

## Winckles Family Update - *Thanksgiving 2022*

*Praise the Lord, O my soul. Do not forget all his kind deeds.*

Psalm 103:2 (NET)

Dear friends in ministry, please join us in thanking God for all the things He has done! Here is just a sampling:



**New Colleague:** After a delay of nearly two years because of COVID-19, **Erin Kingsley** was finally able to join our Budapest ministry team this past March. Erin is currently taking Hungarian language classes and is assisting in many ways with our church and Set Free ministries. *We are thankful for her positive attitude and willingness to work at whatever is needed.*

**Set Free Ministries:** In addition to the regular outreach ministries to **children's homes and shelters** in Budapest, Győr, and Pécs, a **summer day camp** was held at the children's home in Győr and **two summer creative day camps** were held at the ministry center in Budapest. *We are thankful for all those who volunteered to help make these camps possible.*



After about a year of development, this past spring we were able to publish and begin distribution of an **anti-trafficking awareness booklet** entitled "For the Protection of Youth." *We are thankful for Zsuzsa Mecséri-McNamara's work in compiling the booklet, for Kati McNamara's and Péter Tóth's help with editing and proofreading, and for assistance with graphic design and layout from the Set Free Movement in the USA.*

The **European Freedom Network Bridge Conference** took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in October. Gerry McNamara and Larry attended and made significant connections with others involved in anti-trafficking efforts throughout Europe. *We are thankful for the opportunity to work together with like-minded people and organizations.*



Later in October the annual **Walk for Freedom** took place in Pécs, Hungary. About 30 people joined the silent walk throughout the city center, including a **ministry team** from the Jackson, Michigan Free Methodist Church that traveled to Hungary in October. The purpose was to call attention to the plight of those in bondage who cannot speak for themselves. JFM is one of the major partners with Set Free ministries in Hungary, and the team was able to see and experience firsthand the ministries that take place in Budapest, Pécs, and Győr. One team member told us afterwards that her experience here was "life-changing." *We are thankful for the faithful support and encouragement that we receive from our partner churches and individuals.*

**Church happenings:** Following the end of Hungary's most recent COVID-19 lockdown in March we were able to resume **regular in-person church services and community programs**. We look forward to hosting the annual **Community Christmas Program** on December 14, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. *We are thankful to be able to join together in community.*

It was the intention to resume in-person meetings of the **ladies' prayer meeting**, but as it turned out, a number of new women have joined the online group who are only able to participate in that way. So, the decision has been made to continue the prayer meeting online. *We are thankful for the interest that has been expressed in continuing this ministry with as many ladies as possible.*

Free Methodist leaders from around Europe gathered in Budapest in September for the **European Leadership Network and the European Leadership Summit** meetings. We welcomed Bishop Keith and Pam Cowart and Drs. Larry and Deb Walkemeyer from the USA as presenters. Larry was the principal organizer of the event. *We are thankful for the opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues and to introduce both the Cowarts and the Walkemeyers to Budapest.*



## Ukraine Crisis

We have been directly involved with relief efforts ever since the conflict between Ukraine and Russia escalated into war at the end of February. Initially, we assisted with the **evacuation of two families from Ukraine and Russia** and hosted them in Hungary until they were able to move on to more permanent settings in the UK and the USA. In addition to this, we became principally responsible, along with Gerry McNamara, for the **administration of Bishops Crisis Response Funds** that were, and continue to be, donated to assist with the Ukraine crisis. We have been able to direct the funds to assist families affected by the crisis, assist organizations that are directly hosting refugee families, provide funds for relief shipments of food, medicine, and hygienic supplies into Ukraine, and care for internally displaced persons within Ukraine. *We are thankful for the generosity of people from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, and Brazil that have made these efforts possible.*



**Personal happenings:** We spent several weeks this past summer in the United States, connecting with a number of our ministry partners in Michigan and Ohio. Upon our return to Hungary, we were thrilled that our son Andrew, our daughter-in-law Christy, and their entire family visited us here. This was followed almost immediately by a visit from our son Peter and his fiancée Rachel. *We are thankful for the time we could spend with partners, friends, and family this year.*

After having avoided contracting COVID-19 for two and half years, we both did get it in early October. Neither one of us had particularly severe cases, but we were knocked out of commission for about a week and even now, one month later, have not yet regained our full strength and energy. *We are thankful that our cases were mild.*

## Prayer Opportunities

**Family:** **Katie's parents** are coming to the point where they need extra care. *Pray that* we might have wisdom as we try to encourage, counsel, and support them from afar. In addition, other members of our extended family are facing very **difficult situations**. *Pray that* they might have wisdom as they deal with them and that we might have wisdom as we offer counsel.

**Ministry:** The church fellowship is trying to **recover from the impact that COVID-19** had on people's willingness to congregate. Several have found "other things" to do on Sundays, while others are still fearful of gathering in close company indoors. *Pray that* our team might be able to find successful means of not only gathering people back together but also in reaching new people.

**Finances:** Contributions to the **Hungary Church Planting and Development account** (Hungary CPD) are down, and we were not able to receive full funding for the fourth quarter of this year. The Hungary CPD is what funds the Budapest Ministry Center, the Set Free Hungary ministries, and allows Pastor Péter to be employed as pastor of the Budapest church and as administrator of the Bread of Life Foundation. *Pray that* funds would come in to allow continued ministries in 2023. Donations to this fund may be made at <https://give.fmcusa.org/hungary>

Write **kwinckles@gmail.com** and ask to be added to our weekly prayer email list.

**Our partners:** *We are thankful* for the many people who prayer regularly for us and for the ministries in Hungary. Prayer is essential! *We are also thankful* for those who partner with us financially, and for those who come and help serve. We look forward to our partnership with you continuing in the coming year. **Our support page** is <https://give.fmcusa.org/winckles>. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving, a hope-filled Advent season, and a joyous Christmas! May you sense God's presence and guidance each day!

With thankful hearts,

Larry and Katie Winckles

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