

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

What do I give?

Nowadays when people give, they give mainly material things. "Can you give some more? Do you need more than that?" we may ask, even if this is only financial help and it is not enough. As Christians, followers of Christ we may consider donations as something we give or we receive, e.g.: home, clothes, food, money, knowledge etc. Is there something more than these? I think and I experience that the greatest gift I can give is the inheritance of God, in spiritual lives. The most important things are faith, hope and love we know this from our childhood and we learned it in Sunday School. Yet I wonder if I am able to pass these on to people around me, to the residents in our Shelters. To be honest, I fail many times. I struggle with my own problems and challenges and whatever I give I give it from my own strength, moved to do so by my own self. And when I fail, and I do fail, people cannot see my faith, only my tears. Those people we work with have lost everything which they were sure of in this life: they have lost their families, jobs and properties. Early last summer many lost everything in few minutes in the flood. They can truly say that they lost everything they had in this world. But as Christians we know something: we know that we may lose things one by one or everything suddenly, we cannot lose what has been done for us in Christ. Even in trials, even when we lose everything we must know that Someone is on our side, who has done everything for us, who loves us the most. He gave his own life that we may not perish. God knows what we need and how much we can bear in times of

3/2010

trouble and he does not let our burden become greater than our ability to bear it. What can you give in times of trouble? You can share that the most important things are faith, hope and love. All of us can testify to this, which gives encouragement in times of trial. Believe in Jesus, that he is there for us even in the most difficult times. The greatest miracle is that he gives himself. He is by our side, he lives with us and dwells in us if we call upon him and wait for him. He is the One who gives us strength, endurance, hope and joy. He creates possibilities even in impossible situations, for he gives himself. He gives peace in trouble and he gives happiness and satisfaction. He gives himself though you and through me if we let him. The poet says: "You know there are miracles even today, you just need to recognize them"

What do I give?



Budapest

The Mother's Shelter

News

Looking back since last summer, we can see and experience how our heavenly Father has helped and looked after everything during the time of renovation.

We have reached the last phase of our project and soon we will be able to open the fully renewed building. The painting of the kitchen, the dining room, the offices and the corridors is finished. There is a ramp, the bars in front of entrance are painted and the new electric lock is functioning. At present the caretaker's flat is being painted and the panels with information on them are fixed. Because of the great work of Andrea Kiss, the yard is renewed as well. There are new toys around the sand pit and a new grass is growing in our little beautiful garden.

To our great joy, a mother gave birth to her 4th child, Ronaldo, on 3rd June and the children were very happy to welcome their new little brother.

We had a difficult period of care. It is not easy to work in dead wind, to handle the pain of rejection of your kind help. Yet we must carry on for the mothers who are happy to receive counsel and try ourselves not to get bitter and burn out. We have to send away those mothers who deliberately reject our help and fight against the rules, agitating other. We can ask for patience and gentleness from the Source of Love, keeping praying for those who move away, continuing to love and care for the mums and children who remain.

We want to thank the Müller Bakery for their faithful support by giving us nice rolls and breads.

Mrs. Ágnes Sinka, Childminder

Experiences

We get lots of criticisms and negative reactions from the residents as we serve them in the Mother's Shelter. It is not easy to be wise; still, even in these situations our duty is to help with Christ's love and kindness, seeking to please the One who holds our lives in his hands.

There are positive reactions, which give us joy. It is worth taking the encouragement from them and carrying on. Let me share some:

"I have never been so happy in my life than when I am here with you"

"We will always visit you"

"Apart from yours I have not seen normal marriage"

"I give thanks to God for there was a roof over us and we had everything we needed"

"You're my second mum" (a 16 yrs old girl, saying on the day of their arrival)

And at last but not least, a mother, moving out, said goodbye to us with the words of Matthew 25: "...I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Years ago, this Bible passage was one of the bases of the start of the Menedék (Refuge) ministry.

Mrs. Marianna Molnár



The Men's Shelter

Life in the Men's Shelter

Due to the economic crisis there are more and more lives in crisis too and more and more homeless people in Hungary. There are more and more unemployed, more and more people who are not able to pay their mortgage or their current expenses and more and more people become victims of usury and home mafia. Auctions take place and floods make people hopeless.

