I am blessed to serve in a small school teaching English to children with learning disabilities and behavior problems, including dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, hyperactivity disorder and autism.

As a co-teacher, I am in front of the class both providing instruction and monitoring students when they are working on class assignments. In this role, I am able to serve as a reminder of God’s love and presence.

One morning during a second-grade class, I witnessed one of the boys having a very hard time concentrating. Initially, I stood beside him to encourage him, but it was clear he was becoming more agitated. As I sat next to him, he began to cry. I rubbed his back while he worked. When the class ended, he packed his book bag and then kissed me on the cheek!

Jesus commands us to care for the least of these. In caring, Jesus pours out living water not only on the person who is obviously in need, but it is also poured over the giver of care and we are all transformed.

Carmella Jones | IM global servant for Evangelism, Discipleship and Education

The Rev. Carmella Jones serves in Hungary as a school chaplain through IM partner Hungarian Baptist Aid. In this position, Carmella teaches English, acts as a listening presence and offers pastoral care to children and families with special needs. Her experience in theological and nursing education uniquely equips her to teach and support spiritual and physical well-being. As an integrator of faith and health, Carmella seeks to provide care in the context of peoples’ values, beliefs and faith practices when providing compassionate support.

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