

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

APRIL 2012

I am happy

Happiness can be real and lasting or false and temporal. Once it is a great experience and consciously protected other times it is ephemeral and easily turns to bitterness. Which one is mine? How is my happiness? What does it depend on? How long does it last? When I won a Trabant I could hardly believe it and I was very happy. At the same time I felt ashamed for I became an object for envy. When I received from God the girl I was to live my life with my happiness was inexpressible. The Trabant has been gone for ages, yet its memory brings happiness. My wife is a jackpot. I asked and God gave. I have received many works to do and I also lost much in business, yet we manage quite well. We have wonderful children, grandchildren and neighbours. So far we have been healed from our diseases, we budget our income and we manage with our debts. Are we happy? Sometimes our neighbours glower at us, in church we are suspicious, we have some fears due to the increasing taxes and I struggle with chronic cold with a bad cough. Am I happy? My interests, my town and my country are hurt.



It is as if we were in someone's way. Am I happy? (*Blessed*) *Happy is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them* (Psalm 32,2)- you can read this truth in the Bible. So what about me? Sadly I cannot be happy in this way for my reactions are very human...I am a criminal by nature whether I am correct or I am wrong, whether I give or I take, whether I am happy or sad. Even when I do not commit any sin, the effect of it is around me. I do good and it can be misunderstood- so a conflict is born. We live in relationships among judgments and expectations. The blame from inside or from others makes us doubtful. The accuser accuses, this makes him happy...against me. I recognise that many things can make me happy and sad. To be happy constantly and truly happy I need to be in the original restored relationship with God, at peace with him. First of all we must be in a relationship with God then with men. The three legged chair stands firm. Can I be happy as a sinner? Yes, if I am free from my sins, if Jesus Christ the Son of God saved me. God had done everything for me. On Good Friday, the Son of God took upon my sins and paid the price on the cross. So the accuser, Satan cannot blame me anymore. So the sinful relationships and things

under sin cannot take my happiness away. As a sinful man I can recognize the way of salvation in Jesus who died on the cross, he died in my place, I received mercy. My human nature that pretends happiness is not in this merciful situation. For him Good Friday is a hopeless failure and Easter is a traditional holiday. But the empathy of the first Good Friday and the victorious Easter over death brings everlasting Life and Happiness for the believers. It happened to me. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. I am victorious with him. Simply and more and more he is victorious with me. I can give and take, ask and build relationships, love and discipline, lead and I can to be lead, simply as I am being lead. His love embraced me and saved me, came into my life. His present brings fruits, his mercy brings gifts. I am happy. Whoever has the Son has life. This happiness can be everyone's. Can be? Inside and outside of the Refuge Foundation's institutes. Within the heart. Soli Deo Gloria! To God be the glory!

Zoltán Kovács

Bodrog

The work of the Refuge ministry in Bodrog is maintained by the "Lord is Good" Baptist Church. The ministry takes place in the properties of the Refuge Foundation and of the church. For this reason the Refuge Foundation, as the founder of the local ministry, has agreed to hand over the duties for an indefinite time. It is recommended that the work is supported directly. Gifts arriving in the foundation's account which are designated for Bodrog will be forwarded to the maintainer, the church in Bodrog.

Zoltán Kovács, Chairman of the advisory board

News

18th December 2011 we held a baptism service.



Joel Balogh shared his testimony about his faith in Jesus Christ and was baptised.

In January and in February we held prayer meetings with the churches in

our neighbourhood. **The fancy dress ball** was a joyful event both in the school and in the kindergarten.

The Bible lessons in Nikla carry on. Once a month we organize evangelistic meetings. We ask you to pray for the seed we sow.

The webpage of our church and ministry was born. Have a look at it. <http://bkbodrog.arteries.hu>.

Ottília Selmeczi

Music School success



For our great joy two Szandra Layton and Kata Jóföldi were the best two at the Zoltán Jenei national flute

competition in the region. The children's flute teacher is Mrs. Zsuzsa Lehotay, Gábor Juhász accompanied them on piano. Our main aim at the competition was to glorify God with the children's play. We are very thankful for our richly answered prayers. Kata and Szandra played well at the finals. Congratulations!

Dear Supporters,

I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ from Bodrog. We are thankful for your interest in and support for our ministry.

I would like to share recent news with you.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

We are thankful for the students and for the ministry in Nikla which started in September.

More and more children would like to attend our institutes and this gives us new challenges. By the will of God we will open a branch kindergarten in the "Békevár" Baptist Church in Kaposvár under our maintenance in September 2012. It means that we can have more children attending the kindergarten in Bodrog from the nearby villages.

To extend the primary school we have to build in the attic of the BOK building.

