

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

Nahum 1:7

# MENEDÉK



## News letter

AUGUST 2011

### Home

It is a time of lonely heroes. The business and struggles of life do not let us get close to each other. Statistics show that 35.6% of people do not have friends. Maybe a chum, who transfers his business to me for a few thousand, with a debt of a few million. A guy who wants to help and gives me a drug, someone who helps to get my pay from the boss and disappears with it. We know these stories very well. We need help, something to cling on to. The same statistics show that among the uneducated, 64,5% do not have a friend. So what can they cling to? How can a hostel or a home help? *At home* I feel safe. They know me- at least as much as I shared with them; *at home* I can talk to people. There is control and there are people who are close to me *at home*. *At home* we talk and share our burdens, we pray. *At home* I can be honest. I can trust. I can learn to be a friend. *At home* I accept the encouraging criticism, the mirror in front of me.

The greatest investment is to invest in people. It is not a new idea; the plan is more than two thousand old. Jesus came and gave himself that I may feel myself at home here on earth and in heaven. He did it so I may be close to him and to others, so I may not be lonely but in my place. *At*



*home*.  
In the  
Men'  
s  
Shelt  
er we  
woul  
d like  
to be  
a real

Fellowship and we work on it deliberately. We build the fellowship by our words, by our circumstances and by providing programmes. So people who had never been at home before would be able to be at home here. I wish everyone felt at home among us who are at home.

*Gábor Liptai, social worker*

### Bodrog

### News

**On 27<sup>th</sup> May Mirjam, János, István and Zsuzsa János' second daughter was born.** May God bless the family.

**On 4<sup>th</sup> June twelve young people left the "Beginning of Wisdom"**

**Primary School and on 10<sup>th</sup> June six children said goodbye to the kindergarten.** May God bless them all in their new schools.

**On 15<sup>th</sup> June the school year closed.** We are thankful for the Lord's faithfulness and for his protection. As the school finished, a very busy summer started in Bodrog

**Between the 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July,** a team of 21 visited us from Dungannon Baptist Church, Northern Ireland. They came to share fellowship with us, and give us practical help. We are very thankful for their help and support. **Between 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July a team of 10 visited us from Newtownards, Northern Ireland.** Our



brothers and sisters helped with the preparation for the music camp.

**Between 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July 4 adults and 11 children travelled to the Netherlands to visit the music school of Agnes van Dijk Lengyel.** Last year a group of Dutch children visited the music camp in Bodrog and invited our music school back. On the way they stopped for the night in Scwalbach, in Germany at Christliches Gemeindezentrum. They met the youth group there and gave them a little concert. On 10<sup>th</sup> July, they held a concert together with the Dutch music school in the town of Mellick. We are thankful for this journey and for all the support our music school received. We would like to strengthen the partnership of the two music schools in the future.

**On 9<sup>th</sup> July Rózsa Dan and Attila Farkas got married.** May God bless them.

**Between the 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July we held the 12<sup>th</sup> Christian Art Camp in Bodrog.** For the first time this year we had a craft section along with

