



January Update

Greetings from Budapest! It's time for another update on our progress.

Health and Wellness: Overall, everyone is doing fine. However, Charity has been having problems with gingivitis, a swelling of her gums, due to the braces. It's not an insignificant matter, so we have been praying for her and aggressively treating it by making sure she is carefully brushing, as well as rinsing with various mouthwashes to cleanse the gums. So far, it seems to be helping and the inflammation has been reduced. We hope it will not continue to be a problem.



New Years Day family celebration at a Chinese restaurant near our new home.



The children on Christmas Eve before opening their gifts.

Jennifer continues to suffer intermittently from allergies, even at our new residence, while Charity has seen some relief. Please pray that Jennifer will be healed from her allergies.

In January, the Lord protected us from having what could have been a serious highway accident due to the road rage of another motorist. Praise the Lord we did not have the accident and everyone was safe.

Family: In December, we celebrated a simple Christmas at home, packing for our move at the end of the month. A few people from our church helped us with cleaning and moving, including David, and we are grateful for it. The church allowed us to use their van, which was great. Len made two trips to our new home with a van full of boxes and furniture. Plus we hired a professional moving van with one mover. It may sound like a lot, but it was barely enough. A professional moving van here is equivalent to the smallest moving van you can rent in America. After three days of moving things to our new home, we had returned the church van, all the helpers had gone, yet we still had a lot left that

was not even packed. At the end of the final moving day, we threw many last minute things into our own van. The children were barely able to get into their seats for the trip. They had things above them, beside them, and underneath their feet. It was very tight, but we made it.

It was a real spiritual battle getting out of that house. There were many unexpected issues on the last two days of the move. For example, our GPS power cord broke, the motor to our power window on the driver's side broke, the headlight to the church van burned out, and two of the moving helpers from church (including Greg) got sick and couldn't come. After the move, the issues continued. In our new home, we had problems with the heating system not working right, and we were unable to get connected to the Internet or use our phone. But God worked it all out.

In spite of these things, we are still so glad to be out of our former residence, mainly because of the landlord! We have been thanking and praising God for our new rented home. It meets all our needs and the landlord has been extremely gracious. We're very happy to be here. Praise God! It's a miracle really! Now that we are in the new home, we will need to purchase new furniture, since our previous residence had been partially furnished. We have already bought a youth bed and borrowed a crib. The next priority will be a dining set.



Christopher and Joseph enjoy their new room together.



Alcoholism is a big problem in Hungary.

On New Year's Day we took a break from a very tiring move, to stop what we were doing, and just go out to eat as a family. We went to a Chinese restaurant and celebrated being in our new home. We marveled at what the Lord has done for us! Thank you for all your prayers.

The children have already made some new friends with the children of our new landlord's sister, as well as the children across the street. They've been enjoying playing in the new back yard and sledding in the snow. They got a much-needed break from school and moving, to have some fun and rest. And the girls are still consistently meeting together weekly for their Life Transformation Group, and are growing in the Lord. They each read a chapter a day in the Bible and haven't missed a day in months. Praise God for their desire to know the Lord more.

Ministry in Hungary: Back in December, Jennifer made some delicious pumpkin bread for Christmas, and we brought it to our next-door neighbors, Istvan and Rozsika. At the same time, Len informed Istvan that we were moving, to which he asked when we were coming back. When Len told him we were not coming back to this neighborhood, he was shocked and saddened. They brought us homemade food more than once during the last three days we were there. It was very delicious, and helpful, since we were not able to cook for ourselves due to the move. While we are sad to lose such wonderful neighbors, the Lord used them in our lives to be a blessing, and we feel the Lord has touched their lives.

Len continues to meet with Greg and he is making difficult decisions for Christ, choosing the narrow road, and we know the Lord is pleased. Greg and Len have been praying for one of Greg's coworkers, named Zoltán. We were so excited to hear that Greg recently took Zoltán to a worship service, where he gave his life to Jesus! Now Len and Greg are praying about inviting Zoltán to join their Life Transformation Group for equipping. Please pray that the Lord would lead and guide them as they pray, and as Greg speaks to Zoltán about it.

One of the young disciples that Len is equipping, named David, shared with us about his New Year's Eve experience. David participated in a worship service on December 31st. That day is known here as *Sylvester*. Before the meeting, he was playing table tennis with some brothers, and one brother named Marti broke his arm in four places while running indoors and horsing around. As David was going over to pray for him, he passed out. David said he saw his whole life pass before him while he was unconscious, and he could feel the love that other people have for him.

At the meeting, David spoke to a girl who had a dream from the Lord. He shared with her what the Lord was showing him prophetically about the coming year, which was confirmed by her dream. After they spoke, she told her friend, who is the pastor's daughter, about what David had said. The pastor's daughter shared it with her father. During the meeting, the pastor asked David to come up and share with the congregation what the Lord had given him. David did not expect this, so it was a big surprise. It was the first time he has ever been given the chance to share publicly with the congregation, and it was excellent. He said it was a prophecy about the New Year, and he encouraged the Body of Christ about what to do in 2011.

