

# Sýkoras in Slovakia



5 Ways we Suffer as Missionaries in Eastern Europe...(just fun ☺)

- ◆ Our future plans for heat and electricity depend upon the good will of Putin
- ◆ We cannot “pay at the pump”
- ◆ Can’t buy Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups
- ◆ An average pair of pants costs about \$60 while average salary is \$800/month
- ◆ We actually have to walk

## Fall 2008

In the Fall we “fell ill”...Josef suffered from walking pneumonia which affected him with pain in his lungs, difficulty breathing and weakness from September through December and Lynette was ill for about 8 weeks with...morning sickness. Yes, that is right; we are expecting Sykora baby number two in June! The fall illness season ended with Josef and me getting a bacterial infection. Simon somehow stayed healthy! We were so thankful to welcome in the Christmas season and to say goodbye to the Fall 2008!

## Holiday Season

Simon enjoyed his second Christmas, although he wasn’t very interested in opening presents. He got a new toy car to ride on, a new train with wooden tracks and new DVDs and books! He recently went sledding for the first time and had a good time. Well, he didn’t smile or laugh the whole time, but cried when the sledding was over! That’s our serious boy. Another funny thing about our little “Mr. Monk” is that he is quite troubled when one of the kitchen drawers isn’t fully closed. In order for him to keep eating, we have to go and close the drawer, so they are all the same.



## Josef

- ◆ We got to know two young people at our church’s family camp here in Slovakia this last summer. She works in development of programs to assist homeless people and he works for an international leader-training company. They both shared their stories and their search for meaning with Josef and developed a mutual friendship. This fall, they both gave their lives to Christ! We rejoice over this and ask for your prayers that they will hold fast to their faith as they face the realities of the world around them.
- ◆ Josef is working with a team of leaders to develop home groups for university students from our church and community. Pray for these groups to be avenues for discipleship and growth in the Lord!
- ◆ Josef and I had the privilege of hearing Gerry McNamara, our pastor in Győr, preach and to offer some encouragement and advice as he is finishing up his work towards ordination. This is part of Josef’s work for FM Europe in the area of education and training for our churches and leaders here. This weekend, Gerry comes to Bratislava so he and Josef can continue this course work.

### **Lynette**

- ◆ Lynette continues with Slovak lessons, in a course that started in September and finishes in February. Pray for Lynette to be able to grasp the declining of the nouns, adjectives/adverbs and pronouns, which is necessary in every sentence. It is a formidable task, but it is where I need the most work.
  
- ◆ Lynette continues to work with two clients here in Bratislava, which has been a challenging and rewarding experience. Also, I have been able to be in touch with some of our missionaries through some changes and challenges they have been going through. It is always a privilege to hear how they are doing and offer encouragement. Check out the [fmwm.org](http://fmwm.org) website and read our missionaries' newsletters and blogs when you have chance. I know they would appreciate your prayers. Also, if you are not receiving the mission hotline, let me know or let Paula Gillespie know at Free Methodist World Missions headquarters. These are weekly updates on "hot items" to pray about for our missionaries around the globe.

### **Looking Ahead...**

In the beginning of the New Year, which already has some challenges ahead including the prospect of the second baby and ongoing financial crisis, we are fully aware that our only security is in the Lord. He remains a safe haven even in the midst of our unsafe and changing circumstances. But as everyone else, we also waver and struggle to keep our faith firm. We are very thankful that in this task of being faithful to God and to his calling we do not need to be alone but can rely on continuing support of our friends. Please, hold us in your prayers as we try to minister to people around us. Your support allows us to be immersed in the lives of those who need to grow in Jesus and your prayers help us to keep our eyes fixed upon the gracious face of God, source of comfort and peace.

May the same Lord grant you peace in return!

Your friends,

*Josef, Lynette & Simon Sykora*

To read our newsletters or to donate on line, please go to:

<http://www.fmwm.org/missionary/index/sykora.php>