Jesus says to us: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (Jn 16:33). This means that even the fear of our own existence is overcome if we stay on the Victor's side. Whoever stands on the side of triumph of Jesus Christ at the Cross and at the side of victory over hell and death, will experience victory in body and life. More and more people are applying to be resident at the Men's Shelter, and with Christian love and patience we are ready to help them. Sadly there are some residents who do not want or are not able to take this opportunity. I want to share about them.

One young man who had a broken relationship with his family, but wanted to finish his studies and pass A level, became our resident. He promised that he would attend the school and would study. Sadly he

was not able to keep his word, and we had to send him away.

One of our residents found legal employment after a long search. But after a month he neglected his work. After a time we realised that he wanted to get out of his responsibilities. There are other situations where people work but their employers do not want to pay them, or they employ them illegally. At quiet times before dinner often pray for “fair wages for fair works”.

There is a situation when someone works hard, has no addiction, tries his best to save up and suddenly he loses his job. He uses up what he has and he starts again, having nothing. More and more residents receive training or driving licence, supported by a grant.

We are happy to see that some of the men take this opportunity and successfully finish their training.

László Vasas, Social Worker

We look after the yard and the garden with our residents. Cutting the grass, hoeing, sowing the seeds, tying the potatoes...and enjoying the fruits. It was great to eat the fresh lettuce at dinner time, to enjoy the vegetables in the soup... and watching the potatoes becoming ready. We experience the benefits and the results of work: it was worth doing. For many it is a new experience. After work we can play table tennis in the garden, we do not need to go away from home to enjoy ourselves.

Gábor Liptai, Shelter Manager

Joys of Menedék (Refuge)

One among many; each of them is important, and we trust there will be more to come. We often wonder at God’s great work, how two people find each other then to be married for life. Many have found their spouse among the Menedék (Refuge) staff. And this is right because there are people with the same faith and with the same values and call. God leads the individual and gives blessings for those who obey him. **Gábor Sinka, the oldest worker of the Men’s Shelter, and Ágnes Böszörményi, a social worker in the Mother’s Shelter found each other and got married on 17th April.** We gave thank to God and rejoiced with them in Csetény, together with many former Menedék workers. Gábor serves in different churches playing the guitar. György Varga, the



pastor of Érdliget married them; the worship and music programme was organized by the Érdliget and the Forrás Church. The reception was wonderful. Gábor has moved out from the Shelter where he had been living at nights for years, and he will start his own business as furniture maker. We thank God and Gábor for the years we had

together, for his service and work among us. He made the wooden stairs in the Shelters recently. He started working in the carpenter workshop in the Employing Programme and later he was a caretaker of the Shelters and also a social worker among the men. Ágnes works in the Mother’s Shelter even now and from this year her duties include the editing of the Menedék News.

May God bless them, their marriage, their future family and their ministry. It is great to know that we can count on them.

Zoltán Kovács, Chairman

Bodrog

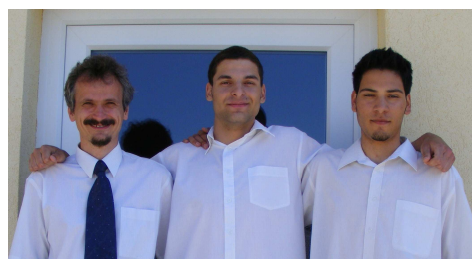
13th April- Glória János was born, the first child of Zsuzsa and István János. May God bless the family.



Our education institute received a 17 seat Mercedes bus to help the school bus service. We are very thankful to the Lord and to the generous givers.

23rd May- on the Pentecost Sunday we held a thanksgiving church service for the completed BOK building.

4th July- 2 young men were baptised at the “Lord is Good” Baptist Church. We are thankful that our heavenly Father let us see some of the



fruits of the ministry through their conversion and testimonies. We represent Christ in our families and in the church, also in the education institute and it is our great joy to see the number of children who grow up and study here getting to know the Lord as their personal Saviour.

28th May- 6th June- a team of 17 visited us from Elyria Christian School, Kansas. Both the Elyria Christian School and our institute are member schools of ACSI. The teachers and students came to our school on a mission trip. The aim of their visit was to get to know another Christian school and to serve among us. They took part in the Bible studies and in English teaching, and they served in the church too. We spent a blessed 10 days with them.

5th June- 6 students finished their primary school studies at the “Beginning of Wisdom” Primary School. May the Lord lead them in their further studies.

16th June- Closing ceremony of the school year. We are thankful for the children who attend our kindergarten, primary and music school.