Attila, another one of the disciples who helped us move, is a deacon in our church. He told Len that he has helped 100 families or individuals move in the past 15 years he has been at the church. And during that time, he has also coordinated approximately 50 weddings!

Speaking of weddings, Jonatán (the disciple whom David is equipping) is getting married to a young lady named Rachel in February. We are very happy for him. Meanwhile, Dima, whom Len had been equipping during our first year here, has also met a young lady. When we first met him and his family a couple years ago,

they wanted Len to train them in personal evangelism, which he did. Due to their new refugee status, Dima has moved to a western European country to attend a university. The woman he met came here to visit a few months ago, and while she was here, Dima's sister led her to the Lord! She said that no one had ever told her about God before that. Praise God that his sister put to practice the equipping she received.

You may recall that Len spent time earlier this fall equipping Vilmos. He was recently ordained as an elder in our church. On the day that he was set in, our pastor said that Vilmos has a real servant's heart. He is always helping people. In fact, he helped us – not only with the move, but in obtaining a professional moving van as well. And earlier last year, when there were about 14 unemployed people in the church, Vilmos helped most of them find jobs. Praise God for this dear man of God. Please pray for a special blessing upon Vilmos and his family.

We met a couple at church named Sándor and Edit. Sándor came to know Christ eight years ago and is an evangelist. He mainly shares Jesus with people he meets while preaching the gospel on the streets. When he learned that Len helps equip people such as himself, he was immediately interested. He wants to learn how to make disciples that multiply. Len invited him to feed the homeless together. He offered to translate for Len as he shares Jesus with them.

Administrative Needs: We have completed numerous administrative tasks with the Lord's help, and there are still more that need to be taken care of. One of them that we completed was getting our government issued address registration cards changed. This was a no small task, and it was fraught with issues, but we accomplished it. We also got our car papers changed to reflect our new address.

However, in February, we need to renew the children's passports and then apply for new residence permits for them as well. These projects are all part of living in a foreign country, and they require extra time and financial resources to complete. Please pray that we will accomplish all of these things by their respective deadlines.

In addition to these things, our van needs more major repairs. One issue is the steering rack beneath the van sounds like it is going to fall apart when we go over bump while turning right. We were told it would be very expensive to repair, so we have put that off for nearly a year and will continue to do so indefinitely. We have also needed a new airflow sensor for a long time, but have tried to put it off. We have gotten estimates, but it did not get it done due to the expense. However, we have found a new mechanic who has given us a better price, so we will go ahead and have him replace just the airflow sensor.

Language Acquisition: We are praying about hiring a new language instructor, since we no longer live near Andras, who has been teaching us for nearly two years. We have someone in mind, but are still praying about it for now.

Meanwhile, Len met one of our new neighbors from across the street, named Laszlo. He speaks no English, but Len managed to communicate with him just the same. He invited us to visit him in his home, to meet his wife Anna Maria and their three children. The children are near the same ages as ours, so it's perfect. We're so glad for the opportunity to begin building a relationship with them.

With all the time Len has been spending lately with non-English speakers like our handyman and our electrician, his Hungarian language skills have been improving in January. He has even been cracking jokes with them in Hungarian, and since they're laughing, it's at least some small evidence of progress! Praise God for every baby step we take in learning Hungarian.

Culture: In Hungary, gambling is legal, so there are casinos and gambling clubs all over the city. The alcohol drinking age is 19, but children as young as 15 and 16 can buy without a problem. Also, alcohol in its various forms is plentiful and easily accessible. These factors contribute to the dependence in this culture on alcohol and it's grip on people's lives. Please pray that the Hungarian people, especially the young people, would come to know Christ and be set free from their bondage to drinking.

In closing, we have much to praise God for, and many opportunities for you to join us in prayer.

Praise the Lord with us for the many answers to prayer:

1. For giving us the health, strength and helpers we need for packing, cleaning, and moving.
2. For getting us out of our previous residence on time and into the new one.
3. For our overall health and wellness.
4. For helping us get our government papers changed to reflect our new address.
5. For Zoltán's salvation and that of the woman Dima has met while studying abroad.
6. For protecting us on the road from serious danger.

Next steps and prayer needs:

1. For healing for Jennifer and Charity from allergies.
2. For Vilmos, David, Jonatán, and Greg to grow in the walk that they each have with the Lord and for them to continue to multiply.
3. For us to obtain the new passports and new residence permits by the deadline.
4. For the Lord to lead and guide Len & Greg as they pray, and as Greg speaks to Zoltán about being equipped.
5. For divine appointments wherever we go. Pray that the Lord would help us make key connections with people all along the way, develop relationships and be a blessing.
6. For the Hungarian people, especially the young people, that they would come to know Christ and be set free from their bondage to drinking

7. For the Lord to establish His kingdom in Hungary and the nations of Eastern Europe.

Please pray that the Lord will help us and guide us in all of these areas, as well as provide abundantly for every need.

Thank you so much for your partnership in this ministry.

Love from all of us,

The Lacroixs

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