

Our 'Rendez-vous' series features an interview with a member of our Congregation - for those who find our refreshment hour is just not long enough...!

Rendez-vous with Emese Pósfay

Created: 26Nov2010 by Maarten Wilbers

When did you come to Geneva and why? We arrived on 21 September 1971 to stay in Geneva for three years. George was invited to work at the LWF.

What are three adjectives that describe who you are? Do you resemble your friends? Organized, patient, caring. Not always.

From whom have you learned the most? What is it that you have learned from him/her/them? My parents: hard work, honesty, faith.

Which traits do you appreciate in the opposite gender? Honesty, sense of humor, culture.

What traits do you appreciate in our Congregation and our Sunday service? We consider our Congregation our Church home even though we attend the Hungarian church service once a month. Our two daughters were confirmed and married here; our three grandchildren were baptized here. I prefer a more traditional Lutheran Sunday service. Having lived in many countries and having worshipped in several languages, I always 'felt at home' in services where I knew the liturgy, knew at least some of the hymns and understood them. Probably these feelings are accentuated with age.

Can you share a strong childhood memory? What did your Sundays look like in those days? The Second World War, the bombing of Hungary, four years in a refugee camp in Austria, hunger. As a small child still in Hungary, we went every Sunday to church and afterwards for dinner at my maternal grandparents'. Later in the refugee camp, although a jurist, my father preached every Sunday.

Where is the most beautiful landscape you can think of? The Salzkammergut in Upper Austria.

What would the perfect dinner be? The perfect dinner company? A good family dinner at home. I consider perfect dinner company those who eat my cooking with gusto and enjoy it.

God? Prayer? I believe in God. He accompanied me/us through all my/our lives. Yes, I pray.

When did you fall in love for the first time? In Buenos Aires, Argentina.

What's your greatest virtue? Your greatest vice? Virtue: love of my family. Vice: eating cakes, sweets, chocolate.

What's the best decision you've made so far? To stay for good in Geneva.

At the highest summit: which painting? Which book? Which movie? What music?

Painting: The Last Supper by Salvador Dali; book: Dear Liar by Jerome Kilty; movie: Hitchcock films; music: Brahms, Mozart, Dvorak, opera (bel canto).

What is your greatest fear? Becoming blind.

What was secondary school all about for you? And what did your country look like in those days? That is a difficult question. From first grade through university, I attended eight different schools in four different countries and languages. I only attended the first grade in Miskolc, Hungary, all the other grades in 'adopted' countries.

After secondary school, what was your next step? Did you have a 'master plan' for your future? We were poor immigrants in Argentina, my father was often ill, mother had two jobs, brother was a medical student, I couldn't have a 'master plan' for my future. I had to work to help the family. After four years as secretary of the owner of a big steel factory I got married and moved to Venezuela. I was full-time pastor's wife.

What did friendship and dating look like in those days? I always had and have good, long-term friends. I am not for superficial acquaintances. 'Going out' was not customary in my circles. We met for sports, scouting, cultural events or birthday parties, where we danced. This happened on weekends. During the week we studied and worked. No smoking, no alcohol. Later, as pastor's wife, I had many social obligations, entertaining at home, at church, organizing the women's and children's activities. I had little time for private friendships.

If you could be Prime Minister for one day, what would you do? What's the point our leaders are missing? Is there hope for our world? Honesty, keeping promises, not looking for power and wealth. Radical changes will have to be made in order to have a brighter future. I hope it will come.

What is Geneva for you? My home since 1971.

How do you relax? What are the things that you intensely enjoy? Perfect happiness is... ? Listening to classical music or opera; embroidering; reading.

What is your motto in life? Where did it come from? 'Your will be done' – The Lord's Prayer.

Life... do you think you have figured it out at this point? Not fully, our future is unknown.