



## News from Nové Zámky - July 2009

Dear Family and Friends,

We have been back in Slovakia for almost a month now after having enjoyed what seemed to be a very short time in the States. We got good doctor reports and enjoyed seeing our children and grandchildren. Our son-in-law Mark has a new job, and we were able to help pack him and Ginny up for the move from Knoxville to Hampton, VA – only a two and a quarter hour drive from our house in Fredericksburg! Russ started graduate school, and the grandchildren have grown. We had a good time seeing several family members, friends, and our church family. If we didn't make contact with you during our stay, please know that it was because we were on the run much of the time.

It was good to get back here to rest a little from our hurried stay in America. School is out for the months of July and August, so formal English classes are on hold until September. However, our mission church is sponsoring an English Camp that started yesterday here in Nové Zámky, led by a team of six members from Del Sol Church in El Paso, Texas. The team is very strong, with three career educators taking the lead teaching roles. What makes it especially interesting is that one of the team members, the pastor, was born in Austria, and three of the other team members have Spanish as their first language and English as their second. They are uniquely fitted to experience this area of Slovakia, which is bilingual with Slovak and Hungarian. We have enjoyed the fellowship of other Americans and will be involved with the program for the next two weeks.





Cecil and I were blessed to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Salzburg, Austria a few weeks ago. The trains here in Europe are a great way to travel, and it took us only five hours to get to our destination. Salzburg is a wonderful city for anyone who loves music, history, pastries, and coffee. Even though it was raining a great deal of the time, we had a good time exploring the city on foot. One day we took a tour to Berchtesgaden in Bavaria and visited Hitler's Eagle's Nest, the mountaintop retreat that was given to him by the Nazi Party for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our last evening there, we celebrated by attending a string quartet concert given in the Marble Hall of the Mirabell Palace, whose gardens were made famous in *The Sound of Music*. It was exciting to hear Haydn and Mozart being played in the very room where Mozart and his sister gave performances. What a treat!



Decisions, decisions.....



Recognize this from *The Sound of Music*?

Back here in Nové Zámky, some of our students have been coming by for informal conversation. Somehow, even the young people like to hang out with us “old folks!” Some of our friends have been bringing us produce from their gardens – cherries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, lettuce, zucchini, a white pumpkin, and garlic. Apricots are coming into season now, and we have a promise of some of them, too.

We have several prayer requests for you:

For continued good health and stamina

For the upcoming classes in September in both Nové Zámky and Komárno

For increased boldness in sharing the Gospel

For wisdom to know about extending our stay here; the other American couple will be on furlough in the States until February.

For the Del Sol team as they minister here the next two weeks and their students

For our family and friends back home, some of whom are suffering bereavement and illness (It’s hard to have a “foot” in each continent sometimes; we want to be in both places. Isn’t it wonderful to know that we have Heaven to look forward to?)

Thank you for your continued prayers on our behalf. We pray God’s blessing on you and yours.

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