

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

Changes in different ways

Together with my family I spent a Sunday in Kiskunmajsa in the winter. We arrived early so we went to the dining room, where we greeted the people there, some we knew and some we just saw for the very first time. They were clearing the dining room after breakfast. There was a middle aged woman helping there and somehow I had the feeling that I had known her. I was thinking hard when a memory came into my mind.

Budaörs. A street near the Mother's Shelter, the Stáció Street. An abandoned building site with a ruined house. There are homeless people in the house: a woman and 2 men. They are scruffy but open to talk and to receive help.

In Stáció Street there is no abandoned building site anymore, just beautiful houses. And this woman is here before me -neat and tidy, dignified. I am joyfully surprised. I am thankful to know that there is a change for good. Later on I hear Éva praying and I am told that she is a member of the church in the Refugetown. May she belong to God forever and may her life be a witness of God's love.

Another person comes into my mind. I got to know him years ago. I was working among girls, mothers and children in need, in the former Women's Shelter. A young woman with her child asked for help. They had fled from the father. They lived nearby, so the father could find them easily. Once I had to ask him to leave as he was climbing the fence next door. I was afraid yet I had to tell him. He was a strong and muscular man.

2/2010

The mum and the child left us soon so I do not know anything about them. But from time to time we meet the father. He lost lots of weight; you cannot tell his age, he usually has his sniffing bag on him. He is not the same he used to be long ago. I'm not afraid of him anymore, I feel sorry for him now.

The people around us and we are constantly changing. Let us ask a few questions:

Firstly, in what direction are we changing? Are we getting closer to God? Can He be seen more and more in our lives or are our lives are heading slowly but definitely in a negative direction?

Secondly, are we ready to help the people in need in the proper way? Is it up to us to help someone to cope with his or her life?

Thirdly, do we recognize that what is seen on the surface is not important? That people with a good outlook need hope, forgiveness and GOD?

Mrs. Marianna Molnár

Budapest

The Mother's Shelter

I am very thankful that from 1st January we were able to extend our capacity: now we have 40 beds. It is a great blessing; we are able to help more families and share God's love with them. We have happy days as well as challenging ones.

From two local bakeries we receive



fresh rolls as a gift on a daily basis. The mothers and the children really appreciate that because for they would not be able to provide that from their incomes.

It is a great joy to see that both the mothers and the children are happy to attend the Tea Club and listen to the Good News at the Budafok Baptist Church on Thursday evenings.

Since our last newsletter we were able to start the computer course for the mothers. This course is run by one of our workers. The mothers are taught the basic computer use in theory and practice.

We ask you to pray for these people for we do not know what the future holds for them. They are with us now but soon they may leave and we may not be able to follow up them. That is why it is important for them to make a decision about having Jesus in their lives, so they may have that sure hope instead of fears about their and their children's future.

Kornélia Szabó, Childminder

The opportunities and the joy of the changes

The renovation work carries on. We have to organize the work well for the Shelter to carry out its duties: we have to move mums and children until their rooms are renovated. Until March the floors of the rooms, the corridors and the cellar had been laid with lino. The cellar was whitewashed and we did spring cleaning too. God provided helping hands. We especially want to thank Andrea Kiss who was a great help and an organizer of that work.

Since March our institute has been inspected by the official authorities. We will have 3 inspections all together. The inspector was very supportive and encouraging. He has found everything to be fine apart from small shortcomings and we are thankful for that.

It is a privilege to see some of the fruits of our ministry. There are mothers who attend the Budafok Baptist Church. Sadly there are some



who keep themselves at a distance and who are not interested in God at all. Their hearts are hard and full of

bitterness; it is very obvious to see this in their reactions from time to time. We want to help people by teaching them responsibilities and independence whilst they know that we are there to help. For this task we need God's leading, his wisdom and love.

We ask you to pray for us please and pray for the mothers and children too, that they may get closer to their Saviour while they are under our care.

Erika Seres, Childminder

The Men's Shelter

Our lives and plans

Each of us has a desire to belong somewhere, to feel that somewhere we are at home. God created us to be in relationship and for this reason loneliness frustrates us.



When men arrive to the Men's Shelter they are usually lonely because they come from broken families, from state care institutes, from prison, from the street etc. We experience that the more time they have been alone, the more difficult they find it to settle in. The long time spent on the street makes people extremely lonely and although they try hard they are not able to integrate into society.

We work mainly with young people who still have the desire and the ambition to have a better life. They still have the sense of usefulness so they are motivated to start a new phase of their lives in society. It is our desire to see more and more young people settling down in society with success.

We would like the Men's Shelter building to have a home like atmosphere because our living conditions influence our character. For this reason we continue the renovation work. We plan to renovate the stairs and the kitchen in the spring. There are no financial resources for these works at present. Also in the

spring we hope to finish the tiling and painting work upstairs, where there will be a residential flat with an independent small kitchen for the worker who is in duty.

