



News letter

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens

bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

In our churches we sing this hymn after taking communion. By holding hands we express that we belong to the Lord and to each other and that we want to continue our lives in Him. In Christ we have unity, and in Him we have goals.

In the Mother's Shelter we have a fellowship meeting on Mondays at 1pm. These events are important to build fellowship with the Lord and with each other. We pray and bring the mums and their children before Christ. Without this service this ministry wouldn't be here today. The Mother's Shelter was created through the call and encouragement of the Lord, and works by these today. It is neither a well paid job nor a project to give employment but it is a ministry among the needy families. This ministry teaches and demonstrates a life worth living with God. With this life we can experience God's unconditional LOVE toward us and we can show it towards others. This is the only way that both the helpers and the residents can experience meaningful

AUGUST 2012



fellowship and a tie to each other and the Lord. It is our great joy that more and more people are longing for this spiritual fellowship and for this reason we can pray together. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts

Géza Huszár

Bodrog

We are thankful for the past school year. 14 children left the kindergarten and 9 will continue their secondary education in Kaposvár. May God bless them in their further studies. The ministry in Nikla has been a great blessing despite its challenges. By God's will we would like to continue the work there in September.

By the will of God we will open a branch



kindergarten in the "Békevár" Baptist Church in Kaposvar in September 2012. We will manage and maintain this kindergarten. Arrangements are being sorted out and we ask you to pray for this.

The extension work in the attic of the BOK building has started. We would like to be able to use the new rooms by September. There will be two classrooms and two rooms to help children with special needs. There will also be an office and toilets. We ask our Brothers and Sisters to pray for the development work, that the Lord may open doors and supply the financial need.

We need a new school bus. We urgently need to change our 45 seater Ikarus bus due to its old age and the high expense of its refurbishment. We ask you to pray for this to become possible and to support this need if you are able to.

7th-14nd July a team from Newtonards visited us. They helped to prepare for the following week's camp. We are thankful for them, for their work and help and for the fellowship we were able to share. May God bless their lives.

15th- 22nd July: the 13th Christian Art Camp was organized in Bodrog. There were 80 campers and 33 helpers this year. The theme of the week was "NET." The Good News was presented to the children through Bible verses about nets. The devotions were led by Lajos Rácz. Just like last year there was not only music but also craft and visual sections where children did graphics, painting and photography. The musicians worked in 4 groups: pianists, string and recorder chamber music sections and a brass-band. There was an opportunity to do Hungarian folk games, craft and sport in the free time. We served in the local church, on the village and in the home for the elderly. The outstanding value of the camp is the good fellowship between the generations. We are thankful to God for the camp. *Brian McNarry* (Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, Belfast) says:

"My name is Brian McNarry from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church in Belfast and it has been my privilege to teach trumpet at the music camp in Bodrog for the last 6 years. Each camp has been different from my first camp in 2007 but our God has been faithful to the aims of the camp to teach the children about Jesus through all we do. I have shared music and songs in both English and Hungarian with the children but the most important time for me has been spent worshiping God and studying the Bible with the children and teachers. We do not all speak the same language but God has blessed and challenged me in many different ways at the camp. Personally I know the most exciting part has been sharing Gods word during the music camp in Bodrog. I have also been able to share what God has been doing at the camp with my church family who faithfully support the camp in prayer and with work colleagues who are always curious to know why I want to go to a Christian Music Camp. I have been blessed to meet with God's people who teach and help at the camp who I now regard as dear friends in Christ and also to share music camp with James, Amy and Claire who have come from Bloomfield to help teach at camp. Music camp is always changing to meet the needs of the children, last year it included drama for the younger children this year it included art for all the children and dancing for the younger children. Please pray that God will bless all the children who have been to camp and heard the message of Jesus, that lives would be changed for our King and young lives encouraged in their walk with Jesus. Jó az Úr! (The Lord is good!)



