



Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8:4

Come You Who Are Weary and Heavy Burdened

by Larry Winckles, Hungary

János faithfully attends the Tuesday afternoon Bible study and the Sunday morning worship service held at the Budapest Ministry Center. Oftentimes his three sons are with him. This is in itself a miracle, considering János' past.

János and his wife, Andrea, came in contact with the Budapest Free Methodist Church about nine years ago. Both János and Andrea were struggling with addictions and were living in the rough. Their three sons had been placed in foster care by Hungarian Social Services. Without a home, without a job and without her three children, Andrea was desperate enough to start seeking God. She made a tremendous effort to save up enough money to rent an apartment so the family could be reunited. The couple began attending one of the recovery groups, and through that group they became acquainted with the Budapest FMC. They were welcomed by the congregation and began attending regularly. They both found work, and they were able to obtain a government subsidized apartment. It seemed as if things were beginning to turn around for them.

But then they disappeared.

Five years passed.

One extremely cold Sunday morning in February, in the middle of the church service, a very sad and downcast man walked into the fellowship room. It was János. The service stopped while the entire congregation devoted its attention to him. János stood in front of the congregation sobbing and announced that Andrea had frozen to death on the street in the vicious cold weather just three days prior. In the midst of the shock and the grief over what had happened, there was at least the comfort that Andrea had surrendered her life to Jesus long before this sad incident happened.

Since that painful February morning János has remained with our fellowship. He is still battling with addictions. He is homeless once again. But Péter, our assistant pastor, has faithfully stood by János in his darkest hours. Now János has reconnected with his three sons, and they come regularly to the weekly Bible study. The consequences of the past are still a heavy load on his shoulders, but "the unfolding of God's Word gives light" to János and his sons as they continue to seek God and learn about His ways.

János' story isn't finished. Neither is ours.

"Come, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest"
Matthew 11:28.



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