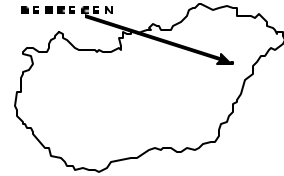


# MUSTARD SEED

April, 2000



## Winter is finally gone

This month winter has left us. For a long time the cold weather had been hanging around and we were having a cold spring. However, now the cold is gone and we are actually having a hot spring. It is interesting because the average temperature has been around 80 degrees. This has been a good change. We have gone directly from winter coats to short sleeves and shorts.

## New E-mail Address

As you can see in the information below, my E-mail address has changed. This past month, I bought a new computer because my old one is starting to break down. So I figured that while I was changing I should consider getting a more local Internet connection. I have been using CompuServe since I arrived almost three years ago. With CompuServe, I have had to call long distance to access it. Another reason is that we had the idea to upgrade our home page. So I decided to find a local server that is good, which would give me a chance to connect with only a local call. This will allow me to make a home page and not cost a lot of money for the phone. The server that I now have, will allow me to make a home page beginning May 1 through their Internet address. So hopefully by next month it will be up and running for you all to check out.

## Summer Campaign

We are still looking for campaigners but know we are working on make preparations as we are now. We still have one person that plans to come. Yet we are looking for more

people to come and help us out. The school will be four-weeks long in Nyíregyháza. We will be working to help further the work in planting a church there. It will start June 26 and end July 21. If you would like to be a campaigner, you only have to want to teach the Bible. You do not have to know Hungarian, just English because it is an English Bible School. We will be teaching from the book of Matthew. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please let me know. If you have a question about the campaign just ask.

## The Church in Hungary

With summer quickly approaching, we, here, are planning for the campaigns. This week, we placed the first newspaper ad and will arrange the next ones soon as well. We also will send out the letter to the former students soon.

Not so much beside the normal meetings have happened during this month. We continue to learn new songs with the help of the overhead projector, too. Not much else to say here.

## Culture Corner

This month, I thought I would tell you about the health services here. It is a little different from the way it is in the US, being that it is a socialist style.

Here in Hungary everyone has medical insurance. Well this is quite true in general. Those that work, children, students, gypsies, and those (which do not work) that pay for it, are covered under it. This means that nearly everyone has the possibility to use the health care facilities here. However, the medicine is

normal something that people have to buy.

It is much like a national HMO type of insurance, with the exception that you do not have to pay anything to visit the doctor. Students and children are free, this includes university students. However, it is not very cheap because both the worker and the employer are paying for it. The worker pays 10% of his salary and the employer around 40% extra based on the salary.

So what does this expensive cost cover? You have full access to the medical physicians, if you are sick. Non-illness related things are not covered (plastic surgery and not necessary surgeries). There are limits on pregnancy testing such as ultrasound. But other things are pretty much taken care of.

However, medicine is usually not covered. Nevertheless, it is discounted greatly, well at least some medicines. However, the selection is limited to generic brands due to the fact no one will spend much more than they have to for medicine. For me as a diabetic, if I were under the Hungarian system I could get most everything free (specialty things and non-prescribe things would only be discounted).

For children, dentists are covered. This is until they are eighteen years old. Yet the problem with this is that it is not a preventive system. So they cure the problems but not work to prevent them. The children only go to the dentist when they have a problem. If there is no problem, they have to pay to get their teeth cleaned or for other things they would want the dentist to do such as braces.

Eye care is cover for some but only if you have very bad eyes. However, only a certain amount is give per year to cover the cost of glasses or contacts. If your eyes are bad but not so bad then you have to pay the whole cost.

Also, a big problem with the health system, which is different with the US health systems, is that the doctors are paid very little.

The government pays them so this keeps them low paid. Yet it is interesting because if you want the doctor to pay attention to you while you are in the hospital, then it is customary for people to give them tips. This is actually illegal but it is done frequently.

As a foreigner, who does not earn money within the country, it is rather expensive to join. Even with me having to buy my diabetic supplies, it is cheaper not to be under the system. It normally cost around seven dollars to go to the doctor if you are not under the system, and sometime it is even free. So this is an overview of the health care system here. It is not so bad. The care is usually quite good. Yet it still has much room to be improved.

## **Prayer Requests**

Remember Paul and Kati Henderson (missionaries in Budapest) and their new addition Aaron, who was born on April 7. He was born two months premature but both him and the mother are doing well.

Continue to remember all the churches in Hungary (Budapest, Debrecen, Miskolc, and Szolnok).

Continue to remember my classes.

Also, remember the continuing preparation for the campaigns and the search for teachers.

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