Our aim is to finish the main construction work by the end of the year, but we cannot



see the financial background for that yet. We ask God to provide our needs and we look upon him

to provide them. As a result of the completed renovation work we will be able to have more rooms for our residents to cope with the present numbers.

It is great news to share another two of our residents are able to study with supporting grants. One of them will study to be a shop assistant, the other one hopes to have a driving licence. A former student of the foundation is going to study further: he will be trained to drive farm machines.

We are very thankful for these opportunities because qualifications for employment are vital to plan for the future and to start again.

From 1st April 2010 Attila Gulyás works among us as a social worker.

Gábor Liptai, Shelter manager

Bodrog

In January and February we had joint prayer weeks with the nearby churches.

On Easter Sunday we had a baptism ceremony: six young people were baptised. It was a joy celebration. Please pray for these young people that they may grow in their faith and be faithful servants of the Lord.

On 10th April **Ancsa Balogh and Richard Boyde got married.** May God bless them richly.

Our educational institutes are members of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). In late September a typhoon did great damage including to ACSI member schools. Both our school and the church collected offerings and we sent our gift to the Philippians via ACSI. It was good to see our children sympathising with



the people in Asia whilst giving thanks for our security and our nice school building.

During the last 3 years we had received much help from the Blessing Foundation, founded by the Nazareth Deacon Fellowship, in Germany.

Their main ministry was to channel practical gifts to different Christian ministries. The leader, Reinhard Fisher knew about our needs, and knew our ministry. There were times when our staff went to Germany and collected switches, radiators, school furniture etc. from buildings to be destroyed, other times Reinhard and the foundation collected these items for us and sent lorries to Bodrog. The second hand, but good quality equipment had great value and we were able use them all in the building. We especially want to mention the

full kitchen equipment we received with their help. Today we cook for 120 people each day, providing lunch for the institutes and for people in the village.



Sadly the organization had to be closed down. One of our workers went to Germany and gave report to the organization about the gifts we received. We are very thankful for their work and the many blessings we received through them.

The BOK building project carries on. We would like to finish the residential flats in May.

The Fostering Network of our ministry is looking for Christian couples with the call to foster children in their families. Please pray that God may call people into this ministry.

We will need a new kindergarten teacher from September. Please pray that God may call the right person for this ministry.

The thanksgiving Church service for the completed BOK building will be held on 23rd May, the Pentecost Sunday. You are very welcome to join us for this joyful celebration.

Anita Ficsór, Teacher



A new Bodrog citizen from Northern Ireland

I came to Bodrog to help with the building of the church and school along with other members of Bloomfield Presbyterian Church.

I felt very close to the people and their children and September 2009 I was over by myself staying with a local family. It was a glorious week: I became saved and also there was a house for sale and with the help of the leaders I bought it.

My wife died 4 years ago so I can come and go as I please; I intend to stay from April until late summer. I feel when I am in Bodrog I am nearer to God and the villagers reflect this in every way.

Alfie Welsh

Kiskunmajsa

“Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide poor wanderer with shelter- when you see the naked, to clothe him and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” Isaiah 58:7

At Christmas more people think about helping the needy, but what about the rest of the year? How many times do we put the above Bible verse into practice in the 364 days of the year, apart from Christmas? And those of us who do social work, can we say that this teaching is not for us since we do these deeds as a

profession? I don't think so. As Christians we should build this verse into our lives and not just keep it for our working place.

At Christmas it was good to share that we received the greatest gift in the person of Jesus Christ. We thank our Heavenly Father for the Christmas gifts he provided to the children in the home by the Christian school in Diósd. The children were happy because many families under our care could not afford to put gifts under the tree. We celebrated the New Year in the church too.

Sadly a tragic event happened in January. A mother, who had lived here with her 13 year old daughter, was diagnosed with cancer. Her body was destroyed by the illness very fast, she died on 24th January. It was very difficult to share the sad news with the girl, as the mother was the only solid point in her life. Now she is in foster care and we thank God for it. Sadly one of our childminders had to leave due to family issues. Please pray that a Christian who is called here may replace her.

We have some plans for this year and we seek God's vision. It is great to know that we are not alone. My hope is that we may experience God's goodness and we may know that it is good to follow him.

On 22nd April Hanna Antal. Ági and György Antal second child was born.

György Antal, Institute manager

Personal experiences in the ministry.

In September 2008 the ministry among the homeless restarted again. For my great joy I can work here again since November 2008.

There are people in the staff who were former state

dependants and now they are reliable workers.

