



October Update

Greetings from Budapest! It's time again for an update from us on what's been happening here on the field.

Health and Wellness: In September, Charity had her braces put in. The orthodontist, whose name is Emil, seems to be quite a New Age religion enthusiast. Please pray that he will be drawn to Christ through our contact with him. Faith still has occasional symptoms of myalgia or muscle pain. We recently had a blood test done to check for any latent immune response to Lyme disease and the tests were negative. This means she does not have Lyme, so we praise God for that. According to the doctor, Faith's arthritis could have been post-infectious or possible juvenile idiopathic arthritis. We appreciate your continued prayers for her.



Hope, Charity, Christopher, Len, Jennifer, Joseph, and Faith



Charity with her new braces

Jennifer has not had any significant sciatic pain in her legs for at least a month, so we praise God for that. She is feeling much better and is very grateful for the prayers of all who were concerned about her.

In October, Hungary experienced its largest ecological catastrophe in history. It occurred at an alumina plant 100 miles southwest of where we live. 24 million cubic feet (the equivalent of 440 Olympic-size swimming pools) of red, poisonous sludge gushed out of a containment reservoir whose wall ruptured. Roughly 50 tons of arsenic, 300 tons of chrome and half a ton of mercury was unleashed by the spill. When it ruptured, a tsunami of toxic sludge as high as eight feet rushed through six villages and wiped them out. Nine people have been killed, and 120 injured, some critically. Many who were burned by the sludge will need plastic surgery to deal with disfigurement. The flow was so powerful that it sucked cars

out of their garages and pushed them down the street, piling them atop one another. Due to the high alkalinity of the sludge, all the fish and other living things in the Marcal River were destroyed. The toxic plume entered the Danube River, which goes through Budapest and down through Hungary, then on into a few other countries before emptying into the Black Sea. However, authorities have managed to neutralize the water and are taking daily samples to check for heavy metals. They have also since built a protective dam around the reservoir to keep the remaining half million cubic meters of sludge from leaking out. We thank the Lord for protecting us from the immediate danger posed by the toxic spill and trust He will protect us from any long-term risks from heavy metal. Please pray that many will come to know Christ through this terrible tragedy.

Family: In September, we visited a church that some friends of ours are a part of, which was not our home church here in Budapest. We were unaware that on that same day, the ambassador to Nigeria, who is a believer, had decided to celebrate the anniversary of his country's independence at the church on that day. It was great. He read from God's word as well, and said that they felt they should give thanks to God for all He had done for their country. This was the first time any Nigerian ambassador has ever done that in Hungary and perhaps anywhere else. A group of Nigerian singers got up and sang a worship song in one of the Nigerian dialects, which was truly marked by the Lord's presence! The church is without a pastor right now, but five families from the church are providing leadership and oversight. The man who preached that day is originally from Ghana, and Len had a chance to talk with him after the meeting. Len also met the Nigerian ambassador at the celebration following the church service, and he said that he had already made friends with our youngest son, Joseph, during the reception. We had a chance to talk briefly with him about the great things God is doing in Africa, and how the gospel is advancing.

As we celebrate Jennifer's birthday in October, we are also celebrating the two-year anniversary of our arrival in Hungary. We hope to take a day of rest in October as a couple, and ask that you pray this will be possible.

Ministry in Hungary: Len continues to meet with Greg for discipleship, and this continues to bear good fruit. Greg is experiencing God and influencing the lives of those around him for Christ.

We went to the home of Dima, the disciple that Len was meeting with and equipping last year. His parents invited us to spend a Sunday afternoon with them and the care group from their church that was meeting there for a meal and fellowship. We met many interesting people there, mostly all Africans. Aside from Dima and his family, there was Ebenezer and his wife Freeda from Ghana, whom we met the previous week at the International Church of Budapest. There was Felix and his wife Margaret from Nigeria. And there was Ekale from Cameroon.

Toward the end of the afternoon, the group had a lengthy discussion about the church. It has undergone some big changes over the years, having lost their pastor and decreased in numbers. One of the questions they discussed was: "What do you think about the church?" This question was put forth to the entire group. There were many things said. After we listened to each of them share the wisdom the Lord gave them, Len offered his input. They were all very blessed by it and felt the Lord used him to bring forth wisdom that they did not have on the matter and clarify some things. Some said that it was no mere coincidence that he was there for that discussion. At the end of the day, a couple of the men expressed a desire for further discussion with Len. In fact, Ekale from Cameroon contacted Len, so they met together later that week for training.

David continues to meet with Jonatán (the Hungarian version of Jonathan, pronounced YON-a-tahn).



Ekale from Cameroon, Africa



Vilmos

Len met with Ekale for leadership training that he requested. He has been in Hungary for eight years and will soon be returning to Cameroon, Africa, in December. So we hope that whatever seeds Len is planting in his life will bear fruit in Africa later on.

Len met with Vilmos (the Hungarian version of William, pronounced "VEEL-mosh") for leadership training. We mentioned in the September newsletter that he planned to do this. Len discovered that although he is Hungarian, he is actually from Transylvania, which is located in western Romania. He has only been in Hungary 1990. He is very open to the training and is very grateful to receive it. Please pray that the Lord would move mightily in these meetings with Vilmos and that the Lord would raise him up to be a more effective leader who multiplies disciples and leaders.

Ministry to West Africa: Len also conducted training with Adolphus in Africa by phone in September. He is a bishop providing oversight for churches in Liberia, Ghana, and Nigeria. We are encouraged by what the Lord continues to do in his life, and so is he. He commented to Len recently, "I am so excited and grateful

you are in my life and ministry to help me.” He has extended an invitation to Len to go to Liberia in January, and Len continues to seek the Lord about that.

Language Acquisition: We resumed our language lessons with Andras in September, after a three-month hiatus during the summer. We are finding that we grow more and more in our Hungarian language ability each time we use it. During the second lesson with him, he commented to Len that his Hungarian had improved dramatically.

In closing, we have much to praise God for and many opportunities for you to join us in praying about, if you can.

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

1. For healing Jennifer from sciatic leg pain.
2. For Faith’s blood test results that were negative for Lyme disease.
3. For the wonderful way He is equipping Greg, Ekale, Adolphus, Laci, & Mate.
4. For using Len to provide valuable input to the International Church of Budapest.
5. For sustaining us during these past two years in Hungary.
6. For the Lord’s help in getting braces for Charity’s teeth.
7. For the Lord’s protection from the immediate danger of the toxic spill.

Next steps and prayer needs:

1. For complete healing for Faith from joint pain and mialgia.
2. For David, Jonatan, and Greg to grow in the walk that they each have with the Lord and for them to continue to multiply.
3. That as Len meets with each of these leaders the Lord will use him.
4. For the Lord to open a door for us to move to another home, if it’s His will.
5. For many people in Hungary to come to know Christ through the terrible tragedy that has occurred here.

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

Thank you so much for your partnership in this ministry.

Love from all of us,

The Lacroixs

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