"REFUGE" Home for the Elderly

Since April 2012 the Home for the Elderly, maintained and run by the Hungarian Pentecostal Church, has been temporarily in operation in Bodrog. The mansion house owned by the Menedék (Refuge Foundation) became home for 45 elderly people and a work place for 20 workers. In the previous newsletter we asked for support for the conversion work necessary in the mansion. The last phase of the work, changing the roof, required for fire-protection reasons, was completed in June. We are very thankful. It means that the institute has all the documents necessary to be running the home. Both the visitors and the official authorities are amazed by the provision needed and the peaceful conditions developed in such a short time. The unique way people have joined together and supported the project points to God and is exemplary. A few months have passed by and we can say that the residents are used to their new home and are happy although, understandably, they long to go back to Kadarkút .Through the familiar daily routine and the programme and through the presence of familiar counsellors the institute provides security and permanency in this special situation. The presence nearby of the educational centre and the ability to see the kindergarten and school children every day affect the elderly in a positive way. They see and experience life around them; they see happy children playing. During the music and art camp there was a concert for the elderly in the mansion. They really enjoyed the concert and were thankful. We ask the readers to pray for the elderly and for the institute's ministry in Bodrog and the rebuilding of the mansion house in Kadarkút. The maintaining Church has received 25 million HUF from the state to support the reconstruction of the former building. The insurance company has paid and the given amount covers the fifth of the rebuilding expenses. At present the building permit is in the hands of the law. Hopefully the building work will start in



August.



News of Network of Fostering Families (NECSAK)

Last year a family joined the NECSAK in Budapest. In June they acquired two children. Zolika is 2 years old, Gergő is 4 months old. Their parenting is challenging because the older child has serious emotional wounds and the baby was born premature only weighing 3.5lb. The children were accepted into the family with deep faith and great dedication by Gyöngyi Gavallér and her husband Gábor. Please pray for them.

Ottilia Selmeczi

Budapest

The Mother's Shelter

The Sower

I have been working for the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation in the Mother's Shelter for nearly two years now. It is good that one of the main aims of the institute is to awaken faith. Jesus has been sowing heavenly seeds in people's hearts. As I look at the families living in the institute or as I think about those who had already left, I can see the parable of the Sower in the Gospel of Mark. We share one segment of the mothers' lives; with some we have a more intimate relationship: we know their needs and we are able to help them. We can see the parable not only in the mothers' lives but also in the workers'. I remember when God's word touched me. I recognized in pain that my life could be bad soil if I were to refuse God's fruitful presence in my life. As I work I can see mothers making bad choices and others whose lives have been changed by the grace and presence of God.

3

We can be along the path. The living seed of God won't take root because the evil one snatches it away. When we do not have time for God, to pray, to go to church or to build relationships with other Christians, our faith in God cannot be strengthened.

We can be rocky ground. A mum comes into my mind. She started walking on the path of faith, and started going to church. She enjoyed the services and the teaching but they did not touch her deeply. After a time she started telling lies and made some bad decisions: she suddenly moved out from the institute and moved in with a man.

Our life can be the thorny ground. The Scripture talks about false desires, which choke the ones from heaven. There was a mother in the Shelter whose life was not able to change because she longed for riches and wealth. Although she attended the Tea Club together with her children and listened to the message, the seed could not bring fruit in her life. We did not know that she spent some of her money on unnecessarily. She nourished the seedling-tree in her soul. This is a strange phenomenon: the poorer people are, the more they want to satisfy their unrealistic desires instead of meeting their real needs.

We can be good soil, living fruitful lives by the grace of God. are mothers There who accept the word of God and co-operate with the grace of God. Their lives produce fruit. They are healed and nourished and their lives are rebuilt. It may take time, but it is so good to see them growing and being strengthened. Ι am glad that there are some examples of this the Mother's in Shelter.



It is a comfort to know that God keeps calling us even if we turn him down and refuse him. He tries again and again.

