A ministry of
River Valley Christian Church
5900 Lake Elmo Ave. N.
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Phone: (727) 271-9419
E-mail: lttn@ymail.com

Revs. Dan & Marta Lewis

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a ***light to the nations***... Isaiah 42:6

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2 Tim 4:7 (NKJV)
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

For several months there has been a stirring in us about finishing our race and understanding that time is short. In fact, this was our theme for the meetings we held in Hungary during our visit last fall. It's interesting that we have noticed that other ministries have also been teaching similar messages. Hmmm… should we pay attention?

Besides the scripture above, the Apostle Paul, recognizing (Acts 20) that unpleasant things (chains and tribulations) were awaiting him as he purposed to go to Jerusalem, made the statement, "*...none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race (course) with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God*."

Paul said, "*None of these things move me*." This is what it takes to finish your course. A full measure of commitment. Because if that's not there, eventually you will run into some things that will be too much for someone not fully committed. And you will quit.

We often quote Jeremiah 29 pointing out that God has a plan for your life. Most people have their own plan and aren't willing to change. My plan (Dan) was to live a life as a teacher and coach. I enjoyed teaching and coaching. My life was sports before I made a full commitment to the Lord. At first, I struggled with the call of God on my life. I was coaching in a Christian school, couldn't that be my call? But one day I realized that God was calling me to something else, and I needed to make a choice.

Looking back now, I could have missed the most wonderful life, I could ever imagine. Yes, I gave up a lot (at least it seemed like it) but I gained so much more.

Everybody has to make a choice like that. And at the time you're making it, you don't realize how little you're letting go of, and how great is what's ahead. But you'll never find out until you're willing to let go of that life and step into the life God has for you.

It's not too early for any of us to think about how we will finish our race, and finish strong and not let all the diversions of the world take us off course. That's the enemy's trick. He shows us "*flashy*" and *"look at this, do this"*. He wants you to get caught up in it until it takes all your time and energy and one day realize you have wasted years.

Every one of us has a limited amount of time, energy, and opportunity. It's like money – if you spend it on the wrong thing, it's gone. You won't have it to spend on what was important. Our choices every day are so important!

If you can let go of your own plan, and ask: "*God, what do you want me to do with my remaining days*?" What happens when you do that? Well, the truth is that you will never know until you make the commitment, but I can tell you from experience, it is far beyond whatever you could ask or think!

Last month we told you about Csaba and Mária Vágó getting married in Ózd after living together for 33 years. This was big news because being legally married means that one of them gives up their monthly government "welfare" payments. For them, this is more than a step of faith, it is to live in obedience to the Word of God. This was something that was brought about by the stirring of the Holy Spirit, and not by pestering from well meaning church folks. This was submission to the Word of God, and trusting that He is able to take care of their needs. And now, as Paul Harvey used to say, **the rest of the story**.

Csaba and Maria were married in a legal civil ceremony in December, but they have a desire to have a real "Church wedding" and would like us to perform the ceremony. So, we will be going to Hungary in April to be part of this amazing story. But wait, there's more! God's timing and provision is amazing! Not long after our last newsletter was sent out, Marta saw a facebook post from a friend from church who had been trying to "sow" her wedding dress for

Clockwise from top left: *Mikulas (Santa) was a big hit in Szakcs, Hungary in December. . Not only was the little girl in the left picture thrilled to see Mikulas, but even some of the adults gathered around to show some love. The great thing about Mikulas in Hungary, is that he comes nearly two weeks before Christmas day, thus separating Santa from the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The picture* ***above right*** *shows some of the items that were put into the food gift packages provided by Light to the Nations. The pictures at* ***right*** *show some of the people as they received their gift packages. Thank you partners for making this possible.*

The picture ***bottom right*** *shows some of the children in Szakcs making gingerbread houses. Thank you to all of our partners who made this past Christmas extra special for our friends in Hungary and Romania.*

quite some time with no one being interested. As a last resort she put it out on facebook, and the minute she posted it is when Marta saw it. Within a few days, the beautiful (size 4) dress was delivered to us and we will be taking it to Mária (who just happens to be size 4) when we go in April.

So, Mária has a beautiful wedding dress. We are still working on nice shoes to go with the dress (Crocs or flip flops just don't work with it). But what about Csaba? He has never owned a suit, so we thought that for his wedding, we should get him one. Through a very comical process of taking measurements while connected with Pastor Istvan and Szilvia Sule on Skype, we recorded the measurements they took in centimeters, then converted to inches to get a suit that (we believe) will fit.

A suit has been purchased, a beautiful gown has been provided, and we are excited to be there in April for their wedding. Anyone who would like to help with the cost of the suit and shoes, any gift will be greatly appreciated. We will take lots of pictures.

What makes this marriage so special to us is the fact that by getting married, Mária committed to giving up her government "welfare" income. It may not seem like much by Western standards, but I wonder how many of us could manage by giving up half of our income?

We also appreciate your prayers and financial support for Light to the Nations. Any success in this ministry is fruit that abounds to your account.

Love & blessings,

Dan & Marta Lewis