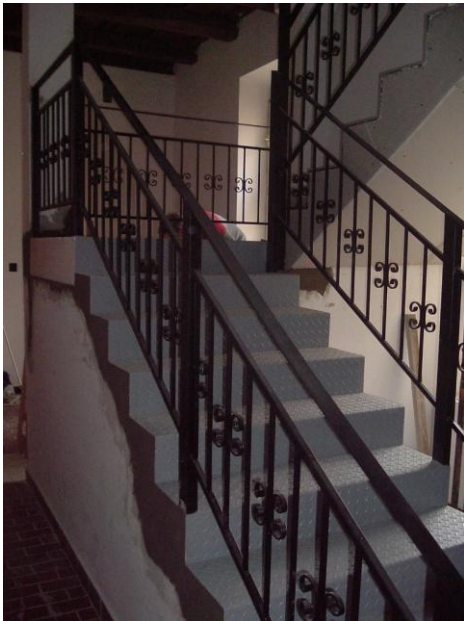
We ask our Brothers and Sisters to pray for the development work, that the Lord may open doors and supply the financial need.

Due to the old age and the high expenses of the re-equipping of our 45 seated Ikarus bus, we urgently need to change it. We ask you to pray for this to become possible and to support this need if you are able to.

TEMPORARY HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

On the 13th February, at dawn, the Home for the Elderly in Kadarkút-Vótapuszta (about 55kms away from Bodrog) was burnt down. Thank God that all the 45 elderly people were saved in time- no one was hurt. The home is maintained and run by the Hungarian Pentecostal Church.

“The Lord is good” Baptist Church with the support of the Menedék Foundation (the owner of the mansion building) has offered the



mansion house as temporary accommodation for the institute. The original home has to be rebuilt so they need temporary accommodation for the elderly and for the institute for several months.

There are several conditions given by the authorities to move the institute. At present, building work is being carried out: the floor has to be changed, extra emergency exits are needed, the wooden stairs have to be changed to metal, disabled access has to be given and extra toilets and bathrooms are needed.

In line with this, in the cellar we have to provide space for the after school activities by creating a new room.

The expenses of the conversion are supported in a large measure by the Hungarian Pentecostal Church. Even at present, voluntary building teams are working in the mansion house. Beside this refurbishment and conversion, expenses of several millions HUF are incumbent on our church fellowship and we are not able to cover

this yet. The estimated expenses are: bus: 10 millions HUF, mansion: 3 millions, BOK: 10 millions HUF.

The work is financed by faith and from some financial savings the church has.

We would like to ask our Friends and Supporters, if God moves you and your churches to support the expenses of the conversion to send donations to the church’s bank account with a note eg: BOK building extension, the mansion building project, bus.

May God bless you all. Thank you.

“The Lord is good. He is the refuge in times of trouble.” (Nahum 1,7)

With Christian love,

Rev. Zsolt Paróczy

Budapest



In February 2007 I wrote a letter to the supporters sharing with them that we ask by faith even when we could not see how to cover our needs. It was the time when we needed 25 million HUF to continue running the institutes in Kiskunmajsa. I was

wondering if God could touch 25 supporters to send 1 million to help. Amazingly one by one the millions arrived. God is great.

Our plea to God is not logical and not safe but it is by faith and can be answered by the miracle of the God. He encouraged us to trust in him. There were helpers who came along and supported us in prayer, financially and in practical ways. In 2007 the work in Kiskunmajsa (The Temporary Home for Homeless) started again without any state grants and it ran for 5 months without any visible financial cover.

By faith we were on the path. We took the chance: there was permission to operate, but there was no money; there was faith but there was not any reality of financial help within reasonable time. Our God did not let us be shamed. Many gave and one by one the needed millions I had dreamed about arrived always in time. We thank God and the supporters even now.

Now I have to write again. There is a rule in the Mother’s Shelter. If someone needs something it is

not enough to say “I would need”, “May I ask?”. We encourage both the children and the mothers to say what exactly they need. “I need...” or “Please help me with...” filling the sentence with content. This gives a good foundation to good relationships, to fulfil plans.

Now we are having new challenges and plans in the Refuge Foundation. We turn with a plea to our heavenly Father and to those who can help. Please pray and support one area of our ministry if you are able to. Fulfilling the Lord’s will we would like to continue our ministry, to help not only individuals but the whole society, working to improve society by helping adults and children.

When we started the Refuge ministry some people said: “What you want to do is only a drop in the ocean.” The phrase is true but it is not discouraging for us. “Lord, how is it?”- I gave a sigh in prayer. I received the answer. The ocean is made of drops. I and we are not responsible for the ocean. but for drops, many drops.

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”

I and our team ask you to pray for us and do what the Lord expects.

Géza Huszár

The Mother’s Shelter

Portraits

The staff of the Mother’s Shelter has worked together since 2008. We have a great supporting team. I asked Márta Budavári, who works for the Refuge Foundation since 2005 about her experiences, joy and challenges.