Szántó Csilla

Portraits

On the first floor of the Mothers' Shelter at the flight of stairs there is a big white door. This door is open day and night for the residents and is the door to



the manager of the Shelter, Mr. Tivadar Molnár, who loves there with his wife and family. They are on night duty as well in the building. I am talking to him and his wife, Marianna about faith, family and ministry.

- How did you arrive at the Menedék (Refug) Foundation?

Tivadar: After my conversion I wanted to help children in Temesvár (Romania) but I did not know how. In 1991 in the radio I heard that there was a drug prevention programme in Hungary. I was interested in this so I came to Hungary from Transylvania. I was looking for Christians who did drug prevention. I got some addresses and one of them was the Menedék Foundation. I came here and remained here.

Marianna: My sister in-law was a volunteer for a year in the Women's Shelter of the Menedék Foundation. She shared her testimony and experiences in my church in Békéscsaba. What she said inspired me to come to serve here for a year, I was 19 at that time.

- What were your duties in the beginning?

Tivadar: I lived in the Men's Shelter and I tried my best to provide a good example for the residents. I was a volunteer for two years there and I also had some other jobs alongside it.. After those two years I became a full time worker for Menedék. At that time the "philosophy" of Menedék was that the helpers and the counsellors did everything together with the residents. So there was a worker living in each room with the boys.

- You met and got to know each other in the ministry. How did you become a couple?

Marianna: I spent time with the girls in the Women's Shelter and Tivadar spent time with the

residents in the Men's Shelter. We talked and shared a lot during our service together. After my time as a volunteer was over and I went home to Békéscsaba, our friendship turned into a personal relationship and eventually we married.

- You did not move after the wedding. How did your life together develop?

Tivadar: After the wedding we moved into a little flat of the Mother's Shelter and later we moved into the residential flat we still live in even today. Three sons were born. I was a full time worker at the Helping Hand Office at the Foundation, I helped during the Tea Clubs and when we gave clothes to the needy. I was involved with the preparation work and with the publishing of some literature linked with Menedék. I did some social work on the streets, I supplied the materials for the carpentry programme and did some transport and supply for the Kéfás Shop. I did some background work for the Tea Bus ministry and from 1997 I helped in Kiskunmaisa as needed in the Refuge Town. Meanwhile Marianna staved at home with the boys till the autumn of 2008.

- How do you live out your faith in everyday life?

Tivadar: By in-depth prayer. The families who live here can have a glimpse into our lives. It is a Christian life, full of experience; it is evangelism by being there. This is one of the principals of the Menedék Foundation.

Marianna: In a practical way. Our children have come to know God: as teenagers they serve in the Budafok Baptist Church. I think it is a good reflection. I am glad that they learned an attitude of service from us.

- Would you share some positive experiences with God and with residents who became Christians?

Marianna: Once a mother who lived here told me that she had not seen a proper family before. For many we are the first positive example and we influence them in this way.

Tivadar: When I started my service in the Men's Shelter, nearly each evening someone came and asked questions about God and about faith. There was a guy whom I talked to a lot. After a time he was converted and married one of our workers. Now they have three children and they live in the countryside, attending the local church. I got to know my wife here as we served together in Menedék. "*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you*

remain in me" (Jn 15:4). This is the motto of our marriage. We try our best to live it out. Any resident can knock and come into our home. We let them see our lives.

Marianna: I was young when I joined the ministry and some family members and friends worried about me. I have experienced God's protection, his blessings and strength. In the same way we worry about our sons as they are growing up. But they belong to Christ already serving Him as young people.

Tivadar: I trust that our service is not in vain. I would like our lives to be tools in God's hands so people around us may know his love. We want to be faithful wherever our life takes us.

Ágnes Sinka

Report from the Erzsébet camp

The Menedék (Refuge Foundation) won a grant to take children camping in the Erzsébet project, supported by the government. Altogether 9 children (3 from Kiskunmajsa, 1 from Tordas and 5 from Budapest), aged 8-13, attended the camp in Fonyód liget 18th -23rd June. Before going to the camp I invited some of the children and their parents to my church (Dávid Sátora Gyülekezet), where my pastor, Mihály Monos prayed for us that the Lord might protect and bless our time in the camp. The children were deeply touched during the service.