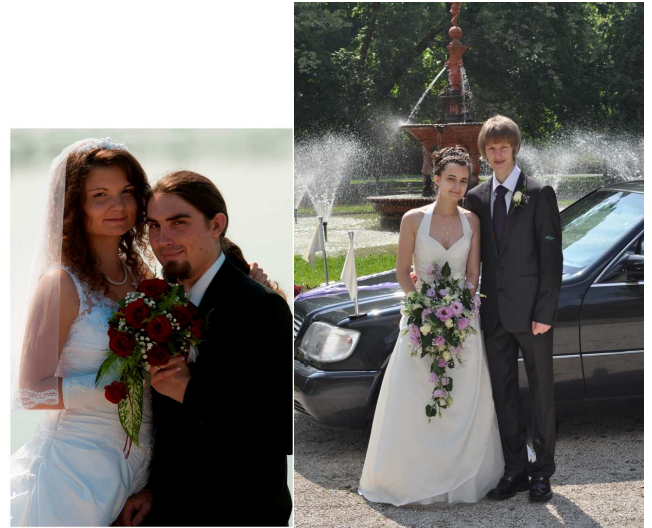


Photo: György Horváth

### A special opportunity

At the end of May 2011 God gave thirteen brothers and sisters from Bodrog along with two brothers from Kaposvár and a brother from Győr, a special opportunity to serve. As amateur actors we performed the Gospel of Mark. Of course we worked hard not only during those few days, but also throughout April. We formed prayer duos and we spent six weeks learning the whole gospel as well as praying for the performance during that time. We performed the drama in Bodrog, in Kürtöspuszta and in Mezőcsokonya with great success.

Even the learning process was a great blessing. Personally I discovered that although I had known the life of Jesus since I was a little boy, there are many things I don't know. Generally actors suffer a lot while they are learning their parts and after a successful performance they receive "blessings" in a form of clapping and congratulations. The audience enjoy the play, and in a few weeks time everyone forgets the performance, even the actors. But this drama was totally different. Both for us as actors and for the audience it was a refreshing spiritual experience which we will never forget. For us, that was the blessing. It was like attending a conference even though you find it challenging to leave home. After receiving the teaching, you come home richly blessed. God indeed amazed us.

For me it was a huge challenge to shout at Jesus as I played the demoniac or as a soldier to stand by the cross and to mock him. At the end as the centurion I recognized that the One I mocked before "Was the Son of God indeed." And yes, in the same way, it is very difficult to recognize that I hurt the One who gave his life for me when I fail and sin in my everyday life.

the music one. During the week we adapted 'The Black and White Rainbow' by John Trent and as a musical and performed it. We are thankful for the blessed week, for the fellowship and for the growth in faith and talents.

**Between 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August a team from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church held an English/Bible Club.** It was attended by XX who learnt English and also about the love and saving grace of God in the mornings.

**On 6<sup>th</sup> August Philip Surgenor and Katalin Sier got married.** May God bless them.

*Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi*

Beside these lessons, the friendship and the love-filled atmosphere were great blessings. We became a real team and “hello-goodbye” relationships turned into real friendships. Our experience was that through the performances we were able to reach even hard people who had not even entered into the house of God before. We received very encouraging feedback which showed that we were successful and had fulfilled our task: God was reaching out through us and the Word of God was proclaimed. We want to thank Zalán Benedek very much, but first and foremost we want to thank God for his rich blessings.

I want to ask everyone to pray eagerly for the Mark experiment and for the performances in lots of places, because God is going to work through this ministry in Hungary.

*Nimród Selmeczi*

### **News of Network of Fostering Families**

**A new fostering parent, Mrs Gyöngyi Gavallér** (Budapest) joined our network. After the official process we trust that children will join the family soon.

In the middle of June, **two new children, Brigitta and Izaura Sztojka** arrived to be cared for in the Erdei family in Bodrog. Please pray for the fostering families

*Mrs. Ágnes Madarász*

### **BOK (Bodrog Education Centre)**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 the Berzsényi Dániel Kindergarten and Primary School in Nikla will operate as a branch institute of the Beginning of Wisdom Kindergarten, Primary and Music School. Nikla is located in the Somogy County 20kms away from Bodrog. The famous Hungarian poet, Dániel Berzsényi lived there. Due to their economical and financial difficulties, the local government of Nikla approached us with a request if we could help the maintenance of the local kindergarten (30 children) and the primary school (nearly 70 children). After a long process of praying and discussions we decided to help and to overtake the maintenance. Both institutes are mainly attended by Gypsy children. We would like to add Bible lessons to the curriculum of both institutes. This is a new and great challenge for us.

Our primary need is prayer support and strength to fulfil the task we have undertaken.