18th- 29th June – The leadership of our church, together with their spouses visited Northern Ireland. During that time we could meet the sponsoring churches and brothers and sisters in Christ. The main aim of our visit was to be still and seek God’s will. We spent a week in a house in the countryside not far away from the coast. In the mornings we held bible studies, shared and discussed, and had fellowship with each other. We did some sightseeing, laughed a lot and even wept together. We were all refreshed and came home spiritually strengthened.

3rd -10th July- a team of 15 served among us from Newtownards. They helped us with preparation for the Christian music camp and they

helped in work in the new flats. A wall between two classrooms had to be knocked down due to the growing numbers of the children. We are thankful for their faithful support and encouragement.



18th-25th July – XI. Christian music camp. Teachers and campers came from all over Hungary. We had some attendees from N. Ireland too; we had approx. 90 in the camp. We had a team of musicians from Holland for 2 days, the Bodrog music school plans to visit Holland with a team in next spring. The aim of the camp was to get to know the Lord, the joy of playing music together and to strengthen friendships and fellowship.

We urgently need a qualified English teacher from September. Please pray that God may call teachers to join the ministry in Bodrog. Thank you.

Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi

Dedication of the BOK building in Bodrog

Our church prepared for Pentecost with more enthusiasm than usual this year, that because we celebrated the completion of the BOK building. We closed the first phase of the construction work nearly two years ago when the school and the church was completed.

The kindergarten, the offices and some special classrooms were completed in the second phase, the kitchen started working in December 2009. Now, as the residential flats were completed upstairs, the whole building project finished.

It was our great joy that many friends, brothers and sisters in Christ came to celebrate with us from near and far.

At the beginning there was a slide show of the building process, helping us to recall many memories, both happy events and great challenges. János Dan, the leader of the church gave a summary of the building project.

Zsolt Paróczy, our pastor and the director of the education institutes preached from Matthew 12: 48-50. It was a great conclusion for the past and a great encouragement for the future to see that whoever recognize and do the will of God

If you are happy to share our joy and happy to come and see the great gift we received from our loving God, come and visit Bodrog. You are very welcome. Come and experience all the things, things impossible to write about.



Mrs. Ágnes Madarász

The old student moves on

standing by his/her brothers and sister in Christ, can be a special blessing for others. Our church has received many different kinds of help from churches and from private persons, from people and from fellowship who love God and seek his will, and want to serve him with their lives and belongings.

On behalf of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation, Mr. Zoltán Kovács, the Chairman of the Foundation expressed his joy and thanks to those who were together in the work and in the celebration. He shared that an old dream was realized as the building was completed and shared his hope that it may bring glory to God in the future.

The children of the kindergarten and the primary school sang a few songs. It was a joy to see the children who are the main beneficiaries and users of the BOK.

It was a special joy to have some people from England and from Northern Ireland, who represented the churches who helped us a lot. From Bloomfield Presbyterian Church and from Newtownards people brought personal greetings. The greetings of the Dungannon Baptist Church was put on the screen. From St. Mark's Anglican Church, Tunbridge Wells, Mary Fisher and Roger Cusdin brought greetings.

On behalf of ACSI, Brother Alan Brown spoke, and on the Building Ambassadors' greetings were passed by Endre Békési.

We closed our celebration with a fellowship meal. It would be difficult to write down all the events of that day precisely, to express the great joy we had, to share all the experience and the story of the building project.

I am the student who moves on, a student of God who is leaving one of her schools now. I would like to say good bye to the readers of the Menedék news for I have finished my ministry after 16 great years in Bodrog. These years were great for they were gifts from God to me and whatever I did I did it with joy. I won't be able to make a list of the many things I had learnt during these years.

After my conversion in my adolescence I was praying to God asking him to show me how to serve him. I joined in activities that already existed in my church and recognized that I needed to develop new areas of ministry e.g.: bible study for teens.

In the early 90s the "Village Mission" was run by students at the Baptist Seminary. This movement involved lots of young people, especially in summer when we were involved in street evangelism and in helping small churches. I had many opportunities to share the Good News about God's love, to help many to find the One who saved and healed my own life.

I kept seeking God's will and leading in my life as I was studying at the teacher training college. I asked God to use me as a teacher or any other way according to his will. That time I got to know the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation in Budapest as I was replacing someone for a few weeks at the Women's Shelter (that was the predecessor of today's Mother Shelter). It was a very difficult task for me but I knew that God could enable me to help girls whose previous lifestyle was very far from me. The Lord always gave me the wisdom and the help I needed.

During my weeks in the Shelter I heard about the plan to start a primary school in Bodrog, Géza Huszár challenged me with the thought of going there to teach. So I visited Bodrog and met the fostering families and saw the kindergarten. It was fantastic to see the unity among the fostering parents, they were able to strengthen each other in faith and they were able to realize great decisions.

After much prayer, with great peace I was able to

make a decision to go 200 kms away from my family to start a new life. I was very happy for I knew that God had sent me there and I knew that I was going to work with people who loved and served the Lord and sought his will too. So I moved here in the summer of 1994 to help found the Christian primary school.

In the first year we had 15 kids in the first 4 grades. Later we had 6 than 8 grades with more than 70 kids. During this time our three part education institute was formed: kindergarten, primary and music school.

It is difficult to describe the wonderful experience we had when God answered our prayers, and financial help arrived, useful gifts we received or new, Christian teachers arrived who loved God, when more and more parents approached us with their trust and desire that they wanted their children to attend our institutes. The list can go on and on. We could see the heavy burdens each of us had and we knew that only God could give us joy to carry them. Many visitors, people from outside expressed their surprised. We tried to explain the secret of our ministry: that we should do the God given tasks and the Lord himself will give strength and wisdom for such service.

When we do our work with drive often we forget to ask God's will about the future. It was especially true in my case for the developing work and the fruits of the ministry urged me to give even more energy into my growing responsibilities. When I felt serious signs of tiredness I asked God to teach and lead me about my future.

One thing is sure: at present I need rest otherwise I will completely burn out. My fellow workers accepted with sympathy the news that after the end of this school year I also close this phase of my life. Meanwhile they expressed with much love how sorry they are to be apart. In fact, I cannot tell how I will handle the feeling of being absent after these 16 years for we are bound with thousands of threads. I would not be able to make decision without knowing that it was right before God.

I am going to Northern Ireland for 6 months now, to do voluntary work at the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. This church has been coming Bodrog for years supporting the ministry both spiritually and in practical ways. They offered me this possibility to be refreshed actively



resting in similar surrounding. I believe that whatever I am going to learn there God will use it to renew me and to lead me on.

I am very thankful to God for the one and a half decades behind me in Bodrog. I am thankful first of all for the people: for my friends and brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus; for the children I taught, for the parents, and for everyone I had relationship- a true love- relationship. The rest: the beautiful building, the good atmosphere in the school, the results achieved; all serve this love and they come from the relationships. We have done everything from love: the welcoming of the children into the families; teaching them, doing the lots of extra work. And we have been given gifts and much help from love by friends near and far. This was done by God of love we passed on what we had received from him.

Yes, we planted and watered and God gave the growth. May God bless each of us wherever we are, may he lead us in his will day by day. I thank everyone for your prayers, for supporting our ministry from heart, including my personal life.

Anita Ficsór

Kiskunmajsa

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1

For a Christian it is important to practise these things. We cannot have a genuine life if we have a lack of thanksgiving, if we hide our experiences with the Lord or if we just turn to God only with requests.

Thanksgiving fills our hearts for our buildings. The roof of the Temporary Home for the Homeless and The Temporary Home for Homeless Families has been lagging has completed. builder who and worked them. We the financial know God although we yet.



renovated: The now been God sent a saw our needs according to give thanks for need for we will provide it do not have it

On 4th June Béla Pintér visited us in the Refugetown. We had a very blessed time and approximately 170-180 people came. These were not just our residents but also people from the nearby

churches. Both children and adults enjoyed the concert. The children keep singing the songs and we hope that not only the tunes but also the God-given message will stay in their hearts.

On 5th June we held our traditional children's-day. This year it started with a puppet show by the "Palánta" (Plant) mission, organized by



Zsolt Bazsa. We had a whole day programme for the families which was full of activities, and in the evening we organized our popular talent show—the families enjoyed the day.

The Kiskunmajsa Forum Against Drugs has won a grant. The Temporary Home for Homeless Families is part of this organization. From the money we received we took the children to play squash and the younger ones to ride horses. All together 30 children enjoyed the programme.

For the summer holiday we organized several children's programmes too, e.g. a bicycle tour around a lake. There are also camps our children can attend and we are very thankful for these opportunities.