Due to the warm weather we spent a lot of time at the beach to cool down- the children enjoyed Lake Balaton very much. In the first evening we introduced ourselves by showing a dance based on a song of Béla Pintér (a well known Christian musician). In the evenings I read Bible stories to the children. The children made friends with other children. There were several events: basketball for girls, weight throwing for the boys, folk dance, trampolining and a marathon fairy tale reading in one evening. We celebrated a name day of a by going and eating ice-cream and the children surprised me on my birthday too. The parents were able talk to the children on the phone each evening. The children were well behaved and the older ones helped a lot with the younger ones. There is another grant due on the 24th September that we can apply for: it is for drawing, making pictures and writing stories about the camp memories.

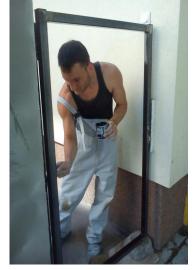
Everyone enjoyed the camp .We came home with lots of memories and with new friendships made. I am thankful for the success of the camp, for the Lord's protection and answered prayers. I trust and hope that my Christian witness and the Bible stories I read to the children helped the children to get closer to God.

Kornélia Szabó

The Men's Shelter

News

When providing programmes for the men under our care our aim is to help them on the basis of trust and strengthen a feeling of



belonging in them. Some of our residents work and are involved in the daily life of the Shelter. Others are chronically ill or addicted and we help them to recover. Sadly there are some who leave us because they are not willing to keep the rules of living with others. Our

desire is that the time the men spend here may be a blessing in their lives, so that whenever they move on their lives may be changed and strengthened.

In spring we created a vegetable garden and the residents look after it now. At dinner times we enjoy its fruits.

In May we built a new entrance gate and renovated the fence. Sadly the pipes burst in the bathrooms renovated two years ago, which caused a great deal of damage. With the help of the



insurance company the restoration work will start soon.

From 1st July Pál Bartolák joint the ministry as a social helper.

On 1st July 2012 we signed a syndicate agreement with organizations helping the homeless. It means that for a year we are going to help seven

homeless men. We get 1 600 000HUF extra support from the government, which will decrease the deficit we have.

We are going to have a bonfire and barbeque party in the garden. We trust that this event, the nice food, the music, the conversation and, most importantly, the message from the Bible will be a blessing and strengthen the fellowship.

On 23rd June our fellow workers, Attila Gulyás and Andrea Kis got married. Attila moved out of the residential flat and he will continue to work parttime in the Shelter.

Gábor Liptai

Intoduction

My name is Pál Bartolák, the new worker in the Men's Shelter. The fact is that I am not so new. In 1998 I got to know the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation. At that time I had an alcohol addiction (delirium tremens) and I came here for help. I had lots of problems with keeping the house rules and it seemed that I had to leave the Shelter. The workers tried to help me, gave me advice and prayed for me. One day I cried out for Christ in my despair and that was a turning point in my life. The presence of Jesus and the fact that he had set me free was more and more evident in my life. I stopped drinking and after a few months I was able to stop smoking. I grew in my faith and I was baptised. The desire to share Christ and his salvation with others grew in my heart. From being a resident I became a helper at Menedék. My new and only addiction is Christ. My life has changed totally. I have a call, a mission to work with the homeless and to people with addictions. My main aim to preach to the needy that Jesus Christ is the solution and the only way out from the most hopeless situations. I worked for charity organizations, got

married, did A levels and did some psychiatric training. Sadly, due to the difficult financial situation in my family I divorced once again. This broke my life but strengthen my relationship with Christ. Once again I ran to Menedék (Refuge) like a monastery. I was a voluntary helper while I was being built up in Christ. My main message to the men here is that with Jesus Christ you can have a real new life and it is not shameful to walk with him. The shame is to be exposed to addiction and to your own desires. I want to teach the men to be independent and that they are men if they are able



to provide for needs. their They have to learn order and routine in their daily lives. They have to learn to keep the house rules and every rule of life. I offer Jesus as the greatest counsellor and helper for them. Since July I have

been a full time social worker. There are lives being changed in the Shelter. It is important that the workers must stay trustworthy in their sight and to make decisions in Christ. For this reason I ask the Readers to pray for the workers of Menedék and for those who are under our care.

Bartolák Pál

We wait for gates to be opened

Menedék (Refuge) Courtyard

Years ago the leadership of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation conceived the idea of a project called "Menedék Udvar"-Menedék (Refuge) Courtyard. We would like to find a place in Budapest or outside where we can locate our Budapest institutes together (Men's Shelter: Mother's Shelter, Office, store room). It would be able to open doors for new preventive ministries e.g. a coffee house, daily care centre, extra accommodation for the needy, or homes where they can start independent lives. These plans

depend greatly on the place's size and capability.

Due to the foreign currency debt, many families have become homeless and at present the government- supported system is not able to provide accommodation for them all. May God provide a place where we can significantly help those families. We are seeking this place with a prayerful heart and meeting with local governments and businesses. We ask God to open gates so the Menedék Foundation might be able to help more people.

Storage

The Foundation receives much gifts and donations what we share with the needy under our care. We rented storage to keep the goods but due to the dampness of the building we had to move out. Now we are seeking for a place to move the goods.

Finance

As we have already shared during past years the support our institutes receives from the government has been cut down or stayed the same while the public utility fees and the other expenses have been growing greatly. In spite of exemplary saving, the institutes run with a significant deficit. We are very thankful for all the supporters and we thank you for all the financial and practical donations you have given to the Foundation. With your help, for you are tools of God, we have survived and have been able to give home, food, personal help, an opportunity to move on, and personal care to 145 homeless people.

We thank the supporters and give praise and glory to God. We still have needs and for this reason we ask you to pray for us and for those who are under our care. With thanksgiving we accept any kind of support: voluntary work, encouragement, joining us in the ministry and financial and practical help. We are convinced that the ministry of Menedék started in the heart of God and it is still in his hands: together with our supporters we are his workmen.

> Gábor Liptai Budapest Local Director



The Temporary Home for the Homeless

"Worship the Lord with gladness." (*Psalm100:2*)

Our institute is located outside Kiskunmajsa, in a former Russian army base. The institute for homeless people can be found n the officers' block of flats. The building hosts the Temporary Home for the Homeless and The Temporary Home for the Homeless Family. This area is called the Menedékváros (Refuge Town).

We have permission to accommodate 50 people. Our residents are accommodated in two floors, in four rooms for men and in four rooms for women separately. In summer we do not have 50 people but during winter this number can be higher,

The conditions are adequate for our workers and voluntary helpers constantly work on them that they may reach the standards of the National Public Health and Medical Officer Service (NPHMOS).

Many of our residents are returning. It means that they cannot find such a helping welcoming situation elsewhere. We would not be here if the workers did not make a special effort in the institute. There are 5 social workers and mental health workers and 2 social care workers who work 24 hours a day in turns.

In June and July there were several inspections from the authorities, and although we have to apply some minor changes, they were successful. The Menedék (Refuge) Foundation applied for a huge grant for the renovation of the building. We pray for God's blessings and for a success.

In July we worked and there were several programmes. Two third of our residents are employed, which means that they can save up to lead independent lives in the future. Those who stay in the Refuge Town, they help the institute voluntarily in the kitchen, with the washing or outside etc. Due to it being so hot, many people left for work early in the morning so in the afternoon and at weekends lots of people attended our programmes. There is a daily devotion and we have church services on Thursdays and on Sundays. The devotions are led by Péter Csaplár, the pastor and by Katalin Csöndes, an elder of the church. There is 20-30 minutes of prayer time and 20-30 minutes of Bible study, so "...we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of



teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." (Eph. 4:14-15).