How did you get to know the Refuge Foundation?

I have known the Refuge Foundation since its birth. Géza Huszár and his family (he is the manager of the institute) have been good friends of ours for a long time. When I was single I used to do voluntary work for the Foundation. I was working in a post office

when Anca, Géza’s daughter invited me to work full time for the Mother’s Shelter. I started in November 2005 and became a child minder. There were several colleagues; thank God we have worked well as a team for years now.

It must have been a great change for you to move from the post office to your responsibilities and duties here. How did you learn?

First of all I needed a qualification, so I went for training. In the beginning I did not know what my duties were exactly. It was a challenge to fill official forms about the children but after a time I learnt how to do it. I also recognised that due to my age and my experience the mums accept me better than my younger colleagues. They come to me and ask for advice although I am not their counsellor. I have four brothers and sisters, we grew up in a very modest way in the countryside. My parents taught us to help others. They were very consistent; now as an adult and a mother I enjoy its fruits. It gives me support when I face challenges in life and it helps in parenting. I try to pass it on to the mothers in the Shelter.

Do they accept your experiences?

Most of them yes, and some of them need an experienced person. It is good if I have time to talk to the mothers. A Christian woman was here and she hardly took my advice. After a time, however, she started to put them into practise when she was parenting the kids. She recognized that they had worked so she was open to ask and receive help from me. Now there is a mum who struggles with

disciplining her children for she is not consistent and she does not accept advice. In this case it is difficult to help, it is a failure in a sense.

How do you handle these failures and the conflicts?

In the beginning it was difficult. There were some women I thought were honest and trustworthy and the opposite was true and I was disappointed in them.



In conflict situations I raised my voice and I was low spirited when I had failures. At those times it was good to hear from Ancsa: "It was not your fault." By now I have learnt to handle these situations, I learnt to speak quietly in tension filled moments. I wait for the mum to quieten down and then speak to her then about the things she has done wrong

Do you have success, positive experiences with mothers and children that gave a new push?

Yes, there are some mothers I am in touch even today. I saw them here being strengthened and how they managed after moving on from the Shelter. I quickly embrace people but for me it is important to see that the intent of her heart is not evil.

The Mother's Shelter works as a Christian institute. How can you share your faith with the mothers?

I always talk about my faith according to the situation. When someone shares about her difficulties or her past I tell her that in times of trouble God is my refuge. He is the one I can thank for my life that I am here serving him.

News

The days have been busy following the holiday season in December. Children attend kindergarten and primary school; the mothers keep working on their future's solution. Just before Christmas a family was extended, **Lili**, the fifth child arrived to the great joy of the family and the residents. Sadly Lili has been in hospital several times since her birth. X-rays and several examinations showed that her heart needed an operation, which was done in the



National Cardiology Institute. Thanks to the Lord, after a long hospital treatment Lili arrived home. She is still weak and she needs increased care, but her condition is improving. Please pray for Lili's healing.

In another family, there is a boy called Edmond who struggles with illnesses too. His adenoids were removed twice and he is having hearing problems. His ears are constantly infected and were operated on twice. His mother Erika worries about him and he is not able to attend the kindergarten regularly due to the illnesses. Please pray for Edmond, for his healing that he may be able to play with his kindergarten friends soon.

The new year has brought another challenge to the Shelter's workers and residents. In late February a mother with three children moved into the Shelter. The following day she and the father decided to leave the children to be adopted due to the hopelessness of their economic situation. They asked us to find them an adoptive family. A few days later the mother came back and took the son wishing only the daughters to be adopted. We were in touch with an organization dealing with adoption and soon there was a family to adopt the two girls. Naturally the whole event touched the mothers living in the Shelter. Some were shocked and they found the whole situation was beyond comprehension. We needed wisdom to set them at ease and strengthen their understanding that to be parents is a privilege and gift from God.

In March two babies were born.

From this year there is a new register system, which means more administration for the staff and less time for the residents. Despite that we would like to serve among them, pleasing God, and helping them to improve their lives.

Ágnes Sinka

The Men's Shelter

News

In November 2011 the Refuge Foundation joined the Budapest Homeless Consortium. Up to now we have been able to help seven men.

By the end of 2011 the extension work had been completed in the attic. There is a new room with three extra beds. This means that we now have official permission to have 15 residents in the Shelter.

At Christmas Eve we had the greatest number ever in the history of our ministry. That is because people did not have a better place to go. We had Christmas dinner together and everyone received a little gift and a personal message from the Bible. We were thankful for the cakes we had received.

From the 1st January 2012 the institute manager is Zoltán Kovács. Anna Bokros is at home on maternity leave with their youngest child now.

