

# Tidbits from the Hungary Wilsons

SPRING 2008

## BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNITY

(by John)

There are probably as many models for church-planting as there are actual churches, however, here in the not-so-fertile post-Christian land of Europe, not many of them seem to be working very well. Which is why our church planting team in Tükörhegy has felt led to take it slow and **build a solid foundation** before actually launching a church.

One of the central components in our strategy has been to deliberately focus on building bridges to the community. In fact, this is one of the main reasons we planned and organized the neighborhood Christmas program the past two years. Our hope has been to **form genuine relationships**

with the people who live here in Tükörhegy, to **gain their trust**, and to demonstrate Christ's love and compassion.

After our Easter-egg hunt and puppet show program was rained/snowed out, our team was a bit discouraged. Several days later, however, the president of the housing association contacted us, remarked that he was also disappointed the Easter program was cancelled, and **suggested we work together** to organize a neighborhood event for Children's Day (it is a holiday similar to Mothers' Day here) on May 25th.

We have a lot of great activities planned for the kids, but once again, it will be at the park and subject to the weather. But God is in control of that. What is even more exciting, however, is that our strategy might be starting to pay off. Not only does the housing association know about us, but we seem to have even gained their trust.



## PARTING'S SWEET SORROW

(by Zsófi)

After serving together for the past 20 weeks, it was sad to say goodbye to our teammates from the U.K.. The Alpha Course for ESOL was a rich time of teaching basic Christian doctrine, ministering to one another, prayer, and developing friendships.

The final Alpha session was a celebration meal where some of the guests **shared their experiences and testimonies** from our time together. It was very encouraging to hear how some had been strengthened in their walk with Christ, while others had decided to begin it!

Along with the relationships we formed and the opportunities we had to minister to people, an added bonus was all the practice we got in public speaking. John was the funniest speaker of all. He had

a great mix of being serious at times as well as lightening the atmosphere with jokes. (I am sure you know what I mean if you have ever spent more than an hour with him 😊). Even I, by the end of the course, felt comfortable speaking in front of the group, and also received some nice feedback on how some people were touched or encouraged by what I shared.

All together it was a great experience. This month **John is traveling to London to attend an Alpha conference**, where he will learn more about how to use this program in connection with **church planting**. It comes at the perfect time, because this Fall our church planting team is hoping to launch an Alpha for ESOL Course in Tükörhegy !

## Prayer & Praise

- ♦ **Praise:** For significant doors God has opened up with the community in Tükörhegy, especially with the housing association.
- ♦ **Prayer:** For the Children's Day Festival (May 25th) that our church planting team is helping plan and organize.
- ♦ **Prayer:** For our financial situation—specifically for an additional \$500 in monthly support
- ♦ **Prayer:** For little-one growing inside Zsófi!



Building relationships, striving for unity, and counseling the broken so that exciting, healthy, mature local churches can reach Hungarians with the hope of Christ



**John & Zsófi Wilson**  
 Otelló u. 4  
 Törökbálint  
 2045  
 HUNGARY

Email: [mail@HungaryWilsons.com](mailto:mail@HungaryWilsons.com)  
 Web: [www.HungaryWilsons.com](http://www.HungaryWilsons.com)

## EXPANDING WILSONS!

**There is a new little-one growing in Zsófi's tummy!**

Most people mark the stages of development in terms of weeks, but for us, the HungaryWilsons, we mark the stages of pregnancy by kilograms of cream-cheese consumed. (Zsófi loves cream-cheese so much that our wedding cake was a cheese-cake.) We are now just crossing the 20-kilogram mark...

By either system of reckoning, however, we are expecting our newest little cream-cheese lover around October 16th! ☺



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

A couple weeks ago we had the unpleasant experience of submitting an expense report, only to find out that due to insufficient funds in our reserve account, UWM has to wait to reimburse our ministry expenses. It is kind of like the **missionary equivalent of a bounced check**.

Two main factors produced this deficit in our ministry account. First, the value of the dollar compared to the Hungarian Forint has dramatically declined over the past 18 months (over 26%). In practical terms, this means that when we take Forints of the ATM machine here in Budapest, **what used to cost \$100 now costs over \$125**.

Second, several of our monthly supporters needed to either reduce or discontinue their support. This, along with the declining dollar has started to put some strain on our ministry account.

### "How can I help?"

We are currently about **\$500/month short** of what we need to cover our living and ministry expenses. Therefore, if you have been



thinking about joining our support team on a monthly basis or perhaps giving a one-time contribution, **this would be a great time to do so**.

The two easiest ways to make a contribution are:

- ♦ **Mail** in a check using the enclosed response card
- ♦ **Online**, by going to our website: [www.HungaryWilsons.com](http://www.HungaryWilsons.com) Click on the "Support" icon, and you will find a link to UWM's Secure Online Giving site.

If you are already supporting us, we just wanted to say thanks again. Without your sacrifice in this uncertain economic environment, we wouldn't be able to serve here in Hungary.

## ♥ KIDS' CORNER ♥ (by Zsófi)

### Did you know...?

...that kids in Hungary like to eat their **pizza with corn** on it?

... that **kids are not allowed to eat ice-cream during winter** (many parents believe that it would cause them to catch a cold!)?

...that similar to Mother's Day and Father's day, there is also a Children's Day! On this day, **kids can eat as much candy as they want!!** Just kidding. But there is a special celebration and they don't have to do any chores. ☺