

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

DECEMBER 2011

Love at work

I am always amazed by the way seasons change. The freshness of spring, the vitality of summer, the colourful autumn and the beauty of cold winter are beautiful both for the eyes and for the spirit. Life is changing, there are developments in our spiritual lives, and our faith grows too. Sometimes our journey is smooth but at other times we have to climb mountains or enter deep valleys to learn and to know more about the Lord Jesus.

December is especially close to me because of its special atmosphere. We are waiting in expectation, preparing to celebrate and we spend time with our families. As the end of the year is approaching we take stock of events, of what we have learnt and in what areas we should improve.

I am looking forward to Christmas with great joy this year, because our heavenly Father has poured out joy over us here in the Mother's Shelter. The mothers have open hearts to hear the Good News. On Sunday mornings the Shelter is nearly empty because most of the residents go to church. One of them gave her life to the Lord and was baptised. We need wisdom to use this special opportunity well that the women who seek the Lord may find him. This is our main duty and call here. And of course we care about their everyday

needs as well. The Lord Jesus said: *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Mt. 6:33). I still have some questions in my heart. Are we able to serve to god; glory with the opportunity we have Are we mature? Are we well enough equipped for the task? Or are we preoccupied with everyday life, and not recognizing the spiritual needs of the ones who seek God? Are we able and do we dare to encourage the people who are under our care to think? The answer is found in the Word of God. 2 Cor. 12:9 says *"My*



grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." and Gal. 5:14: *"For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."* The parable of the Good Samaritan comes into my mind. He simply helped the needy in his selfless way. We have to do the same: we simply have to help the mothers and their children with love who come to the shelter. In Jesus, love was born on earth. Soon we will celebrate this. He is the source of our love to serve our neighbours. This year I was able to experience God's grace and love in several ways in the lives of the mothers. What will the next year bring? What challenges are we going to face? I do not know but I know that *"God is faithful, who has called you into*

fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1Cor1:9. We would like to invite the mothers into this fellowship next year as well.

Mrs. Ágnes Sinka

News

On the 1st September the school year started.

This year 35 children attend the kindergarten, 91 attend the primary school and 70 attend the music school. As we wrote in the previous news letter, „The Lord is good” Baptist church is the maintainer of the kindergarten (33 children) and the primary school (64 children) in Nikla. On Tuesdays László Selmeczi and Anita Paróczy go and teach Bible lessons to the children. Dániel Dan teaches P.E: lessons once a week in the school. We ask you to pray regularly for the teachers, for the education institutes, for the office workers and for the children, please.

Some development work was completed in autumn. Lights were put around the sport field, so it can be used during the evenings now.

The Dungannon Baptist Church has sent the school a gift to buy new laptops. We are very thankful for their generous support. We bought 7 new laptops and were able to change the old computers. It means that the conditions of teaching computer lessons have improved and now we are able to use the library as a classroom.

Between the 8th and the 25th October John Crawford visited us from Dungannon. John helped teaching English. It is a great experience for the children to learn the language from a native speaker. John gave lessons to the adults too and taught the Word of God in the church. We are very thankful for his ministry among us.

Between the 13rd and the 17th October, Stanley McCormic, Gary McNair and David McClelland visited us from Newtownards in a van full of charity gifts. We are very thankful for the clothes, toys, kitchen equipments, tents and sport equipments we received

Between the 22nd and the 26th October Mary Fisher visited us from England. Mary and her church (the St. Mark Anglican Church, Tunbridge Wells) have been supporting the ministry in Bodrog for 15 years now. It was great to meet and be in fellowship with Mary.



Our church got a grant in the New Széchenyi Plan for 3 bicycle sheds and for 50 bikes The bicycle sheds are protected by cameras

In early October the windows were changed on the first floor of the mansion house. For this project we received a financial gift of 1,6 millions Forints from our brothers and sisters in Newtownards. We are very thankful for this great support

The whole mansion needs a renovation. We ask you to pray for the necessary finance, please. **We are still seeking God’s will prayerfully about the future ministry in the mansion house. The future of the Fostering Network is also in the hands of God.** We would like to have families to join us with a call from God to foster children. The ministry in the mansion house has gone hand in hand with the fostering ministry. Please pray with us about stepping forward that we may continue to serve God’s glory in the mansion house, thank you.

On 16th November

Dorka Csillag, Gábor and Andrea

Juhász’s third child

was born. May God bless the family.