They were ready to study and have the necessary qualifications required by



law. This fact proves that God is working in the Refuge town and in its church. On 13th December 2009, 5 people were baptised. For their decision, we give thanks to God who encourages us in His word, *“Therefore, my brothers stand firm. Let nothing*

move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Cor 15 v 58)

Although there is an economic crisis in the country, still there are grants to support institutes who help the homeless. In this month we applied for a grant to help mental health development in the form of team or personal counselling. We applied for office equipment (a photocopier, computer, a projector and a screen). We are happy for this opportunity, although we do not know if we will get the grant or not. **Please pray for success.**

For my greatest surprise, God gave me a special job since I commenced working in the Refugetown. For years I have been supervising a family who had been under the care of a Temporary Home for homeless families. (In 2008 children had to go into state care). By the grace of God our family took them and I became their tutor. This is an especially challenging task. The mother is under the care of our homeless institute so she can be in touch with the children on a daily basis. As we serve God with different responsibilities I ask the Lord to support us with the words of *Psalm 90 v 12* “*Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*”

Ibolya Farkas, Social worker.

The story of Anna.

I have worked for the Refuge Foundation since September 2009. During this time God has proved several times his will for my life. Anna’s story is proof of this:

Anna is 10 months old and has been with her mother now for 7 months. The mother arrived in the Refugetown when I started working there. She



was lonely and hopeless when we met. She arrived from hospital where she had been treated

for psychiatric problems for a few weeks. During that time her 3 month old baby was taken under temporary state care. As I talked to the mother she shared with me her story and their pain. All her thoughts were about the little baby and she was deeply saddened by the fact that she had temporarily lost her. I encouraged her not to give up, she kept visiting little Anna in the home and came back with joy in her face after these visitations. I spent much time with the mother. She came along to Bible studies and she felt safe as she experienced Christian love and fellowship.

Due to the bureaucracy there were times when it seemed impossible to get the little baby back. At that time we prayed and encouraged the discouraged mum. Suddenly the doors started opening. The giant obstacles disappeared, The Lord answered our prayers. “Anna can go back to her mother”, the officials said. Now she is with us. She is smiling as her mother holds her safe in her arms. It is as if they have never been apart. Every time, as I see her smiling peaceful face I can see God’s power and glory. **Thank you Lord.**

Mrs. Marta Tóth, Social worker

God performed a miracle in my life

I was 36 when I arrived in the Refugetown on 19th July 2005. Before that I did not know the Lord, although I believed in His existence and I prayed, I attended churches and listened to preaching.

From my first marriage I had a daughter, at that time she was 15. From my second marriage I had a 16 year old step daughter on my husband’s side. She was 2 years old when her mother left her, I was parenting her for 13 and a half years. My son was 12 at that time. My second husband worked as a lorry and bus driver. I was a full time mother for 8 years. During that time I attended college and got a degree in teaching. (I taught for 2 years).

In 2000 I had a car accident and my injuries prevented me from teaching any more. (The Lord was with me as He has always been). My right side had become numb and I became unemployed. During that time I completed a course to be an accountant. As our children grew into adolescence there were more and more arguments and problems in the family. I was seeking jobs in vain due to the needs of the 3 children.

I collapsed and was considering suicide. I had break down after breakdown. I ended up in a psychiatric unit and my husband told me he wanted a divorce. I had to go on disability allowance. I got

divorced and ended up with nothing. The house we lived in was under my husband's name. My son and my husband's daughter stayed with my husband and my daughter stayed with my mother. At that time I did not know of the "Refuge" town, I could go nowhere. I was on a waiting list to go into social housing.

In the hospital the social care nurse suggested the Refugetown. Géza Huszar gave me a place here and I was very thankful for that. I could work in the kitchen and I helped children with their studies. I went to church and attended Bible studies on a daily basis. Due to my illness my children turned away from me. I was baptised in November and became a member of the church. God gave me strength and purified me. The condition of my health improved day by day. The Refuge Foundation employed me as a kitchen worker. My relationship with my children improved. I lost my job when the foundation had to stop the homeless ministry. I kept doing my God given duty. I helped the children with their homework and also helped in the office. I attended the church and wrote a diary. Although I seldom met my own children, I worked with children on a daily basis. The Lord gave me what I longed for.

People were thankful for my office work. I regularly received injections, first every second week, then every third week and lastly, once a month. The given dose was also reduced. That was a long process. I was checked regularly. In October 2009 the chief doctor at the psychiatric unit told me that I was healed. My next check up will be in 6 months time. The church of the Refuge town wants to be independent. I was suggested to be the notary of the future independent church. This is also a gift from God.

From 1st February 2010 I worked for the Temporary Home for the Homeless as a social worker. I work 4 hours a day. **Only God can do such a miracle.** A person who was once on the waiting list to go into social housing 5 years ago is now working as a social worker in the Refuge town.

My daughter works on her degree, the subject is, "Homelessness" and she receives help from us. My son is a pupil in the 3rd grade of a secondary school with a scholarship.

God looked after my children even when I was not able to be with them. Everything I had previously lost, I have now received. I am happy to know that there is a place in this country where we can learn the teachings of the Lord and put it into practise. **I know that nothing can turn me away from My Lord. With all my strength I want to serve Him. I will praise the name of my loving God forever.**

JT

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Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi