



What if you didn't know anything about the Bible? I don't mean who wrote which books, when they were written, or even what they mean for us today? These are all valid questions, and we should be able to answer them when asked. What I'm asking is: what if you had never heard the story of Moses? What if you had never heard the story of the prodigal son? What if you knew nothing of the Christ-Child's story? That is precisely the case for much of Eastern Europe due to the Communist Era. In fact, many Christians in Hungary were treated as Jews during Hitler's tirade. Today there is a pandemic of Biblical illiteracy created by this vacuum of nearly 100 years.

Beth and I have been serving as Youth Ministers at Central Christian Church in Brownsville, TX for the past 5 years. Prior to the ministry in Brownsville we lived in Knoxville, TN and served three ministries in the housing projects (Cornerstone Christian Church, Knoxville Inner City Kids Outreach, and Serving Others and Reconciliation). We now have 4 children, Jacob (10), Nola (7), Weston (3), and Landon (9 months). We recently sold almost everything we owned and moved into a two bedroom duplex in order to begin preparing ourselves for the mission field. The move has allowed us to save a significant amount of money and to realize we don't really 'need' all that stuff.

In Knoxville, we initially served cross-culturally with inner city students a few *hours* a week. Soon we were working in the inner city a few *days* each week. When we moved to Brownsville, we lived and served in a cross cultural society 24/7. Now God has asked us to go one step further. He has asked us to move to Budapest, Hungary and operate a Christian library.

We'll be working with the Institute for Christian Resources (www.icrnet.org) at the Budapest Christian Library. ICR exists to develop and provide open access to Christian resources that empower believers to apply biblical principles to critical life issues. There is a pandemic of biblical illiteracy which incapacitates the church from carrying out her mission of evangelism and edification. Pre-Christians and Christians alike need access to solid biblical teaching to effectively carry out their divine calling. The library is a public and neutral space where seekers can actively engage Christians in dialogue about their faith. The Library is a non-threatening environment for those who are not yet prepared to visit a church.

ICR requires us to raise 100% of our support. It will require \$6700 a month for us to have the greatest impact in Budapest. Yes, that is a lot of money. However, the current exchange ratio of Dollars to Forints is nearly 2 to 1. That is 100 HUF = 0.55 USD. So imagine living the same way you do right now with half of your salary. On top of that imagine operating a small business outside of your home with the regularly incurred expenses and still doing it all on half of your current wage. Yes, it is a significant amount, but it cannot be done for less.

You are important to us and we value our relationship. You can count on our prayers for you and your family, and in the months ahead we will keep you posted on our journey. I trust that God will use us both to make a Kingdom impact in Budapest. I'd love the opportunity to talk with you further about this if you have questions.

Grace and Peace to you, The Ridgeways
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Mark E. Moore, Director

Rusty and Beth are the direct result of God's answer to prayer for The Institute for Christian Resources. Honestly, I have never seen a series of events which were more clearly orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. These two are tailor made for the work to which God has called them. They not only have my enthusiastic endorsement, they have my enduring friendship. Rusty and Beth are top drawer and it is my honor to call them colleagues in the work of the Lord. With your support, they will spread the fame of Jesus in a land in desperate need of Christian resources. I will stand with them; would you please stand behind them? – Mark E. Moore, Director of The Institute for Christian Resources