On the 19th-20th November we held a youth conference, called „First Aid” in Bodrog. The topic of the conference was about helping others.

Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi

Prayer request from Nikla

Since September, Laci Selmeczi and I have taught Bible lessons in Nikla. When I heard the need for a teacher in Nikla, I had a great desire to go, and I was very disappointed when I heard that I was not needed. I felt I must go there. It was difficult to put it into God’s hands because I had a great call to go. I thought that I had misunderstood him....and for this reason I felt more frustration...Finally I understood that the timing was not right. Our leader asked if someone was able to go to the kindergarten to teach

the Bible. I felt God saying: “This is the time to go”- so I volunteered. Laci was going to teach in the school on Tuesdays, so I joined him and went to the kindergarten. Laci told me that he had been praying for a helper, but had not asked anyone, only the Lord. The Lord is good and he does good things. After finishing the kindergarten I join Laci in the school and we teach together. Our personalities are very different from each other, and this is very good and helpful because in some situations one of us was able to react well, finding the right solution. For there are lots of differing situations. Most of the children who attend the kindergarten and the school are from Gipsy families and they bring us challenges which we have hardly ever or never met before. We have to depend on God every minute to love the children with his wisdom. We pray a lot during the day and many people pray for us too. There are lots of needy families in Nikla; the children have such fears, pains and troubles to bear, which are difficult to imagine. We know that nothing is impossible to God, and for this reason we encourage you to pray for us, that he may be present in his glory and strength among the teachers who faithfully teach the children and among the families and the children in Nikla.

Anita Paróczy

Budapest

A new Bokros – parcel



We are expecting our 9th child in January 2012, so once again I will be a full time mum at home. I started working in February 2011, when our Johanna started kindergarten at the age of 3. I was the leader of the main Menedék Office and since mid-May I have worked part time as the

institute manager of the Men’s Shelter. Hopefully I will be able to give support, and give advice from a distance

I wish you all a blessed advent and Christmas season. Mrs. Anna Bokros

Time goes by

How good it will be in a place where there is no time because there will be eternity. We do not know what it will be like and we cannot imagine it. One thing is for sure - that it will be very good, for our heavenly Father promises that.

I have experienced that the promises our God makes are real and will be fulfilled.

With great joy I am writing this for as I/ we approached an anniversary, each new day brought us closer to this timeless time. I became seventy. Approximately 10 years ago, my illnesses and the results of examinations showed my three friends,

who are doctors and do not know each other, that my struggle with high blood pressure, Hepatitis C and



diabetes would not be longer than 6 months. It was a great joy to hear that. As I remember I felt as a little child on Christmas day who knows that there was something to be joyful on that day. I had the same feeling when I heard that I could go there where it was much better than here. It is good to remember that. A few years have passed since then and our heavenly Father has decided differently. On examination, I was told that I had no Hepatitis at all nor virus C and I was healed. The doctor who has been treating me told me that this is very rare. When I asked him when I should come for the next check up, the answer was that it is not necessary to go anymore since I was healed. “How can this be?”- I asked. “You should know the answer.” I was healed because many people had prayed for me. That was the answer.

My diabetes was so bad that tablets were not enough. After the hospital examination I needed insulin treatment, and I also had to lose weight. I used to be 106kgs, now I weigh 76. It is interesting that my uncontrollable high blood pressure has disappeared. Due to the diet and slimming I have not needed insulin since July. I am self-disciplined because of my wife’s support and because I am obedient to my heavenly Father, who still wants to use me for his glory.

“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. (Jn 9: 1-3). When I read this part I understood that my illnesses and my struggles are for God’s glory, so that the works of God might be displayed in me. I would like to fulfil the expectations and to show the work of God as I live my life here on earth. I am thankful for God’s grace and for his forgiveness whenever I fail.

I have worked for the Refuge Foundation since February 1986. During the years I experienced great joy and many responsibilities and challenges. I know God knows even my thoughts and the number of the hairs on my head. (I do not know how he keeps records and knows each of us, not just me- he is mightier than all the electrical records run by computers). I would like to carry on my life standing before him. I got to know many lovely people - fellow workers and many people in need during the years and I was loved by the people around me.

My family members are Christians. We have a big family: five children, 18 grandchildren and a grand grandchild. Another grandchild is going to arrive soon and all of them bring great joy. It is good to live in the love of the Lord and it is good to know that I can love him too.

I am waiting expectantly for the will of God in my life and I long to fulfil his will.

Géza Huszár

Thanksgiving

In the last newsletter we informed you about the



economic situation of the Refuge Foundation. (Menedék)

With thanksgiving in our hearts and praising the One who has moved

hearts to give financial aid, we thank those who have supported our ministry in the last few months. These gifts have meant a lot as our economic situation has not got worse, and we have been able to finish the renovation work of the Men’s Shelter. We have

created a budget reflecting the expected financial situation of 2012. Sadly we have to have strict cutbacks in the areas where we can, whilst still ensuring the maintenance is in place and fulfilling all the responsibilities we have. By the logic of the figures, together with the planned changes, there is no guarantee of the smooth continuity of our ministry unless God calls merciful hearts to support us.

We could have lots of reasons to complain and to worry because poverty is increasing and there are more and more people in need. BUT we believe and know that nothing is hidden from the Almighty who began the Refuge Foundation and keeps the ministry in his hands. With thanksgiving in our hearts we place our needs before the Lord, and we ask our supporters and the readers to do the same, please.

Deut. 8:18 says “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.”

Mrs. Erzsébet Huszár

. Why do we serve?

Recently an old Christmas postcard was found by one of the founders, written by a lady. She sent clothes for the needy and wrote the card. She was grateful to God for the way he had used the leader in her life. *“I send this with grateful heart, for you are the one Christ used to renew the seed, which had been sown years ago in my life. This happened 20 years ago. Since then my son also serves the Lord. I wish you all a happy Christmas, knowing the leading of the Lord Jesus Christ, his power, wishing you a breakthrough in time of troubles and perseverance. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”(Jn 3:16-17). For success like this it is worth serving because from time to time God lets us see the fruits of our work for his kingdom. Let us praise him with grateful hearts. God works in people’s hearts, and we are the tools in his hands. To God be the glory!*

A new book by Géza Kovács is published by the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation and the Evangelical Publisher, entitled “The Jews and Christianity in the Bible, in history, in the present and in the future”.

The Mother's Shelter

Dear Reader. We know you are interested in our ministry and care for us. We would like to share the news of the last 6 months with you.

We thank God that we are well. We have approximately 40 under our care in the Mother's Shelter. We keep asking God to protect our ministry in this difficult economic situation. He is faithful; there are people who send us help-not just financial, but practical gifts too. A nearby bakery gives their leftover rolls each evening to us.

We are eagerly watching God's mysterious ways. 7 families out of the 12 go to church regularly. (Budafok Baptist Church, The Bible Speaks Church and the Mahanaim Church). They attend not only church services but also several fellowship building events and get fed spiritually. It is important for us that these families are occupied in an orderly way during their free time. For this reason we organize several events where we can get to know both the children and the mothers.



we visited Margaret Island. In the autumn we visited the Parliament building together with some of the residents of the Men's Shelter. We had a special programme: we cleaned 2 playgrounds in the district. The residents and the workers of the Shelters worked hard and to our joy some parents joined us.

As we are in the advent season, we would like to teach the mothers and children the real meaning of Christmas so that they may celebrate the birth of Jesus personally in their hearts. We would like also to teach them about the joy of knowing that he is alive and that one day he will want to see us amongst the celebrating throng.

May our Christmas be pure, memorable blessed with peace and love.

Kis Andrea Anna, Childminder



The Men's Shelter

Our daily life

I have been thinking about the surprising ways God works. In times of need he opens doors unexpectedly. In the Men's Shelter we had been praying and God opened up doors for us to enter. The much needed renovation work has nearly finished. Now we can say that the young people who arrive to live here have a comfortable place to be. We trust it will affect their characters and their hearts. We have been working on full capacity. Young people are coming to us from state care, prisons, having become addicted to drugs, from the street and with troubled relationships. There is great need for more places in the shelter. We would like to have 15, instead of 12. Official permission for the extension is being requested.

News

In the last newsletter we shared about the financial support to change the kitchen furniture. We received gifts and now **we use our new kitchen**, so thank you. **In October we finished the renovation of the bedrooms**, and we could change the windows with the help of a foundation for the homeless.

To our joy many of the residents attend school. Some will do A level exams, some learn a trade, and there is someone who attends college with the help of the Van Esély Alapítvány ("There is a chance" Foundation). We try to occupy those who neither work nor study. They help with cleaning, gardening etc. **Each evening after dinner time we read the Bible. Some people attend our Tea Club once a week and the church services as well.**

We are preparing for Christmas. We are going to have a dinner together and will give small gifts to each other. Christmas Eve is special for we only have those who do not have anybody to celebrate with.

Liptai Gábor Deputy Institute Manager

Tea Club

In the life of the club, this year is the first one when outside supporters, the workers of the Gabonamag Alapítvány (The Wheat Foundation), have come along and helped with our work regularly. The team leader, Kornél Szilágyi brings joyful songs and games for the kids to play. There are points to collect to be exchanged at the end of the meeting for sweets, and there is a Bible lesson as well. All the residents of the Mother's Shelter wait for Kornél and his team with great enthusiasm. It is good to see the mums smiling and singing happily. While the children are playing, the adults have a Bible study with Tivadar Molnár, the leader of the Tea Club in a different room. We are thankful for the colourful programme of the Gabonamag Alapítvány (The Wheat Foundation), which enriches the Tea Club.



Ágnes Sinka

Kiskunmajsa

We plan to renovate the block of flats in Kiskunmajsa

This year we were able to make a huge step forward in solving the sewage problem. We were able to come to an agreement with the local government. We agreed that we will finance and create a sewage system until the sewage station, and the local government gives us permission to join the town system. We have done our part, but sadly we were not able to agree about the price of joining the town system yet. We hope we will be able to agree soon because the work demanded strict economy. We have great needs but it is good to know that God knows about them and he will

answer our prayers. We ask you to pray for us and support our needs.

Sadly the building, which accommodates our institutions is, in many aspects, out of date and in need of renovation. We have been thinking about how to finance it. Hopefully there will be an EU grant to support this. Using this grant we want to renew the lagging of the building, to put solar panels onto the roof, to get hot water. We would like to change the windows and the doors and change the heating system with a new boiler. If we win the grant this would be the greatest renovation we have ever done. The preparation work has been started to apply for the grant and the planning has been started by gaining permission from the authorities. If we win the grant the renovation work can be done next year.

The Leadership of the Refuge Town

The Temporary Home for Homeless Families

“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and for evermore.”(Psalm 125:2)

In the last newsletter we wrote about our vegetable garden project. With great joy I can share the blessing of the garden. The garden helps create a good recreational activity for the adults working together with their children. In the autumn we harvested the produce and the mothers and the workers were able to make lecsó (a Hungarian dish) and paprika cream for the winter. Also in the autumn we demolished the old playground with the help of the 8th grade of ICSB (International Christian School of Budapest). **We would like to apply for grants to build a new playground.**

The age range of the children has changed a lot. At present we have lots of babies, toddlers and kindergarten- aged children. It has been a challenge to get equipments for the newborns. We are thankful for those who supplied our needs.

We received vegetables from a farm nearby; the mothers prepared them and put them into freezer.

On All Saints' Day we remembered our loved ones who died by lighting candles by the two honorary monuments.

We attended a convention in the autumn. Sadly we were told that there won't be any changes in the area of social work, and there will financial cuts. Due to this fact, the existence of the Temporary Home for Homeless Families is in question. To the great joy of the children Santa Claus visited us. We are preparing for Christmas. We would like to show the love Jesus brought on earth by his birth as we celebrate.

On behalf of my fellow workers and the residents I want to thank you all who have been supporting our ministry in some way. May God bless you. Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas

György Antal, Institute Manager



Temporary Home for the Homeless

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:42-45)

The numbers have been growing in the Temporary Home for the Homeless since the cold arrived. The people who come here are having problems finding somewhere to love and they find a shelter here for a while. I am very thankful for this ministry and for my fellow workers I work with. I especially want to mention Dóra Zsuzsa Vetric, who has worked here as a social worker since the 1st May and Éva Csató who came back to work on the 27th October after being on maternity leave.

Adrienn Szécsi and Zsolt Papdi got married on the 19th November. Adrienn has been living here for a long time. We helped the couple to organize the wedding and celebrated with them together with their families.

According to the request of the bureau, we agreed that Dr. János Miskéri, who comes once a week for 2 hours to the Refuge Town, can be seen by our residents.

I would like the Bible verse above to be true in our lives, that we may serve the needy in a way that they may get to know God.

Ibolya Farkas

From 1st November 2011 the institute manager of the Temporary Home for the Homeless is Ibolya Farkas, who has experience and a legal qualification. We hope that Ibolya and Péter Csaplár will make a good leadership team. We want to thank Gábor Liptai for his service in the Refuge Town in the last 3 years.

**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.

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Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (Mt. 2:10,11)

We wish you a blessed Christmas!

