

Coleman Family Newsletter – January/February/March 2009
Free Methodist Missionaries to Europe since 1996
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(↑Viterbo, Italy visiting Tania Gonçalves)

Our 93 year-old neighbor greeted me as I was locking up the flat and she was returning from an old classmate’s funeral. “You’re not wearing a hat! Where’s your hat?” Now Erzsébet thinks I have a bit of a reckless spirit – caution and health to the wind. Truth is my hat was in my bag and although I tried to reassure her of this she still shook her head in disbelief.

Erzsébet’s parents moved into the next-door flat as newlyweds in 1904 as original owners. Two girls were born, raised and as they married, their husbands moved into the family flat, as well. Today Erzsébet lives alone – parents and husband gone and extended family living in the city here and there. She has watched our moving-in process with wonder. “I’ve never

moved in my whole life,” she’s told us on a number of occasions.

We’ve lived in our new flat five months and we’re getting to know the neighborhood and how things are done ‘round here. For example, I was shaking rugs one afternoon in the courtyard and was informed that I needed to read the building rules. “No shaking rugs after 10:00 am.” And where is the collection spot for Christmas trees in January? And where do we leave food out on the street so the hungry folks know it’s clean and edible? We know these things now.

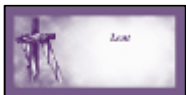
We’re excited about quite a number of things in our ministry! The first FM church was planted in Europe 10 years ago and today we are celebrating **16 church plants and government registered churches!** As we look ahead at the next 10 years we’re evaluating and making plans for the future using a tool called “Appreciative Inquiry,” a discipline of positive change. More info about this system can be found at: <http://appreciativeinquiry.case.edu>

The **Budapest ministry team** is pleased that ministries are suffering growing pains! People are visiting and staying! Atheist friends are calling for prayer! A large circle of chairs is filled twice a week at “Celebrate Recovery” meetings. Children are eager to learn about the Bible! People are learning to trust one another and are ready for fellowship and community – which is a wonderful thing in a post-Communist environment. We thank the Lord!



We appreciate your prayer support! Would you continue to pray for our work in Hungary and around Europe? Jan is pleased to be able to travel more with Jerry in his work as Area Director but that can leave the Budapest team short-handed. Please pray for faithful workers to rise up from within the work around Europe.

We are AWED by your generous giving in 2008! Since 2008 was the first year of a new support system for Free Methodist World Missions and with the depressing economic issues around the world we were prepared for the financial worst. **But we ended 2008 in the BLACK! Thank you!!** Currently we’re approaching churches and individuals for FAITH pledges for 2009. Some folks are really hurting because of lost jobs, reduced pay and other fall-out from a poor economy, but we know the One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and he honors faithful and generous giving. Our own faith pledges for 2009 are based on the sound and proven economic principle of . . . faith.



As the 2009 Lenten season draws near, we pray that your journey with the Lord becomes deeper and stronger. May you draw courage for your life from His example of obedience and sacrifice. --Jerry and Jan Coleman