

"The Lord is good,
a REFUGE
in times of trouble."

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

Autumn 2005

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation,

With Christian love I greet you from Bodrog, on behalf of the Menedék team. With this newsletter we want to share some events of the year and ministry of Menedék. We thank you for your prayers and support and interest in our work.

Part of my work is to keep in touch with the friends of Menedék. From now on we hope to send out this newsletter to those who are interested. If you want to receive this newsletter in the future, please let me know. You can send me an email on selmecziles@axelero.hu or a letter to the foundation's address:

Menedék Alapítvány
Selmeczi Ottília
7439 Bodrog
Kossuth u. 155.

If we can reach you by email, please let us know.

Thank you.

May God bless you and keep you.

Yours in Him, Mrs. Ottília Selmeczi

**WE VALUE HUMANITY – The Menedék
Foundation's training project for social
workers**

THE METHODOLOGY OF THE MENEDÉK (THE REFUGE) FOUNDATION

The Menedék (Refuge) Foundation was founded by 5 people in 1985. At that time our work was based on Christian voluntary service, giving help

to those young people who are in need and depressed. The motivation is the same today, based on deep faith and conviction, but our society and the values in the society have changed. The number of people who are in need has not decreased, but the way to reach out to them and the ways in which society help and support them have changed a lot.

In the beginning the Menedék team (10-15 people) did voluntary work: in their spare time they ran a club or opened their homes for children and women who had become homeless. At that time there was no organized social security for the youth, and there were no social laws or laws concerning foundations.

From the second year of our voluntary work we aroused the interest of others: the "Menedék Workshop" came alive at the Sociologist Training Department of ELTE (Eötvös Lóránt University) and later at the Ministry of Public Welfare and Health, and began to meet every week. In this workshop we shared our practical experiences with these leading professional academics.

From time to time our workers received training run by the church. The lack of specific and organized training was replaced by the dedication of the workers, their faith and love. During the first 12 years people became full time workers for the Foundation after only one year of voluntary work. Nowadays less and less people are ready to do voluntary work.

It is essential to keep the results of the 20 years of ministry. As a Foundation we have to provide

education for our new workers and further education for our current workers.

With great joy we can share the news that with the support of HEFOP from the EU, the Menedék Foundation can provide two years of educational training for its workers. The course contains six two day, and four five day blocks of training. The first five day program starts in early November. We will examine the methods of our Foundation, how effective they are, and how they affect our work, service and life. Mr. Zoltán Kovács, the leader and the chairman of the Foundation since its birth, will be the main teacher on this program.

It is a great joy of ours that because of the co-operation of the mayor of Bodrog and the mayors of the surrounding villages, people who work for the welfare department at the local governments will attend this training.

May God bless the needy and those who work among them, the Menedék Foundation and all organizations. Mr. Zoltán Kovács

THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

Budapest

The Lord provided the place we needed for the Menedék Office

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grants sleep to those he loves.”
Psalm 127: 1,2

It is a wonderful experience to know what it means to be in love with God. Our Lord provides many opportunities to serve Him and to work for Him, for others in need.

When the Foundation was born we had to give the address of the office where the centre of our work is. As the ministry in Budafok grew (Men’s Shelter and Women’s Shelter), a good relationship with the local government was formed. They were ready to support our work as we were ready to run a service for the needy people of the area. An office was established whose main service was to counsel those who

were in need – the Helping Hand Office. The workers at the office had great joy and blessing when they saw our Almighty God at work. We also organized all the official work of the Foundation here. The place itself was small, the walls were damp and the heating system hardly worked, but we were happy. After 12 years on 31st December 2004 the local government stopped the supporting relationship with the Menedék Foundation and we had to move out from the office. The office moved to the building of the Mothers’ Shelter in a small room with one worker and with the very basic office equipment. God saved us from hard work in vain to find the right place: he provided an ideal flat in Budafok, where there is enough room for everything. We praise the Lord for that. The new address of the office is: Menedék Iroda, 1221 Budapest, Leányka u. 34 III/21

We want to make good use of it for the glory of God and we want to be a blessing for those who are under our care.

Mrs. Huszár

- The Falusi family moved from Budapest and they ended their service in Budafok.

- In the Mothers’ Shelter two workers Miss Csilla Bodó and Mrs. Gabriella Krinyák ended their service so we are seeking new workers for their posts.

- Two new workers arrived to the Mothers’ Shelter: Miss Ildikó Kun, and Mrs. Viktória Turján and they will work as family counsellors. May God bless them and keep them in their service.

