

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

1/2008

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 selmeczileso@gmail.com or a letter to the foundation's address:

Menedék Alapítvány
Selmeczi Ottilia
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. Ottilia Selmeczi



...the other one is laughing

One of the well-known Hungarian proverbs says: One of my eyes is crying the other one is laughing. I missed the first bit of it with a purpose. It is true that crying, trials and problems are part of our daily lives but if there is no hope no thanksgiving and joy right after them we lose one of the main motive powers of our lives. I do not want to preach about the supremacy of optimistic world view against pessimism rather I want to make the point how important thanksgiving is against our worries.

There is a sentence in the Bible which is very dear to me and I can say it is one of the principles of my life, it is Philippians 4: 6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Paul who wrote these lines knew very well what problems, trials and difficulties meant. I do not think that any of us had met the same difficulties Paul had met. He was stoned, several times he was lashed, he was shipwrecked and he often had to escape from those who hated him yet he had never hurt them. After experiencing all of this he made the conclusion: Do not be anxious about anything... If it worked with him it must work in our lives too for we had far smaller challenges than Paul had.

The Refuge Foundation has to deal with serious problems and challenges at present. We are lack of dedicated workers our financial background is very small with these problems

we are not alone in the Hungarian society. We not only want to survive this time with the smallest loss, but also with thanksgiving in our hearts and in our minds we want to overcome the challenges and difficulties lying before us. Before the end of this year we are able to open the first big part of the BOK - Bodrog Educational Centre and the "Lord is good Baptist Church building. This is a financial miracle in the time of restrictions.

One of our eyes is laughing the other one is crying, for this is the right order!

Zsolt Paróczy

THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

Budapest

The Mother's Shelter

We are in great need in several areas of the ministry. Mothers with their children are applying to us every day but we do not have any vacancies and it seems that the other institutes are full also. It is generally the case in the country. Many are not able to solve their problems for they do not know how to. Many give up relationships: they do not know that the solution is not coming from outside rather inside by forgiveness, trust, and serious thought and by dedication.

The mothers and their children

Good news that there are mothers who take the greatest chance in life. We can see relationships being changed for good. There is a mother, Marika, with three children whose situation is solved now. Together with her brother they were able to buy a house, so the two families are able to live in the same house. We worked hard to help her and it was a joy to see her family being ready to help, taking extra loads.

There is another mother with three children who is open to receive help and counselling. Sadly her former partner is not helping at all. In her case also her brother is helping they hardly knew each other in the past and in the autumn break they went for a visit. Hopefully a home will be provided for them by the end of the school year.

Our workers and helpers

There are volunteers working among us during their free time from several Christian fellowships.

We have an old-new worker Mrs. Molnár who works as a nanny four hours a day since October. **We need a Christian family counsellor and a nanny. Please pray for dedicated workers to join us.**

We had two social pedagogy students spending their field term with us from the Vilmos Apor Catholic College. It was a very useful time for everyone.

We have good relationships with several churches (Budafok Baptist, Budapest Calvary Church, The Rock Church and the Baptist Church in Tordas) with them we have fellowship from time to time.



Together with the Men Shelter we had an outing day in Kamaraerdő. We had a great time, with lots of fun, with good food. We are very thankful for that joyful day.

Ildikó Kun

The Men's Shelter

The roof renovation is completed now. Because of the lack of finances the work is slow. We need to complete the interview room, the kitchen and the bathroom. **Please pray for finance to carry out the works.** The construction work does not disturb the every day life of the shelter. For our surprise there were times when we were full even in the summer.

In our home we can clearly see the reasons of homelessness – there are certain social symptoms which reproduce homelessness: getting poor, unemployment, alcoholism, drugs, growing up in a broken family or in state care, coming out from prison etc. Let us share some of the stories:

e.B. arrived to us from prison. Because of the prison mission he heard about the Lord and was converted. After leaving the prison he worked hard, started going to church every Sunday. After a few months due to his ready to help attitude he got to know a well educated lady. Since then they have been planning their wedding.

J.D. is in his twenties, he also arrived to us from prison. At that time he did not have faith in God but he was happy to come along to the church and he read the Bible we gave to him. He had many questions during our conversations and we could clearly see his eagerness towards the truth in the Bible. God's Spirit was working in him. Sadly he had to go back to prison due to one of his cases from the past, but this time he took his Bible with himself.

D.G. grew up in state care. When he was 19, his grandparents took him into their family in order to help them in farming. He was preparing for his A level exams when he was sent away from home. He arrived to the Men Shelter at this point, he prepared for his last exams here and successfully passed them all.

Sadly there are people who do not take the opportunities our shelter provide and they leave without any significant changes in their lives. I wish there were more people who leave us with live in right order and with right ambitions.

László Vasas

Office



We do all the administration work of the Foundation. Soon the HEFOP programme's paperwork will be checked and it means that the two years long training programme will be completed.

Ancsa Bokros is expecting a baby in February. Please pray for Ancsa and the baby for their health and for the birth. Thank you.



Bodrog

The building project of the "Lord is good" Baptist Church and the Refuge Foundation.



We are very thankful to God for the great improvement of the building work. Some areas are already completed such as the church hall, the school's classrooms, the dining hall and the corridor and the lift. The pavement around the building is ready too and the gardening work is being done now. The next phase of the project will be the kitchen, the kindergarten and the residential flats upstairs.

