

You may have heard about the controversial gold mine in the Romanian town of Rosia Montana. Here are a couple of links

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ro%C8%99ia_Montan%C4%83

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Romanian_protests_against_the_Ro%C8%99ia_Montan%C4%83_Project

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/11/11/romania-shuts-door-on-gabriels-giant-rosia-montana-gold-mine/>

It seems like there is a lot of gold there, and it had been mined as far back as Roman times. A Canadian company called Gabriel Resources has the rights to it for some reason. The controversy is due to the use of cyanide in open-pit gold mining http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_cyanidation and there is great concern that this would be an environmental disaster.

It turns out that Rosia Montana is the Romanian name for the village of Verespatak. I had never associated the two because the Hungarian name Verespatak means “Red Creek” and not Red Mountain. In fact there is a Unitarian church in Verespatak, very similar to our Partner Church in Sinfalva, and is only about 50 miles away. The figure below shows the distance to the next village from Sinfalva, called Varfalva (Moldovenesti)

A

Rosia Montană, Alba County, Romania

B

Moldovenesti, Romania

Add Destination - Show options

GET DIRECTIONS

Suggested routes

DN75

85.6 km, 1 hour 19 mins

DJ107I and DN75

110 km, 2 hours 52 mins

Driving directions to Moldovenesti, Romania

Rosia Montană

I only realized this recently because I got a link from Csongor Palfi, elder son of Denes and Ildiko Palfi, saying that he and his mother were in Verespatak singing in the choir from Szentmihaly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mt86WTmdgYU> at an Advent service. The singing starts at about 5:00. The video is excellent quality. The camera zooms in on Ildiko Palfi at one point:

Verespataki advent - Unitarius istentisztelet, 2013. december 15.

Unfortunately, Csongor Palfi is hidden by a lady's hat from the camera's viewpoint.



Anyway, the whole service is recorded. For example at one point they say the Lord's Prayer in Hungarian between 22:20 to 23:05.

I scanned the video for the sermon which starts around 27:00 and is delivered by Rev. Robert Balint, from the village of Meszko (the "Alabaster Village"), which is right across the river from Sinfalva. Rev. Balint talks about the struggle against the mine, for example at 48:00 he mentions the catastrophic consequences had the Parliament approved the mine, for the environment, the economy, and for human rights