*Zsolt Paróczi, Pastor Institute Manager*

### **Budapest**

#### ***The Mother's Shelter***

#### **Teamwork in the Mother's Shelter**

I have worked in the Mother's Shelter for 9 months now. I try to give of my best. This work requires co-operation and teamwork, and also sensitivity towards the mothers and towards the children. The workers are Christians and that means unity in work and giving your best. For me propitiation is part of my job. I mean that I practise forgiveness by the grace of God. Again and again I forgive myself and forgive others. I recognise that there are things I do well and other things have to be proved and developed.

I am a child minder, which means giving feedback to the mothers about parenting. I carry out administration

regarding the children's development and I give practical help to the mothers (eg. help



to apply for a grant, or to organize the child's education). This work means continually being refined. I am learning to speak and to act by love. Since I have been working here there have been 8 families in the Shelter. Some stayed only for a short time; others stayed longer and were difficult. There were families I could co-operate with well because they were open to change. At present I help three families, there 3 little children and 2 teenagers. We were able to arrange for one of the child to attend kindergarten; a little boy did not need nappies anymore. A mum achieved that a child could be confident and happy whenever she was able to complete a task. The third child had received some medical help and was healed. The other mother with a little child had started working for the very first time in her life. One of the residents is a Christian. Her presence adds a lot to the atmosphere in the Shelter. She is an exacting mother and she takes advice. With the help of the staff she was able to

have a holiday in Kaposvár and at Lake Balaton,, and her daughter attended the camp in Tóalmás.

We try to have time for recreation. Together with the Men's Shelter we organized an outing to a forest park.

I want to help the children to develop spiritually, mentally and physically. Whenever I see a family situation improving I know that it is a result of teamwork of staff at the Refuge Foundation.

*Csilla Szántó, Childminder*

### Carrying on

In our last newsletter we shared the joyful news about a mother (Zsuzsi) who was saved. Since then she had attended the seekers' bible study. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 she was baptised together with two young people in the Érdliget Baptist Church. She greeted the people who were present, they shared their life story in nutshell and gave a testimony of their conversion.



For us it is a gift from God to see Zsuzsi. Together with Géza Huszár, the institute manager of the Mother's Shelter, we rejoiced and took part in the baptizing ceremony, led by Rev. György Varga, Zsuzsi's three little children did not understand what had happened, but I believe that as they see the example of their mother they will become Christians by the grace of God. May the Lord bless them all.

*Ágnes Sinka, Childminder*

### The Men's Shelter

#### News

On 29<sup>th</sup> April there was a sport day for homeless people, organized by the Menedékház

Alapítvány (Shelter Foundation). Some of our residents took part.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May we went for an outing in a forest park, together with the Mother's Shelter.

The renovation work continues. With the support of a foundation for the homeless people (Összefogás a Budapesti Lakástalanokért és Hajléktalan Emberekért Közalapítvány) we renewed the rooms and we want to change the rest of the windows. At [www.menedekalapitvany.hu](http://www.menedekalapitvany.hu) you can see photos of the ongoing work. There is a matched funding we want to apply for, which requires 250000HFTs from the Refuge Foundation. If you want to support this need, please let us know.

On Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> June we spent the whole day with the youth of the Budafok Baptist Church. While the lunch was cooking we were talking and the young people shared testimonies and played music. It was a blessed day and we are looking forward to the next occasion we can be together.

A supermarket in Érd approached us with the following request. They are seeking a caretaker, providing a home place and salary and asked if we could recommend someone from our residents for that job. This is a great opportunity and we are thankful for it. As the newsletter is being edited the candidates are being interviewed. We welcome employers who are prepared to co-operate with us in this way.

We got a grant from the "There is a chance" Foundation to support the studies of one of our residents. The grant covers 50% of his expenses. Please pray for him, for successful studies.

