

**Coleman Family Newsletter – December 2008**  
**Free Methodist Missionaries to Europe since 1996**  
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**How do we know Christmas is right around the corner in Budapest?**

≈We can smell the wood fire of the man roasting fresh chestnuts on the street corner!



≈We can see the festive lights starting to appear on balconies around the city!

≈We can taste the many flavors of szaloncukor - a type of parlor candy that people buy by the kilogram to hang on the Christmas tree!

≈We can hear mothers saying to their children, "Be good or Little Jesus and the Angels won't bring you anything at Christmas!"

≈We can feel the brisk cold air on our cheeks – the only part of our bodies exposed to the elements these winter days!

St. Mikulás (St. Nicholas) costumes are getting dusted off for the December 6 celebration in homes, schools and anywhere children congregate. Here in Hungary, St. Nick makes his appearance early in the month while Little Jesus and the Angels bring the fully decorated Christmas tree and wrapped gifts on Christmas Eve. Our neighbors think we are a bit odd since we put up our tree in mid-December.

The Advent season is another really important time in Hungary and ready-made Advent wreaths are for sale everywhere. Last Sunday, the first day of Advent, we were at an event where the honored guest received an Advent wreath – with the first candle alight! The Sundays of Advent are named: first, bronze, silver and gold. Golden Sunday means that you can shop regular store hours for those last minute gifts!



The December themes of our ministries here in Budapest are also centered on the coming of Jesus Christ. We are intentional about honoring Him because of His Presence in our lives, not His presents! His gifts of new life and new hope are not given because of our good behavior – but because of our humble confession of need of a Savior.

*"Lord, may your Message ring true in our hearts and lives this year!"*

**We appreciate your prayer support!** Would you pray for our work in Hungary and around Europe? We are about making disciples among the peoples of the world. While European culture can look much different from African or Asian culture, we are all so loved by God that he sent his one and only Son to live among us.

**We appreciate your financial support!** 2008 was the first year of a new financial system of support for Free Methodist World Missions. May we ask you to send in the remainder of your 2008 pledges and additional gifts as early in December as you can? We're hoping for a white Christmas and praying for "black" 2008 balances.

**We appreciate your interest in our family!** Our three children and son-in-law will get here just in time for the annual Christmas program at the Budapest Ministry Center on December 19! We are expecting a packed house, but are glad to cram in four more! We're praying that our new flat will be "home" to the kids and that even though it will be tight quarters, it will be a wonderful family time.

**We appreciate your support of our call to missions!** We rely on your support to fulfill our call to be international missionaries. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer, finances and interest. Thank you for the friendship and hospitality you've extended to us! We feel blessed and loved!

*We wish you a Blessed Christmas! Áldott Karácsonyt Kívánunk!*

*-Jerry and Jan Coleman*