In late February the training programme supported by the Van Esély Alapítvány (There is a Chance Foundation) closed.

In middle of March we organized the great spring cleaning.



A great number of our residents suffer from mental and physical diseases, psychological problems and addictions. Due to the after trauma

syndromes such as be reclusion, lack of motivation and being unable to plan for the future the men seem to be lazy. We help them by taking them to doctors, and organizing health treatments. We would like to stand by their side, giving them support and fellowship, channelling their energy in a positive way, and helping to form their picture about the future.

Moving forward is reality, you just have to be able to see it. To speak after weeks of being silent, to come out from the room and to sit down by the table for a first time being locked in for months, to join the fellowship. To learn something such as doing the dishes, to peel the potatoes, or to cook rice. To get to used to others and to accommodate to living with others. After a period of idleness to start working or to go to school and at last asking God to answer.

The Men's Shelter works on full capacity and there are people waiting to get in. We would like to help everyone as far as it is possible. Sadly the state support does not cover the running expenses and for this reason we need support. We are thankful for any support that helps the work of the Men's Shelter, to help the young homeless men.

Gábor Liptai

On 1st January 2012 Noé Barnabás Bokros, Anca and László Bokros' youngest child was born. May God bless the family.



[Kiskunmajsa](#)

The Temporary Home for the Homeless

In February we had 46 residents and we are working at nearly full capacity. More and more people are facing financial problems and unemployment. Many receive only the social allowance (22 650HUF) or less. Many of the residents smoke and spend lot of money on cigarettes and they do not have enough for food.

As an institute we are having financial difficulties. It is a challenge to replace the stock of consumables (e.g.: towels, glasses, plates, and cutlery).

Many people attend our daily bible studies and Sunday services. The pastor, who is the deputy manager of our institute, prepares with great diligence each day. He encourages the bitter, broken tired souls by the help of God. Many are changing, more and more people become Christians inviting the Lord Jesus into their hearts.

As you know we have applied for an EU grant to develop the institute, we look forward to the decision with a great hope. We turn to God in prayer to help us to fulfil our goals. We ask our supporters to join us in prayer.

TJ

The Temporary Home for Homeless Families

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1Pt. 5,7)

First of all I want to thank God for providing generous supporters who helped us to organize our Christmas celebration. It was rich spiritually and in gifts too. Our supporters were: The Kőszikla (Rock) Church in Budapest, The Good News Foundation in Orgovány, the students and the staff of the International Christian School in Budapest, and Gábor Nagy from Porpho Communication. The children acted the Nativity and adult performed a drama. We had a special evening finishing with a dinner.

In February we had our fancy dress ball to welcome spring. It was a great event, with lots of Christian song singing, and with sandwiches and cakes made by the mothers.

Our plans for spring:

Just like last year we would like to do some gardening. It means organizing and planning. Norbert Szentesi, a resident, will help in this project.

We will have **“The Care for a Flower”** programme too. Each child will look after two flowers. One will be given to his/her mother on Mother’s Day, and another one is going to be planted in the flower garden in front of the institute.

We seek a solution for the playground renovation. Sadly the two grants we had applied for were turned down. God has supplied voluntary workers for that project in the past, we hope and trust it can be renewed once again.

Our joy: On the 14th March Mrs. Szilvia Szikora Valentovics, one of our staff members successfully finished her training to become a child minder. Congratulations!

We have a new Christian psychologist, Nóra Terhes. We want to thank Dr. Balázs Sillo for his service among us; due to his overwork load is not able to serve among us.

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (Jn 11:25)

With this Bible verse we wish a blessed Easter to our dear readers.

György Antal

We have great expectations. The leadership of the Foundation is applying for a grant to renew and to modernize the block of flats in the Refuge Town. Due to the great expenses of public utility bills this is a priority. The estimated expense of the refurbishment is 180 million of HUFs. We would like to change the windows and the doors, to insulate the outside walls and we would like to renew the heating system using alternative energy technology. We plan to provide the first floor with disabled access and fellowship rooms. We are hoping.

Zoltán Kovács



Menedék Foundation:

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

Internet: www.menedekalapitvany.hu

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

Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:

IBAN electronic form:

HU72117220032002222200000000

Bank address:

OTP Bank Rt

1221 Budapest

Kossuth L.u.31

OTP Bank SWIFT code (BIC): OTPVHUBB

For Bodrog:

“Jó az Úr” Bodrogi Baptista Gyülekezet

IBAN: HU80-13597539-12302010-00040670

Bank address:

KDB Bank (Magyarország) Zrt.

H-1054 Budapest

Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 42-46.

Hungary

SWIFT code: KODBHUBB

**“He was delivered over to death
for our sins and was raised to life
for our justification.”
(Romans 4, 25)**



We wish you a blessed Easter.