In 2011 the Shelter worked on full capacity with 12 residents. We plan to extend the capacity to 15. It means not only extending in the building and furnishing it, but also lots of paper work, permission from authorities. This is a huge task. We hope to give report about it in the next newsletter. Please pray for



us. We can have new kitchen furniture. We applied

to several funding sources and received some help (from the Összefogás a Budapesti Lakástalanokért és Hajléktalan Emberekért Közalapítvány, 154.000FTs, Ikea 100000FTs). We still need 38.500FTs and we seek supporters for this need.

Andrea Kis has managed the institute for 3 years with great dedication. We thank her for it. In May she put down this service and Anna Bokros took over this important task. May God give her strength.

*Liptai Gábor Deputy Institute Manager*

### Kiskunmajsja

*“The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.” (Psalm 37,39)*

Since the last newsletter we have experienced much encouragement and realised the truth of the verse above. In the Temporary Home for Homeless Families we started a vegetable garden. Our aim was to strengthen the fellowship and unity by working together as well as to produce healthy fresh vegetables. Those who had never had a garden before learned what it



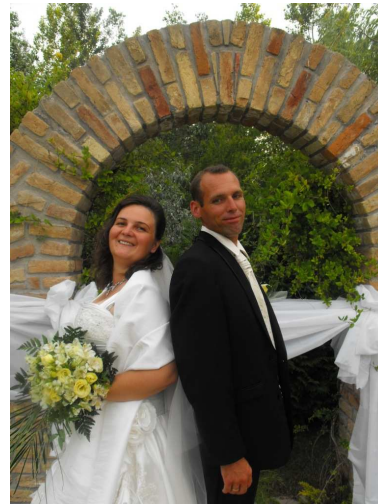
meant to look after a vegetable garden. Those who had previous experience were able to help with their knowledge. We got to know each other better, and we learnt patience, co-operation, and empathizing with each other. We saw that those who were discouraged and easily gave up in the beginning were encouraged by the fruits of their labours. We organized a cooking competition, involving 5 teams. The aim was to cook something tasty from the produce of our garden. Mrs. Szilvia Szikora, a local journalist, Melinda Szakács from Hungarian Television, and Csaba Fekete our cook formed the jury. We had a joyful day.

**On the first weekend of June, we organized our children’s day.** In the morning we had a treasure hunt with several stations. In the afternoon there was a bicycle race. In the evening we had the talent show—that was the highlight of the day. The children performed drama, dance, singing etc.

**Our children were able to attend camps in Tóalmás and in Petőfiszállás.** We want to thank the Word of Life Mission and the Eastern European Mission for their kind support.

We want to continue the refurbishment work in flats as our financial situation allows it. We hope to complete the renewal of the floors and furnishing soon.

For our great joy, on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Zsuzsanna



**Dóra and Gyula Vetrik got married in the Kiskőrös Baptist Church.** May they live a holy life before our heavenly Father and may they have lots of joy.

*György Antal,  
Institute Manager*

### **Temporary Home for the Homeless**

The residents come into the institute for different reasons. More and more young people arrive who have grown up in state care. There are also people trapped by a bank loan. We learn the events happening around the default with concern. Some say that 300000 families are being frightened by losing their homes. I wonder how many more will come into our institute; are we prepared for the social catastrophe our country is going to face? We must pray for those who are threatened. *“The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble, he cares for those who trust in him”.* (Nahum 1:7). Many of our residents have temporary work. We see that the desire to work and the motivation to work is growing in our fellowship. Our staff gives wise advices and helps the people under our care with wise by being present in their everyday lives. We discuss our residents’ problems and make decisions together. During these forum meetings we can solve the personal disagreements too. We are solving conflicts with cool heads and warm hearts. From time to time we have to remind our residents about the house rule, most of them keep it and accept it. They warn each

other about the rules being a self-controlled community. Personal hygiene is important and they help each other in this. Honour is essential for good relationships. Most conflicts are about minor issues. Our work is supported by the Menedékvárosi (Refuge Town) Baptist Church. Every day there are church meetings, where our residents hear advice, which help them to reintegrate into society. Many have changed their values, their attitudes towards work have changed positively as they accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and King. *“And we know that in all things God works for good of those who love him...” (Romans 8:28)*

*Liptai Gábor Temporary Institute Manager*

### **A cry out- on behalf of Menedék’s (The Refuge Foundation’s) needs**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Dear Friends.**

With faith, trusting in God, we openly and honestly share with you **the desperate, mainly financial, and secondarily personal needs** of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation. We are calling on you to think with us, to pray earnestly and to cooperate to find the solution.

