



December Update



A special Merry Christmas to you from Len and Jennifer Lacroix in Budapest. Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepeket kívánunk nektek. It's time for another update on our progress.

Health and Wellness: Overall we're doing well. However, Christopher and Joseph became very ill the night of Thanksgiving. It began with a cough, but in Joseph's case, it was a croup-like cough with a distinct barking sound, and difficulty breathing. He was having difficulty breathing as well. In answer to prayer, the Lord brought a release within the first hour, so that the barking sound stopped. We were grateful, though the cough continued for three nights. We kept him in our room at night, since he required constant attention. Christopher's illness worsened almost immediately, so that he was coughing continuously throughout the night. His breathing was rapid, shallow and short, having Len very concerned. When it did not improve in response to ongoing prayer or cough medicine, we brought him to the clinic. After an x-ray and blood work, he was diagnosed with atypical pneumonia and prescribed antibiotics. Amazingly, though Joseph has a less developed immune system, the Lord healed him completely in answer to prayer, without the need for antibiotics. Thank the Lord that both boys made a complete recovery.

Jennifer and Charity have both suffered badly with allergies for weeks and still do. It seems that there is something in our home that is causing this. Please pray that they will both find relief from their allergies.



Joseph, David, Faith, Charity, Christopher, and Hope on Thanksgiving

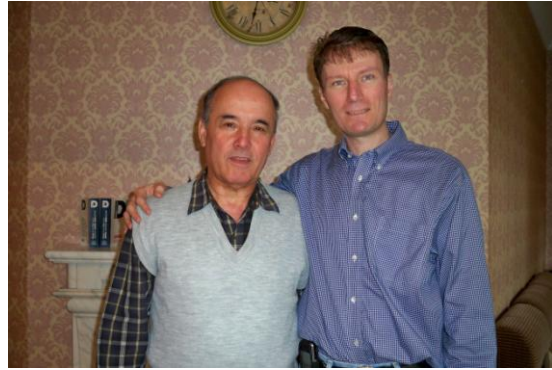


The children having fun with David on Thanksgiving Day

Family: In November, we celebrated Thanksgiving at our home. David joined us for what would be his first time celebrating the holiday. Americans sometimes ask whether Thanksgiving is celebrated in Hungary, and of course it isn't. The grocery stores don't even sell whole turkeys, so we bought turkey pieces. (You can see that Joseph was already not feeling well in the way he was just laying his head on David's shoulder. He doesn't normally sit still for very long, but we didn't know he was ill until the celebration was over.) Still, it was a wonderful time of thanking the Lord for His many blessings in our lives.



Charity, Christopher, and Faith running in the back yard of our future home



Laci Mezes with Len

Ministry in Hungary: In December, Jennifer made a delicious lasagna and brought it over to our next-door neighbors, Istvan and Rozsika. It's the international language of love. They were pleasantly surprised and grateful. In turn, they gave Jennifer another bag full of home made jams.

Len continues to meet with Greg for discipleship. Please pray that he will avoid any traps the enemy has set for him and continue to mature in Christ. You may recall that David has begun meeting with Jonatán for discipleship, and we reported recently that Jonatán has really been growing spiritually since he and David started meeting. Since then God has brought a Christian young lady into his life and they have gotten engaged to be married. We are very happy to see how the Lord has been blessing him as he has begun building his life on the Rock.

Len met with Vilmos, and completed the initial leadership training. Len was then invited to share on the topic of making disciples with a prayer group that meets at Vilmos' apartment. Len gladly accepted, and after sharing with the group, more than one person indicated they needed to hear what he had said, and that they were blessed and encouraged.

You may recall that last month we mentioned Len would be meeting with our pastor to provide input about the leadership transition in our church. Len did meet with Laci and they had an excellent conversation. Laci heard what Len had to say, and he is reading some materials Len gave him that provide a more in-depth explanation.

Administrative Needs: We mentioned last month that we were still looking for another place to live. It has been a long search that has lasted for over a year. Praise the Lord; we finally found a place that is feasible for us! And we found it just in the nick of time. Things with our current landlord have gotten out of hand.

In a conversation with a fellow missionary friend about another matter, Len happened to mention our situation. Someone had recently told him about a home that was available. The owners had moved to Australia in September, and were not even actively seeking renters for their home in Hungary. We were put in touch with the landlord's sister and she showed us the house.

The home and the neighborhood are pretty, although the house itself is much smaller than the one we currently live in.

The landlord seems like a wonderful person. He is flexible, speaks fluent English, and has been in touch with us via email and Skype. The rent will be about the same we were paying before our current landlord increased it in October! So praise the Lord for providing a suitable place for us to live.

We have been packing diligently and plan to move in during the last week of December. Please pray that the Lord will give us the strength and helpers we need for packing, cleaning, and moving. It will be a huge undertaking in such a short period of time, but we believe we can do it with the Lord's help.

Language Acquisition: We had to notify our language teacher, Andras that we are moving away. He is currently in Ireland with his wife for the holidays and wrote the following kind response, which was in Hungarian:

“Dear Len, Jennifer, Charity, Faith, Hope, Christopher, and dear Joseph! Thanks for the notification. My heart really raced (when I got it)! Every encounter with you was a great happiness. I am also happy you have learned a lot in Hungarian. You were always diligent and clever. Good luck in your further life. Good health, a lot of happiness to you all. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Cork, Ireland. We're coming home in mid-January. I hope to meet again somewhere, sometime. Lots of love: Andras and Flora.” We're so thankful for people like this in our lives and for the opportunity the Lord has give us to be a witness to them.

Culture: At church one Sunday, the elevator was broken, and everyone had to climb several, industrial-size flights of stairs to get to the fourth floor, even the elderly. We were so amazed to see the two oldest ladies in the church climbing, since they are in their early and mid-nineties. When one of them reached the third floor and took a break, Len tried to put his arm under hers and help her up the final flight, but she refused his help and insisted on going without assistance. This is typical of the hearty nature of the Hungarian senior citizens.

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 the wonderful way the Lord is blessing Jonatán.
2. For giving Len wisdom and grace to provide godly, helpful input during our church's leadership transition.
3. For the way the Lord encouraged the prayer group Len spoke to.
4. For our overall health and wellness.
5. For healing Joseph and Christopher.
6. For the way the Lord is using Jennifer to touch our neighbor's lives here.
7. For opening a door for us to move to another home that meets our needs.

Next steps and prayer needs:

1. For healing for Jennifer and Charity from these terrible allergies.
2. For Vilmos, David, Jonatan, and Greg to grow in the walk that they each have with the Lord and for them to continue to multiply.
3. For the prayer group that meets at Vilmos' home to bear fruit for the Lord.
4. For the Lord to give us the strength and helpers we need for packing, cleaning, and moving.
5. For a peaceful departure from our current home, especially with the landlord.
6. 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.
7. Pray that the Lord would 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 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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