Why do we need bridges? What is their purpose?
- What are bridges made of?
- What shapes do you see on the bridge pictured on the front cover?
- Are all bridges built over water?
- Besides water, who or what might go underneath a bridge?
- Who or what might go across a bridge?
- What do bridges connect?

Draw pictures of Louie and Margot and cut them out. Louie, of course, is hungry. Can you walk Louie and Margot across your bridge to get some *langos* (Hungarian fried flatbread) from the food truck on the other side?





MEMORY VERSE

And (He) might reconcile us both to God in one body
through the cross.

Ephesians 2:16 (ESV)

Jesus Christ is the ultimate bridge between God and man.

MISSIONS OF MERCY

“Did you see that? Did you?” Louie skidded to a stop in front of the park bench where Heather and Margot sat, praying God would use the little books Louie and Ed were handing out.

“What happened?” Margot asked.

Louie couldn’t contain his excitement. “They took the books! The bikers said they would read them. One of them even asked Mr. Ed some questions about God.”

Tears filled Heather’s eyes as she bowed her head, thanking God for His help. The group then headed to the Durhams’ nearby vehicle.

On the drive to the hospital Louie bombarded the Durhams with questions. “How long have you been with HIM? Mr. Ed, do you pastor a church? Mrs. Heather, do you teach? Do you mainly work here in Budapest, or do you also travel to other places? What’s your favorite part of being a missionary?”

When Louie finally paused, Ed chuckled. “The quick answer is that we have worked with HIM since 2010. I do not pastor one specific congregation, but I oversee missionary work in several locations—Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, Spain, and Armenia.”

Heather added, “We do a lot of personal evangelism—building bridges, as you described it, Louie. We also distribute tracts, write materials for evangelism and training, start and oversee discipleship groups, speak in churches, encourage pastors and missionaries, and more.”

“Tell Louie about the New Transition Home in Slovakia,” Margot suggested.

“That’s a great idea. But why don’t we just take him there for a visit?” Ed replied as he parked the car.

Heather agreed. “Sure, but our friends at the hospital



need us today. Grab some goodie bags, everybody.”

“Who are these for?” Louie whispered to Margot as they exited the car.

“Patients. We include items like toothbrushes, soap, and combs along with snacks and a paper with the gospel message.” Margot smiled and adjusted her armful of bags.

“Oh fun! I like giving gifts,” Louie replied.

“So do I!” said Heather as she walked toward the hospital entrance. “I wish you could have been with us when we delivered presents to some kids in Slovakia.”

Margot brightened. “That WAS delightful. I remember! They were Ukrainian children, needing a safe place to stay because of a war in their country. They had to leave home so quickly that most of their toys got left behind.”

“That’s right, Margot,” said Heather. “Some friends helped us gather some dolls and Frisbees for them. The kids were thrilled to get the presents, and we were happy to give them.”

“I know what would make me happy...” Louie grinned. “Riding that giant Ferris wheel I saw in Deak Square.”

Ed laughed. “We can! AFTER we deliver these packages and encourage our new friends here at the hospital. Deal?”

“Deal!” Louie bounced down the hallway, convinced this trip couldn’t get any better.

Louie's Treehouse Lain



YOUR BRIDGES

The Durhams are good at “building bridges.” They connect with people, learn what they need, meet that need when possible, and share Jesus’ love.

Do you know someone who needs to know more about Jesus? Here are some ideas for building bridges.

- Spend time with someone who is lonely and look for common interests.
- Celebrate a birthday with a handmade card.
- Offer to sweep someone’s porch or rake and pick up their leaves.
- Write letters to shut-ins.
- Create care kits to hand out to homeless people.
- Put together a care package for someone who is hurting.

What are your ideas for building bridges? Tell us in an email. Other kids can learn from you when we share those ideas in future issues.



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