At present there are 28 full time workers and we care for 180-190 people in our institutes operating in Budapest and in Kiskunmajsa (this is after the independence of the institutes in Bodrog).

The support we receive from the state has not changed for years now. At the same time, for example, the gas bill in the Refuge Town has grown half as big again. All our running costs, including public utility expenses have been growing although not to the same extent as the gas bill.

We are very thankful for the voluntary supporters who are willing to give generously, but sadly, there are less and less than in the past years (in 2010 it was 6.6%, 8.085.923HFTs, of all income). As a result, during the last one and a half year we **had a deficit of 7 millions HFTs**. We covered this deficit by borrowing the amount interest-free from individuals. We must pay back that loan by the end of this year.

We have to amend the salaries under 300.000HFTs according to the decreasing of the income- tax as a decree for 2012 states. (It is not clear why salaries are being increased – is there a

minimum wage?) This means an extra 6.725.717 HFTs for salaries for 2012 (with the same staff).

After examining these facts, the advisory board of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation asked the presidency of the Hungarian Baptist Church to take in the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation as a legal church organization. This way the extra support the church –run institutes receive could help our financial needs. In this way the original plan of Menedék could be fulfilled. (In 1984 the presidency of the church refused this request under the pressure of the state office for ecclesiastical matters). This time the presidency of the Baptist Church supports our request and asked for an approval of the under-secretary. The answer has not arrived yet.

There are some difficulties in **supplying the personal conditions** of our ministry as well. At present, Gábor Liptai is the temporary institute manager of **the Temporary Home for the Homeless** in Kiskunmajsa; he is a social worker in the Men’s Shelter in Budapest. We would need someone local for that post.

We also need a **caretaker** to look after the buildings. It seemed that this need was fulfilled last year. But sadly I must report that the “caretaker” deceived us with his godly attitude. He caused not only disappointment but also financial damage of a few hundred thousand forints. While maintaining the area he sold expensive equipment for his own interest. I cancelled his mandate and we reported an unknown person to the office. After he left our well-run carpentry shop was robbed and all the tools were taken away. The robbers could be only people who knew the place well.

**The institute manager of the Men’s Shelter and the professional manager of the Foundation** is Anna Bokros. She will be on maternity allowance permanently from January 2012, with their fifth child being born. So we need competent people for these posts; and we have a legal requirement to fill these posts.

I want to mention that for us operating our institutes is first of all a call from God and a service among the needy. At the same time, the grants we have already received have compulsory time of operating. For example the grant we had received for renovation of the Mother’s Shelter requires us to operate it for 5 years.

On the base of the shared facts I ask you to intercede, to pray to give thank about the following issues:

- May God supply our financial needs.

- May God send competent workers according to our needs.

- May He work out the solution of the damage caused in Kiskunmajsa according his holiness and righteousness and mercy, bringing glory to his name.

-May God call supporters who feel to support the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation as their ministry and mission from God

On behalf of the governing body,

*Mr. Zoltán Kovács*

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

**Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:**

117 220032002222200000000

IBAN 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**

IBAN: 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](http://www.menedekalapitvany.hu)

Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155

Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Szegedi u.

To unsubscribe please email [selmeczileso@gmail.com](mailto:selmeczileso@gmail.com) or write to Bodrog address. Thank you.

*Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi*



Children from Kiskunmajsa