

Coleman Family Newsletter – June 2009
Free Methodist Missionaries to Europe since 1996
(JLKColeman@aol.com)



These past few weeks have been a season of celebration and blessing!
Family – Accomplishment – Tradition – Sharing – Fruitful ministry

Family and friends gathered in Greenville, Illinois to watch Kristin participate in the decades old tradition of Ivy Cutting on the lawn of the temporarily missing historic Hogue Hall. We obeyed the request to cheer “only in our hearts” when she received her diploma magna cum laude. Her brother and her boyfriend, Spencer, however, cheered mightily from the balcony. A picnic in the park for 50 rounded out the day.

Our May trip to the USA included a few days in Ithaca, NY to visit our daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Russell Toth. Isn't it a blessing to see young people living for the Lord and interested in serving and blessing others through their talents and gifts? We were thankful to see this!

If you've known us very long you know how much we love ice hockey. David plays skillfully while Jerry imagines that he does. It was a thrill for Jerry to invite David's old Hungarian teammates and coaches to meet retired NHL goalie John Vanbiesbrouck over a private lunch. John's tremendous success in hockey against players like Wayne Gretsky was a powerful draw for these guys, but they were attracted also to his amazing testimony of God's grace in his life. Several of these young men are now asking Jerry to meet with them to talk more about spiritual things. We're thankful for John's willingness to travel to Hungary and Bosnia to reach out to athletes – and to those who have been in our ice hockey circles for years. Jerry was pleased to hear these young men speak with respect about our son David's integrity and attitude on the ice and off.



Luke Augustine Sykora was born to our Free Methodist colleagues in Bratislava, Slovakia in June. Jan had the privilege of helping Lynette, Josef and two-year old Simon for a few days after baby Luke came home. What's the word for cornstarch in Slovakian? How does one help a two-year old who communicates in Czech, English, and Slovakian, but is fluent primarily in his own made-up language? Lynette and I commiserated about how our Betty Crocker cookbooks are helpful when trying to figure out how to cook mysterious cuts of meat from the butcher counter – but how much more helpful if Betty would drop by and help us herself! Betty Crocker in the flesh – with skin on . . .

And that's who WE are, really. The hands and feet of Jesus – doing works of love and service. Loving God with everything we have, and truly loving our neighbors. We are loved, and we love. It's a good lifestyle choice – and mandate. This is why we're in Europe – and why you've sent us.

Thank you for praying for us and our ministry. Thank you for giving sacrificially from full or precarious resources. Thank you for caring for us and supporting us. We're here because God called and you send. We're in this together for the Kingdom of God. **–Jerry and Jan Coleman**