- The new address for our office is: Menedék Iroda, 1221 Budapest, Leányka út 34 III/3

Bodrog

The jubilee of the music school

In “The Beginning of Wisdom” family last year we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the kindergarten and the 10th anniversary of the primary school. The youngest “brother”, the music school was 10 yrs old. We celebrated this event with a concert. It was a thanksgiving day. Thanks be to God, for giving this opportunity in this little village, for the music, for the talented children, and for the faithful work of the music teachers who want to serve the Lord. Soli Deo Gloria!

- The 2004/2005 school year was the first one where we had the 8th grade of the primary school. 10 children left our school and from September they started their secondary school studies in Kaposvár. They will build up on the foundation they received here. As Christian teachers we believe that we gave not just foundation for their education, but first of all, a foundation for their lives by sharing Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Gospel with them.

- During the first week of July the youth group of Bodrog Baptist Church ran a week of evangelism in Bodrog and in the surrounding villages together with an Exodus team from Northern Ireland.

- 11th -15th July we had an English Club with the help of teachers from England and Northern Ireland. There was great interest - approximately 40 primary and secondary school aged children came from the area.

- 17th - 24th July we had a Christian Music Week, where we had 73 children, 20 teachers and 18 helpers from all over Hungary. We are very thankful for this blessed week.



new kindergarten teacher: Miss Anna Kiss, and three new teachers at the school: Miss Judit Agócs, Miss Erika Bató and Mrs. Regina Páli. We are very thankful for them. May God strengthen them in their call and dedication.

- 30th July was the wedding day of the kindergarten's leader, Erzsébet Stumpf and Zsolt Vörös.

- Bodrog gave a home to the first Christian motorcyclist weekend at the end of August. There were 20 motorcyclists from different parts of Hungary and from different denominations, with different bikes. It is good to know that the Good News of Jesus Christ can be taken by bike. The weekend was joyful and fruitful: sharing ideas, plans, and riding the bikes.

- From September there are 25 children in the kindergarten, 77 in the school and 86 in the music school.

- On 15th October we celebrated the wedding of Julianna Gerlinger and Markus Rolli. They plan to join a mission work in South America in the future.



- In August we had a team for a week from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church and Mr and Mrs Cawley came from Devizes for a month to help Menedék in Bodrog with their two hands. They painted in the kindergarten and in the school and they also changed the roof of the camp showers.

- At the end of the last school year we said goodbye to two teachers, to Miss Valéria Simon, and to Miss Julianna Gerlinger, and Mrs Ági Madarász ended her service in the kindergarten.

- At the office Mrs Gabriella Fodor, and Mrs Ottília Selmeczi started their work. We have a

BOK

- The next step for the educational centre building is the roof. Please pray that the necessary resources will become available for this to be started.

Kiskunmajsa

- Early in the summer the Menedékváros (Refuge Town) was inspected by administrative authorities. After solving the problems of some insufficiencies in the kitchen, we received the operational permit. Their main comments were about the lack of professional workers and also about the lack of smoking area as smoking is considered to be a human right for the people who live here.

- It is our great joy that a new worker has started his service among us: Dr. István Matus. He became the manager of the institute for the homeless provision. For 7 years he has been in contact with Menedék. By appointing him we received the operational permit for an indefinite time. We hope to have more new workers. We also have a plan to renew the way we operate. This plan is before the board of directors now.

- We have new workers: Miss Mariann Ésik and Miss Adél Kiss. Mr Imre Szill also helps our work. We are seeking a dedicated and professional nurse to be in a managerial nursing post.

- During the summer holiday 8 children attended the Word of Life Camp in Tóalmás. Several workers are part time students. We have some secondary school aged children too.

- In our church there were two wedding celebrations – altogether 20 so far. We plan to have a baptism service. Two people want to have a church membership. We are thankful for them.

- There is a family of 10 among us (with 8 children). They could not get a place to live as a whole family anywhere else in the country. We are glad to help them and we are thankful to God for giving this opportunity to us.

- Independence and self support are very important parts of our everyday life, for they are

vital for the reintegration process into the society. Some people enjoy our “Life Style Support” in the Menedékváros. Some have moved out to the city itself. Some have been able to move into their own flat; some could move back where they originally come from and someone inherited a house. Some people rent a flat or have moved to other institutes. Sadly it can happen that people “disappear” from under our care- after being in hospital some left to go to unknown places. For those who are ready and want to be independent and self supporting we want to give all the help we can.

-We are very thankful for the gifts and support we receive e.g. vegetables and food, and we even received a financial gift to buy a pancake maker machine! From these we experience the Lord’s goodness. We have also won several public grants for employing our workers.

If you wish to support our ministry you can do so: The bank details are:

Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:

117 220032002222200000000

IBAM electronic form:

HU72117220032002222200000000

IBAM printing form:

HU72 1172 2003 2002 2222 0000 0000

OTP Bank SWIFT code (BIC): OTPVHUHB

Bank address:

OTP Bank Rt

1221 Budapest

Kossuth L.u.31

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