The residents of the Temporary Home for Homeless Families were able to attend tent evangelism twice, organized by the local churches in Kűbekháza and in Kecel. Both events were spiritually refreshing.

We are thankful that we experience God's blessings not only in ministry but also in our family life. May we give thanks to God and may we proclaim his goodness among the people as we enjoy the blessings he is going to give us during the summer.

György Antal, Institute Manager

The story of a (used to be) homeless from Pécs

Gábor arrived to the Refugetown one gloomy autumn day. He was brought here by two elders of the Baptist Church in Pécs. He was standing in the office full of tears, with downcast eyes. He was hopeless and unshaven, and after an inquiring

look at me, was just looking in front of him. I was told his story in a nutshell and was informed that he had now been living on the streets for three years. He had been beaten several times just for fun while he was sleeping on the street at nights. While he was sharing his story, memories made him cry and he run out from the office and came back, full of shame. When he came back I could see the effort he was making to concentrate. He looked at me seriously and told me that he did not want to stay or leave, he considered suicide as the only solution. While he was speaking I was praying to the Lord, asking him for right words to say that might help Gábor. Slowly a dialogue started between us. He stopped crying and I could see a glimpse of hope in his eyes. I could see he is going to trust me. I tried my best to encourage him to think that there must be a solution and there must be a reason why the Lord led him here. I told him that he is precious to God even with his past, and God definitely has a plan for his life. Gábor decided to stay. The first few days were difficult, he was stragglng, and his mood was changing. He attended each church meeting and a positive change was beginning to be seen. We were told that he had used to read the Bible and know about God, but the alcohol was stronger than his relationship with God. He run away from God and tried to find the solution to his problems in his addiction. And he went down in the word:



although he had a family, an A level and knew some trade, he lost everyone and everything. We talked about the past and his wounds started to be healed. He settled down well, he enjoyed the quiet times and Bible readings. His enthusiasm remained; he was thirsty for God, reading Christian books all the way through. Whenever God spoke to him and touched him he shared it with me with joy. I watched how he manages with the withdrawal. I knew the tricks of those who want to drink, how they find alcohol. I could not see any sign of drinking on Gábor. When I asked him how he handled the lack of alcohol he answered that he had made up his mind to be free and even when there was a temptation he persevered. He kept attending the church services and sang joyfully. One night our spiritual leader, Péter Csaplár phoned me saying that Gábor was in the office and wanted to pray with us. I was very happy to go and that night a

miracle happened. I was able to witness a new birth. Gábor gave his life to the Lord, confessing his sins and his past weeping and asking God to free him from the bandage to alcohol as well. When we finished praying I received a joyful, happy brother in Christ. From that day I have watched Gábor's steps as his sister in Christ. I was able to see a treasure in the dust neglected by men but picked up and cleaned by God. Gábor was free indeed. His literacy was obvious. His kind empathetic character was developing and he kept growing as a Christian. His relationship with his wife and children was restored. During his first leave I was worrying and wondering how he would manage at home. I called him and he said he was able to stand firm through the temptations. When he came back we discussed what had happened at home. Gábor went home more and more often and felt that he wanted to serve among the homeless. The last time when he went home I thought that he might not have come back. Since then a few weeks have passed and Gábor has definitely left us for good. I am doing some of the administration for him, but without him now. He has found a home and is seeking ways of restoring his marriage. He attends the local church together with his wife and daughter. He will come back to collect his personal belongings, visiting us as our brother.

“Thank you Lord that I was able to see a miracle of rising from the dead through a life of a man.”

Mrs. Márta Tóth

Are we dreaming or has God answered our prayers?

For years we have been asking the Lord to send workers who are able to manage the challenges of the Menedéktown just like 13 years ago. Many have come and left.

With Géza we experienced many blessings. He has been undertaking smaller tasks for years but we were not be able to replace him in Majsza. We felt we needed an enthusiastic, stable, selfless, dedicated and experienced team.

We feel and hope that a miracle had started: two new male workers joined the ministry in Majsza who are loved by the Lord, and they love

Him. They love us and the work we have given them. The residents love and honour them- it is a real gift. They are called István and László. It is not difficult to love them for they do so much good for them and with them. It seems that the team we had prayed for is being formed, Amen! But “if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!”- so we are careful now. I hope we do it well, and we pray: May God perfect will be done among us.

Zoltán Kovács, Chairman

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): OTPVHUBB

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.

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Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi