

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

1/2010

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

I greet you with Christian love from Bodrog, on behalf of the Menedék team. We wish you a blessed new year in 2010. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support and interest in our work.

If you want to receive this newsletter in the future, please let me know. You can send me an email on selmecziles@gmail.com or a letter to the foundation's address:

Menedék Alapítvány
Selmeczi Ottilia
7439 Bodrog
Kossuth u. 155.
Hungary

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 NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy...today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Lk 2:10-11

Two thousand years ago, from the incomprehensible reaches of heaven Someone arrived as the Homeless to the homeless to the earth. "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (Jn 1:11). At the arrival of the heavenly Homeless, a cold refusal was the answer to his knocking: "there was no

room for them in the inn." (Lk 2:7). Since then He has been knocking at many spiritual homeless hearts, for we were born out of the Father's house here on earth.

As you wander around in Budapest you meet a mass of miserable looking homeless people. When it is raining, chilly or cold, the subways and their ruined shelters and the cellars are crowded: their stomachs are empty, they may have a half bottle of wine in their hands, and they are just muddling on.

But for those who are in the Men's Shelter there is a purpose in their lives. In 2009 we had lots of people in the Shelter. Some stayed just for a short time; others have been here for a year or so. We have had to make a waiting list as there is no extra room for people who want to get in each week.

People arrive at this stage of life for the old reasons. Many of them just have primary education, they can hardly find a job and they become unemployed in no time. They cannot save up from their wages, they deplete them. The boys spend much time on smoking although some of them have already given up it. Sadly we had to send away a good number due to heavy alcohol drinking. We have occasionally had to start using breathalyser. A great number of our residents are studying. At present two boys are attending a course of driving and learning mechanical metalwork. There was one man who passed a computer programming exam.

Residents with psychiatric illnesses settle in with difficulty and very rarely do. Usually they have to go into hospital or into rehabilitation centre. One or two of our residents come from prison each year. It is great to see them going to church with their Bibles.

To our great joy the new bathroom is ready in the attic so the renovation of one in downstairs has been started. Give thank to God for the good changes both in the lives and in the Shelter building. We ask you to

pray for our residents that many of them may know and accept the Lord Jesus Christ in their hearts.

László Vasas, Social worker

Budapest

The Mother's Shelter

„He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.” Psalm 145:19. This Bible verse talks about God's care towards us. We prayed a lot and did a lot for the renovation project grants. In the last newsletter we shared that **the renovation work of the Mother's Shelter started in July**. The construction work started by insulating the building both inside and outside. Then we changed the doors, the windows and the gutter and the whitewashing was done. Meanwhile a room for a disabled person is nearly completed. **An inductive becket** was placed which will help residents with hearing problems in communication. There will be a special door and a ramp and a corridor with balustrade **to make the building accessible for disabled people**. Due to the narrow corridors it was not easy to dry the washing, especially in winter. We received gifts and were able to make a room for drying. By September 2010 all the rooms will have a new casing. We will place signs for those with poor sight.

We plan to change the old computers and start teaching the mothers how to use computers. **We will be able to change the old household equipment**. We will have 2 new washing machines as well as irons, fridges and hairdryers. We have already bought 2 hoovers.

Due to the project the media is interested in us. In the reports and interviews we speak not only about our work but also about our faith. It was a great joy to listen to the testimonies of two mothers for the Hungarian Catholic Radio.

The children were able to attend several camps in the summer; they were able to go to Tóalmás too. Kornélia Szabó took a girl to the



“Christeens” camp and during the week she was able to build and strengthen their relationship, helping her to know God better.

In October we visited the Budakeszi safari park (farm). We were guests of the director. It was good to relax and enjoy the time with the children and the mothers. We believe these times are important; they help to get closer to each other.

Our heavenly Father answers our everyday requests and provides help for the families to carry on. We are thankful to Him for everything.

Ágnes Böszörményi, Childminder

The Men's Shelter

The renovation work of the Men's Shelter

In the summer the conception plan of the whole renovation was created, thanks to a voluntary work of an interior decorator team. This is an important milestone as we can do the work step by step, depending on the priorities. We can support this project financially through grants and gifts.

In the summer we completed the renovation of the bathroom upstairs.

Partly it was done by volunteers and not only the staff but also the residents

were able to help. We did the interstice together and it was a great experience to see the fruit of the work.

We won 1,5 millions of HFTs from the Union for the Homeless People in Budapest Public Foundation a 0,5 millions of HFTs from another grant. We add our own support and **we started the renovation work of the bathroom downstairs in the autumn**. Due to the bad conditions that was the most urgent work to start with. At the same time we made it accessible for disabled people too. We attached the old bathroom to the room next to it and we have a big space. In here we will have the washbasins and the washing machine, the showers, the toilets and the new sick room. **In January we renovate the stairs**. In spring we want to do the whitewashing and if there is financial support we would like to renovate and extend the kitchen, so more people will be able to use

it at the same time. For this we will need good quality kitchen furniture, wall and floor tiles.

The next phase will be the step by step renovation of the rooms downstairs: We would like to change the carpets to floor tiles to make the cleaning easier. We would also like to paint the rooms and change the furniture. For this we need good quality bunk beds and nice furniture.



We have tried to get grants to change the old windows in the front and for the renovation of the facade; sadly we have not got any yet.

The main aim of the renovation is to give a homelike, pleasant atmosphere for the residents as we help them and live with them.

In the future we have to make some decisions. More and more men ask for help but we are full and not able to help them. The other challenge is that the normative support we receive for 12 does not cover our costs. So we have to think about extending the Shelter so it has more rooms. But the building we have now is not suitable for that. Let us seek and ask God's leading.

Gábor Liptai, Shelter manager

Bodrog

We are very thankful for the children God gave us to “water and to nurse” them. There are 32 children in the kindergarten, 74 children in the primary school and 86 in the music school.

We are thankful for our **school buses**. We give a safe transport to 60-70 kids each day. **The kindergarten started the new school year in its brand new place. The offices, the computer room and the science classroom have opened in the new building too.**

To our great joy the cooking started in the kitchen on 30th November. Every day we provide a warm lunch for 100-120 people. We provide lunch for people in the village too. God has provided the kitchen facilities earlier by a special gift from Germany.

Due to the extension in the ministry we needed new workers to handle the extra work. Through the support of the government we can employ some people from the village who had

been unemployed. There are builders, a cleaner, a cook, helpers in the kitchen and a care taker.

The last phase of the construction is to complete the residential flats. On the second week of November a team from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland and a team of the Building Ambassadors Ministry in Hungary came and helped with the plastering. We plan to have a thanks giving day for the BOK building on 23rd May, the Pentecost Sunday.

On 1st October Abrahám Dan, the first child of Dániel and Mónika Dan was born.

On 15th October we invited András Simon, a Christian artist for a day. He met the children and gave them special drawing lessons. In the evening he talked in the church about his call and ministry as a Christian artist.

In October the church had an outing to Mecsek. It was great to be together during the whole day.



In November Mary Fisher and Jenny Wade visited us for a weekend from St. Mark's Anglican Church, Tunbridge Wells. Jenny is a Christian artist who brought some of her paintings and spoke about a “fruitful journey” from the Bible using her artwork to visualize her thoughts.

On 27th -29th November we held a youth conference. The teaching was about honour, patience and tolerance. There were around 100 young people attending the conference.

On 6th December the Baptist Church in Pestszentimre visited our church and our institutes. It was a joy to be together and to be strengthened by each other's faith.

Before Christmas we had several Christmas programmes for the elderly in Bodrog, in Kadarkút. In Tordas the children visited the local primary school and the social home.

Anita Ficsór, Teacher

Kiskunmajsa

A year has gone. I could quote from many pop songs, which are about time passing by. I would like to choose a Bible verse instead. It talks about the unchanging love of God, which has taken many forms during the past year. *“It is not the dead who praise the Lord, those who go down to silence; it is we who extol the Lord, both now and for ever more.”* (Ps. 115:17,18). As we celebrated Christmas, the birth of our Saviour we could see that He is not the god of death but the God of life. The years come and go with all their events but it is great to know that we have a steadfast rock in Jesus Christ.

In 2009 we had lots of joy in the Temporary Home for Homeless Families:

- Each of us needs physical refreshment and recreation. In the summer the staff had the opportunity to visit the Baptist Church in Bodrog.

- **The children were able to attend the Word of Life camp in Tóalmás.** We are thankful for that gift; the kids enjoyed it very much. **The Eastern European Mission owns a farm in Petőszállás, the children had a joyful camp there too.**

- **In August our new worker Mrs. Zsuzsanna Balog started working as a child minder.** She is a young Christian and a member in the Gypsy Church in Kiskunmajsa.

- **On 3rd-4th October the 7th and the 8th grades of the International Christian School of Budapest visited us.** They helped us: we cleared the yard. In the evening we had good fellowship around the bonfire. We walked around the army base, we made crafts and of course we played football. We are thankful for their visit and their service.

- In November we experienced grief. A couple lost their two month old baby. We give them lots of support and counselling, believing in God's power of healing their wound and trusting that their rebellion, which seems just, will turn to love.

- **Since the last newsletter three marriages have taken place** in the Temporary Home for Homeless Families. The couples are: Bernadett Bokornyai and István Katona; Anita Losonczki and András Csuka; Andrea Kalóczkai and József Szabó.

We wish everyone a blessed new year!

György Antal, Institute manager

My name is Mrs. Zsuzsanna Balog, I love children very much and I had a call to work among children. For a long time I did not know how this would be possible in my life. One day I met an old friend of mine and shared my thoughts about children with her. She told me that she had worked for the Refugetown and I could visit the institute if I wanted to. I went and I liked it very much and became a worker there. I like the working atmosphere and the way of life, I am glad to help others. I am happy to be here and it helps me to grow in faith. I am a young Christian, was converted in the local Gypsy Church and I am a member there.

Zsuzsanna Balog, Childminder.

**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

Bank address:

OTP Bank Rt

1221 Budapest

Kossuth L.u.31

OTP Bank SWIFT code (BIC): OTPVHUHB

For Bodrog:

“Jó az Úr” Bodrogi Baptista Gyülekezet

IBAM: HU80-13597539-12302010-00040670

Bank address:

KDB Bank (Magyarország) Zrt.

H-1054 Budapest

Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 42-46.

Hungary

SWIFT code: KODBHUHB

Menedék Foundation:

Budapest: 1221 Budapest, Leányka út. 34. III/ 21

Internet: www.menedekalapitvany.hu

Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155

Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Szegedi u.