

Free Methodist Window to the World
July 2008
Missions Focus: Servant Partnerships

Scripture: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel ... *Philippians 1: 3-5*

Story: Touching Many Lives by *Larry L. Winckles*

"I'm so glad that you were patient with us!" These words were spoken to me recently during a Bible study by a man who has become a regular attender of the Free Methodist Church fellowship in Budapest.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

He replied, "Many other groups have come into Hungary with high pressure tactics, but not you. Instead, you were patient and loving with us for a long time. We felt that we could trust you, and it was quite evident that you loved us."

In a typical week, the lives of many people are touched by the people and ministries associated with the Budapest Ministry Center. People, like the man mentioned above, come to the center at various times throughout the week to meet individually for counseling, Bible study and prayer. Recovery groups, based on the Celebrate Recovery program, meet on two different nights each week. The church hosts a monthly board game night and a film discussion night once a month. Two sessions of music pre-school are held on Friday mornings. An English class and discussion group meets on Thursdays. The church leadership team meets on Wednesdays for prayer and planning. And, of course, the church fellowship meets regularly on Sunday mornings.

These ministries would not be possible without faithful missions support. Giving to the Hungary Country Share Account (CSA) helps cover ongoing expenses related to the operation of the Budapest Ministry Center. Katie and I are currently the only Free Methodist missionaries in residence in Hungary. Our ministry is made possible by dedicated support of our Missionary Support Account (MSA) by churches and individuals in Ohio and Southern Michigan.

We encourage you to faithfully support your church's missionaries, their countries, and its related projects. You can do this by generously giving to, earnestly praying for, and joyfully participating in the work of touching many lives around the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Action Steps:

- Touch many lives with the good news of Jesus Christ by following these strategies. *Secret Strategies to Invest Your Treasures in Eternity*, by Dr. Art Brown:
 - 10) Discover some practical way that you can express today the biblical truth that every blessing is given so that the blessed can bless others.
 - 9) Make an appointment to speak to your pastor – or some other spiritual leader – about what it would mean for you to begin tithing.
 - 8) Consider giving – as an act of commitment and faith – an additional amount equal to one week's salary to support a missionary or help a new missionary get more quickly to the field.
 - 7) Many Christians are in bondage to credit card debt. Either begin to pay off your credit card balance fully every month or cut up those cards immediately.
 - 6) Choose to sponsor at least one child in the International Child Care Ministries program for each of your children or grandchildren.
 - 5) Ask the Lord to show you one area of your life where you can radically change your lifestyle, making it possible for you to give significantly more to plant churches among the unreached of our world.
 - 4) Choose to live on last year's income – take your cost-of-living increase and underwrite the work of Jesus in a country of the world through Free Methodist World Missions.
 - 3) Begin to tithe today. Go cold turkey. Test and see if the Lord will keep His promise of Malachi 3:10.
 - 2) Make next year's vacation a trip with purpose. Contact the VISA Ministries office and ask where you might serve for two weeks and make an eternal difference for Jesus.
 - 1) Become part of a covenant group whose purpose is to live out the principles of Christ's promise, "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also."
- Pray specifically for the country you have partnered with through Country Shares:
 - 1) Pray for the people of that nation to desire to know God.
 - 2) Pray the nation's leaders would be sympathetic to the efforts of missionaries bringing the gospel and compassion/community development ministries to their people.
 - 3) Pray for harvest laborers for this particular nation.
 - 4) Pray for opportunities and openings for the gospel to penetrate the nation.
 - 5) Pray believers in the area would walk closely with God. (*Discipleship Journal*, Issue 103, 1998.)