During the last few months we have received help from several places: we received financial gifts to continue the building of our school and church; there were individuals and teams helping us; we received discounts from businessmen and companies and we received gifts from Christian churches. We considered each of them as miracles and as gifts from God. They mean encouragement to us to continue and to extend our ministry here in this new building. We believe that the better operating conditions will

help us to reach out among more children and more adults bringing them God's love and sharing the good news with them. We believe that we can help more people.



Our faith was strengthened by the love people had sent and their gifts. Every day and week was a great experience when we worked together with others. By their faith and enthusiasm we received a fresh impetus. This way we received strength from God day by day and it was good to hear that the same people and teams went home to their families and churches physically tired but spiritually refreshed. Our faith was strengthened by the fact that God has a purpose with this building and that is why we are able to continue the construction work. He also has purposes for us and with everyone who joins this work and ministry we are doing here in Bodrog.

By faith and with hope in our hearts we held the opening ceremony on 8th December. It was a joyful celebration with about 350 visitors. We praise God for his faithfulness.



From January we would like to continue the construction work. To do it we need finance. We trust that God will provide our needs and helping hands. If you want to contribute to the

project please send your gift to the Menedék Account with a note "for BOK building project". Thank you for your prayers too.



The following works have to be finished:

- Porches
- Protection for lightning
- Gardening

The next phase will be the kitchen and the kindergarten. This needs a lot of money even to start the work there.



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.
 Menedék Foundation

Summer activities

The Scout camp and the Exodus evangelism weeks were blessed weeks.

Our Christian music camp was held in two locations: in Bodrog and in Balatonszemes. We had teachers and more than 80 children and young people from different parts of the country from different church backgrounds. We were able to grow in knowledge and we had great experiences of playing music together, giving thanks to God who gives the ability to do it. We held concerts during the week and the closing one was held in Balatonszemes. We trust that besides growing in music knowledge everyone got to know Him better who is the Creator and the greatest Composer.



The 18th August was the village day. We spent the whole day together: there were several cultural programmes, sport activities and cooking on open fire. The Association of the Hungarian Christian Motor bikers met in Bodrog and joined the day. Our friends from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, Belfast arrived too and that was the third village day they were at. They sang in English about God's love to people. The following week they held **English and Bible Club for children.** There was a lot of fun, singing, and learning. They taught about the Lord Jesus who died and rose again.



Our music school is being checked by the authorities. Since September the director of the music school has been Mrs. Márta Dan. May God give her strength to do her new duties. At present the brass instruments are taught by a supply teacher. **We are seeking a full time Christian brass instrument teacher. Please pray and ask God to send the right person to Bodrog.**

There were two weddings in the summer. Mónika Erdei and Dániel Dan got married here in Bodrog



István János and Zsuzsa Berkes got married in Transylvania. Dani and Mónika moved to Szeged, István and Zsuzsi live here in Bodrog. May God bless and guide them.

Anita Ficsór

Appeal invitation

In our primary school we would like a Christian native English speaker who can dedicate a few months or a school year to serve among us as a voluntary classroom assistant together with our English teacher. The application has to be sent to Rev. Zsolt Paróczy, the director of the educational institute via Otilia Selmeczi at selmeczileso@gmail.com or by post at

Menedék Alapítvány
7439 Bodrog
Kossuth u. 155

Kisfunmajsza

We had a three day long activity rally for children. The first evening we watched a film together in a cinema mood. The following day we held the "Who can do what?" competition. With great zeal the kids practised their performances. There was singing, music, dance, humour, and recite poetry. We can say that we had a joyful time and our fellowship was strengthened. After giving out the prizes we

finished the day with a dancing party. The third day we had several activities and competitions: e.g. drawing, bicycle riding, rob pulling. There were 350 pancakes to eat too! We give thanks to God for these three days which really meant building fellowship for everyone.

During the summer the children were able to attend several Christian camps which meant great blessings to them. For a weekend we could visit Bodrog and meet the workers there, we are very thankful for that opportunity too.

Once a month we hold a meeting of residents where we discuss the rules of the house and the actual problems.

We needed to buy **new computers** to help our workers. There is one new computer for the residents too, which helps the children with their studies and gives needed official information to the adults. In October we bought new washing machines. **We received several gifts:** knitted pullovers from Northern Ireland, we received toys, clothes, food and toys too. We want to thank the people who offered them.

Mrs. Lázár



The Kiskunmajsa Baptist Church has a leading role in the Refuge Town. The church is lead by Géza Huszár and Péter Csaplár. There is a church service on Thursday (with 15-20 people) and there are two services on Sundays. In the morning 45-55, in the afternoon 20-25 people come to praise the Lord. We have visiting preachers too from the nearby churches (from Soltvadkert, Jánoshalma, Kiskőrös, Szank, and from time to time from Bodrog and from Budafok).

We have a daily devotion time, with 7-15 people. From the numbers you can see that not all the residents attend the church, we try to give them a good example to follow the Lord. From May we had a great number of new people coming to the Refuge Town. They may have stayed just for a

few weeks they could hear the Good News in the church. Our church provides a spiritual home for the residents.

For our joy there are families, who have already left the Refuge Town come to church too. The follow up work continues and we try to be in touch with people if it is possible. In the summer we held an English camp for kids. There were several children who came from the nearby towns. Our aim was not only to teach English but also to share the Good News during that week. We trust that there will be an English camp in 2008.

We are planning outreach together with other churches. We hope and pray that many sinners will get to know the Lord Jesus and his grace.

Péter Csaplár

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

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Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Szegedi u. 11.



Hungarian Christian Motor bikers met in Bodrog