The church services are attended by the residents of the Refuge Town and brothers and sisters from Kiskunmajsa. We often have visiting preachers. During the services we experience the joy of belonging to Christ and the blessings of the Word of God. There are brothers and sisters and people who long to know Christ with troubles and challenges in their lives. By themselves they fail, but by the grace and wisdom of the Lord they are able to overcome. Our church has a vital role to demonstrate the Christ to those who enter into our church "...that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col. 2:2-3).

In April the Refuge Town Baptist Church received an invitation by the Kiskunhalas Baptist Church to attend an outreach. On 28th July a team of young people lead by Péter Gyaraki visited the Refuge Town. They served among us by singing and sharing the Word of God. Many residents were encouraged to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Our experience was that many are searching for God with a fresh attitude and many want to strengthen their



personal relationship with the Lord. We also cooked and had dinner together. We believe and experience that God looks after both our bodies and souls. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Phil. 4: 19-2.)

Since 1st June Mrs. Anikó Frank Tóth has been working as a social and mental health worker. She has been an experienced social worker since 1997. Anikó is married for 20 years and has 3 children. We wish perseverance and blessings upon her work.

Gyula Vetrik- Dóra and Zsuzsa Vetrik-Dóra first child, Petra Vetrik-Dóra was born on 9th **July.** May God bless the family.



May God bless the ministry of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation. "I love you, LORD, my strength" (Psalm 18:1)

The workers of the Temporary Home for the Homeless



The Temporary Home for Homeless Families

"It stores its provision in summer and gathers its food at harvest." (Proverbs 6:8)

For many, summer means a holiday and time to relax and this is right. But it is not true in the Refuge Town (Menedékváros). We are having a very busy summer. We have achieved many goals and there are a lot ahead of us. Like the writer of Proverbs, we want to say that we do things at the right time so that our home may be in order and God may be pleased with our ministry.

On 21st June we had an outing to the deer forest in Szeged. It was a great day full of experiences. The children were able to see animals they had not seen before and they were even able to stroke the tame ones. We want to thank the Baptist churches in



Jánoshalma and in the Refuge Town for supporting that trip financially. May God bless them.

The children were able to attend the Word of Life camp in Tóalmás. They came home with new friends and rich experiences. We are thankful for this opportunity and may God bless that ministry.

While the children were away camping we did some renovation work. We were able to paint three flats and change the furniture which we received as a gift. In one flat we made a dining room and changed the floor tiles. In another flat we renewed the kitchen furniture.

Since 1st August we have a new worker, Brigitta Puskás, who replaced Mónika Szilágyi. We are thankful for Mónika's work and ask that God guide may her in the future. May the Lord give strength to Brigitta in her ministry among us.

We have our vegetable garden, which helps a number of families to eat more healthily and with a more varied diet.

We want to thank those who pray for our ministry and support us to reach our aims. May God bless you all.

> György Antal Institute manager

Introduction

My name is Brigitta Puskás and I was born in April in 1991. After my A level exams I completed the training to be a child minder. I gave my life to God



when I was 18. Since then Ι have been walking with the Lord and by his help I found the Refuge Foundation. I see my work here as a fulfilment of my heart's desire. I have always wanted to help people and share the good news with them and my work here is a great opportunity to do this. I trust that I will be useful

and helpful to the residents and that I will be able to join the fellowship of the Foundation fully. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt.11:28)

Brigitta Puskás

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): OTPVHUHB

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: <u>www.menedekalapitvany.hu</u> Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155 Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa,Marispuszta 253/A

The Lord is Good Baptist Church in Bodrog

7439 Bodrog, Kossuth L. u. 155. Tel: 06-82-490-148 Web: http://bkbodrog.arteries.hu/

To unsuscribe please email <u>selmeczileso@gmail.com</u> or write to Bodrog address. Thank you.

Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi

