

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

DECEMBER 2012

Let us be good stewards

Since my early childhood I remember warnings about saving and later on I saw my parents and my grandparents saving and spending carefully.

Why should I be a good steward and with what? First of all I should review what I have so I can work out how to be a good steward of it. There are possessions which seem to be constant and others which change, for example money. However, apart from money there are a lot of things of which I should be a good steward. The economic crisis helps me and inspires me to save. Globalization has generalized it. It is interesting how the media influences our minds. Today we have the world in our hands like never before. We have got the news- and it's very bad news. We should be good stewards based on the information we get. We have started to "provide" for each other - not like we did before from the overflowing of our love and time, but for the sake of being "being provided for in return". We have thrown away most of our values.



Nowadays we try to be good stewards of water and soil. This is good. Responsibility goes hand in hand with economical thinking. What about being good stewards of time? Do I have time for priorities? How much time is taken away from me by the time thief? Who will be good stewards of us? Who considers me important? Who will "preserve" us for the future? We can be good stewards of the amount of domestic power we use - if we were to use it well, we would not need so much. Your house can be in A+ category, but which category am I as an energy user? I have a wife, children, grandchildren, friends and colleagues, I have neighbours church and brothers and sisters in Christ. I have a job, a business, a house, a car, a town, a country etc? Am I a good steward of them? How can I be one?

The aim of good stewardship is to have the opportunity to use what we have saved for the sake of ourselves and for others in the future. Being a good steward is not scrimping, and it is not a result of asceticism. It is a conscious saving for tomorrow; it is the hand of contentment. It is like a full sack. We keep putting things in one side and also keep giving away from the other. It contains

everything we receive. Stewardship means giving and passing on. What we give away is still close to us. It may be ours or others'. Being a good steward is a godly quality. It is the fruit of thanksgiving, contentment and hope. It builds for the future. It looks forward. So whoever is able to save up should do it. It is not a sin, it is rather a virtue. Whatever others do, you should be a good steward. *"The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down."* (Prov. 21:20). The wise store up valuable things. We save up the things we value to use them and to share them, and we look after them. Being a good steward also means happiness. It shows that I am able to choose what to save and this gives security in time of need. There are times when we get rid of old things and get new ones instead. Things we value can change. This is when I recognize that there is a time to do something. Can I help my wife be a good steward? Yes, I can, when I save her from things which would consume her. Can I help my friends be good stewards? Yes. And yes is the answer regarding my money, my time, my heating and household power etc. I should have a lifestyle that guarantees tomorrow. Wastefulness and the "nothing is enough" attitude bring discontent ingratitude and insecurity.

There is only one exception: we should not stint on love because God does not do this. He keeps giving it to people. He provided life for us and He gave us a future. We can love continually when we know that we won't lose any of it, because love never fails.

The aim of being good stewards is to give, and to be content in time of need. To recognize this we need faith. We have to recognize when to use what we have previously saved. It would be wrong not to use what we have saved up. I think it is better to use it than to save it. Only godly men are able to give from little. The miracle is that the little is enough for everything. I was in this situation when I had to have dental treatment. If I had not had money saved up I would not

have able to do it. It was not easy to decide that this was the priority now rather than other things.

It was the same when we bought the mansion house in Bodrog for Menedék (Refuge).



We needed the money I had saved up. There and then. There was no more and it was enough. God has blessed it and now the ministry in Bodrog is in its fullness.

When my mother was dying I felt that it was a time to express my love I kept back. One by one we said goodbye to her as children. I thanked her for her love and gave her to the Lord. We will meet again in joy.

Soon it will be great to spend the money we have saved sacrificially on travelling to meet our children and grandchildren to see and love and feel each other. It is worth spending on our important relationships, so we do not lose each other but rather encourage each other. We use things up while we are getting richer. As people we are important to God. He saved up treasures for us here on earth: oil, coal, gas, wood, atom energy, water, air and so much more to look after us. And He not only provides here on earth but He planned eternal salvation for those who trust in him and accept Jesus Christ. He lives in us to save our lives and keep them for eternity. He values us greatly. This is the reason He came to earth at Christmas. God gave, He gave his Son, He saved him and sent him to us as a solution and a new covenant for people who did not have any way to "save" for their own survival. We still have this way of salvation today.

Zoltán Kovács

Bodrog

Thanksgiving

By the grace of God a new school year started on 1st September 2012. There are 111 students in the primary school, 78 in the music school and 27 in the kindergarten in Bodrog. In Nikla 65 children attend the primary school and 24 attend the music school. The Békevár Baptist Church in Kaposvár hosts the kindergarten which has 24 places.

In the last newsletter we shared about our needs.



With thanksgiving in our hearts we can report that we have been able to change our school bus and that the extension work of the classrooms was completed in early September. We would like to thank you for your prayer and financial support.

Events

On 6th-13th October Graham Simpson, Philip Orr and Kirk Shiladay visited us from the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church to do voluntary building work. We are thankful for the church's love and support.

On 21st November the governing body of the Refuge Foundation had its monthly meeting in Bodrog. It was a joy to meet the workers there, to see the development of the ministry in Bodrog

and to see the excellent conditions that have been provided temporarily in the mansion for the elderly home by the support of the Refuge Foundation and of the "Lord is Good" Baptist Church in Bodrog.

On 3rd-4th November our fellowship visited Patca, a farm, to build fellowship. It was great to play, go for a walk, read the Bible and pray as a church. We are thankful for this opportunity.



On 16th-18th November there was a youth conference in Bodrog. The theme of the conference was "Prove it!". It was about sharing our faith and witnessing to others.

Our needs

We need to renovate the **playground** according to EU standards. The extension work in the attic of the BOK building carries on as we are creating **storage rooms for the school**. Both projects cost approximately 5-5 millions HUF.

We thank you for your faithful prayer, financial and practical support towards our ministry.

Ottília Selmeczi

News of Network of Fostering Families (NECSAK)

We have operating permission for 7 families. There are 12 children, 10 of them are under 18, 2 of them receive follow-up support. The youngest one is 7 months old and the oldest are 19. There are 5 who attend primary school, 3 who are in secondary school and 3 who are doing training after their A level exams.

In October the Hungarian State Treasury inspected our institute and found everything in order. In December the Somogy County Bureau is going to check how professional our work is.

We still would like to extend the Network and look for families who are interested in fostering.

We thank those who pray for us. The fostering families do a demanding task.

Mrs. Ágnes Madarász

Budapest

The Mother's Shelter

Changes

It is October once again. It is the time of great decisions, taking on responsibilities and writing agreements. How was it? On 3rd October 1982 I was standing in white to be baptised together with my brothers and sisters in the Baptist Church in Békéscsaba.

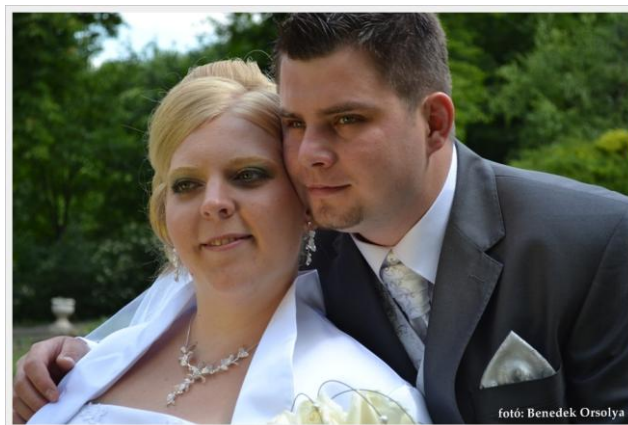
On the first day of October in 1993 the BIG question was asked from me if I was to be a wife...and on 1st October 1994 I became Tivadar's wife. We decided to start our married life in Budafok. On 1st October 2007 I started working as a child minder. On 1st October 2012 I prayed: *I thank you God that my life is in your hand. I made my decisions seeking your will and I always want to do the same. Thank you that I am important to you and you give me tasks even though I have felt from time to time that the tasks were much more than I was able to fulfil in the time provided. I experienced that you had not given a more difficult situation than I could handle. When there were really great trials I was able to experience your loving and caring presence in a special way. There is a new October and I became a family worker- it is a privilege and a challenge at the same time. I want to do my best, pleasing you. I am not looking forward to the enemy's attack, yet I know it will come and I want to be victorious for your glory. Thank you that I can start learning once again to trust you, putting my fears into your hands. Please give me wisdom to relate to my colleagues according to your will. May true love remain among us. May we encourage and strengthen each other and, if it is necessary, may we dare to discipline.*

Mrs. Marianna Molnár

Introduction

My name is Mrs. Ágnes Mischinger and I am a new staff member of the Mother's Shelter of the Refuge Foundation. I have known the Foundation since 2006. I was a voluntary worker and later on I did my practical term of college here. I clearly see God's guidance in the decision I

made to work here full time and for this I am thankful. I grew up as a second child in a Catholic family who practised their religion occasionally. I was interested in religion but when I lost my mother in early childhood I turned my back on God and I was angry with him. I had serious difficulties as a teenager. Now I know that it is true what the Bible says: *A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in this holy dwelling* (Psalm 68:6) Many times I experienced his care for me. My family helped me to overcome from my difficulties- without their support I would not have been able to stand on my feet again. I was 18 when one by one my family members became Christians, I saw the peace and healing they had and I did not want to resist anymore. I was baptised and became a member at the Kőszikla Baptist Church in Budaörs in 2007. I served there as a Sunday School teacher and a youth worker and for two years I went to Ukraine to do children camps for Hungarian Churches. Meanwhile I started at the Baptist Academy and I did some child protection training. God put it into my heart to reach out among children. I got married 6 months ago and my husband supports me. He works in a hostel for hyperactive children and serves there among them. We also organize youth work for people who are interested, in both in my home town and in our church. We believe that we are going to experience our Father's love and care, his mercy and guidance both in our lives and in our ministry.



The Men's Shelter

“Society of those who seek an honourable life”

During the last few months a little team has been forming who accept the Men's Shelter and its operating principles. At least once a week we meet with these 7 or 8 men when we talk and share,

seeking the God's answers for our everyday lives both in joy and trials. The basic condition of participating at these meetings is that it can be seen in our lives that we are trying to live an honourable life.

We are in need and we need Him. We are different and with different backgrounds. There is an alcoholic who wants to be healed, a diabetic who has lost his eyesight due to his illness and there is a young man who struggles with several psychological problems. Our aim is to seek God's guidance and His solutions. We try to encourage and comfort each other in times of troubles.

One of the seekers of an honourable life is Attila Orschelbacher, who is a diabetic. He has lost the



sight in one eye and is nearly blind in the other.. He was told that he is 86% disabled in this area. At this point he was in a very difficult situation since he did not receive any income and he has not got any family relations. People

thought he was a drug addict. From now on he will receive some disability allowance and he will be able to find some work in institutes specializing in his disease. He has become closer to God and this can be seen in his appearance and in his spiritual life. From a depressive man who never wanted to leave the Shelter, he has become a young man full of plans and who is able to go out on business. With a support of a foundation we were able to get him a computer. It is his great sadness that due to his eyesight he is not able to read. In order to be able to read he would need a special magnifier machine. When he tried one he was weeping with joy. This kind of aid costs approx. 60-70 thousands HUF. The staff of the Shelter will partly sponsor it if someone is able to help with this need. We accept gifts specific to this with thanksgiving.

Pál Bartolák

Conversion in the Men's Shelter

According to the Bible, conversion is a turning towards God based on a personal decision. The person recognizes that she or he is not able to save him/herself from sin and its consequences and believes in the existence of the Almighty God.

The Men's Shelter is a fruit garden of God with lots of fruits of conversion. Some accepted Christ as their personal Saviour after the first conversation. We meet young people who struggle with their lives, the world and with God while they are with us in the Shelter. And then there is a point when they recognize God's personal revelation and they accept the Good News. Can the fruit be recognized immediately? I think so, although the Bible does not give many instructions about this. Fruit can be seen or not seen. Most of the people bear the fruit of conversion: the way they think changes and you can see peace, courage, trust and positive changes in the personality. Success is not necessary to accept one's conversion. The Lord is the one who examines the heart. My opinion is that if someone confesses Jesus Christ as Lord is my brother/sister. She/he can be a new born, naive, immature, uneducated, but she/he is a child of God.

Finally there were, there are and there will be men, who leave the Shelter without accepting the Word preached, for it fell on rocky ground or among thorns. It is tragic to think that they might be lost as they won't turn to Christ by faith and won't accept His grace. There were, there are and there will be men in whose life we are "only" seed sowers fulfilling our task with faith as imperfect people, testifying by word, by deeds and by the Word of God. Others will harvest and those people may be converted by others.

Attila Gulyás

Tea Club

I am thankful for the work of the Spirit in the Tea Clubs. With the adults we have studied the Book of Proverbs. It contains lots of wisdom that can be used by people who are regarded as losers in the society. Proverbs help us not to make the mistakes of the past and protect us from the traps of wrong decisions regarding our future. Our meetings are interactive- everyone is welcomed to speak and share. If it is needed we correct people with love. I believe that through the Word God's love can be known. The risk is great for God offers eternal solution for our lives. To make our struggle lighter in this world he gives lots of good counsel in

Proverbs. I trust that our time together is not in vain. I am thankful for the helpers who work with the children. Mrs Verebes works with the school kids, Marika Berkes is with the kindergarten children. With the songs and activities they teach the children about the truth that they may open their hearts and accept the love of God. Some of the children struggle with heavenly Father image, due to their experiences with their father. Due to these bad experiences they had to run away and find a protected place. We trust that the love of their Heavenly Father will lead their lives.

Tivadar Molnár



The staff of the Út a Reményhez Alapítvány (The Way to Hope Foundation) regularly organize children's programmes in Budapest and in Kiskunmajsa. We are grateful for their dedicated service!

[Kiskunmajsa](#)

The Temporary Home for the Homeless

Music afternoon

As the days are getting shorter we have to be inside the block of flats earlier. To occupy the residents we decided to start a programme for them which they can both enjoy and participate in. Every second Sunday afternoons in the fellowship room we organize a music afternoon where people can play instruments for everyone's pleasure. To our great surprise 20 people attended the first two

events, 5 of them playing music. Both young and old were ready to perform.



Daniella Mészáros played the saxophone and the electronic piano, Gábor Tóth played the recorder with great talent, Mihály Mészáros played beautiful music on the electronic piano. Between the music pieces poems and a portion from the Little Prince were read and we learnt what it means to be friendly and take responsibility in our relationships. To our great joy the planned time for the meeting was not long enough and we look forward to continuing this programme.

In October the maintainer visited Kiskunmajsa for two days.

We have received an invitation from the mayoress of Jászszentlő to attend their family advent day on 8th December. It is a good opportunity for us to introduce ourselves as the Refuge town to that village. It is important for people to see that there are some people with great values among us, and we can celebrate advent and wait for Christ coming as the family of the Refuge Town.

“But God will never forget the needy, the hope of the afflicted will never perish.” (Psalm 9,19). Let me finish with this Bible verse because we experience its truth many times as the staff of the Temporary Home for the Homeless. In times of difficulties it gives us strength and courage and we also see this truth in our residents' lives. Thank you, God.

Éva Csató

The Temporary Home for Homeless Families

“Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” (Isaiah 58:7).

As the holiday season is approaching our lives are getting busier- we are waiting for Santa to come and we have already started to prepare for Christmas.

News

At the end of summer we rejoiced with a mum who got married here.

On 7th September the staff of the Temporary Home for Homeless Families we organized a team forming, building day. We had great and joyful fellowship. Sámuel Mike, the pastor of the



Baptist Church in Kecskemét was invited. His teaching was about trials and difficulties and how to handle and overcome them. We had a blessed afternoon.

The International Christian School Of Budapest visited us for 2 days. They helped with work in the yard and in the garden. They also had excellent programmes for the kids. We are thankful for their faithful support during the last 5 years.



On 23 November the children attended a talent show where they sang a song. For their great joy they received a special award. We also visited the Baptist Church in Soltvadkert, where they sang the same song.



We would like to thank those who have supported our ministry during this year by prayers, financial and practical help. On behalf of the staff and the residents I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

A testimony of a mother

How I got to Menedék (the Refuge).

As an abused mother I arrived at Kiskunmajsa with my 4 year old son in November 2009. I was afraid and without hope and I did not know what to expect. Till that time I just had heard about these kinds of places, never thinking I would end up here. It was a nice surprise. I received lots of love and attention from the workers. I thought I had a chance to find my feet finally- but I was wrong. My life started to fall apart once again. In March 2011 my daughter and two grandchildren arrived. In April my daughter had to leave temporarily so there were three little children with me. I was discouraged, but with the help of the social workers I was able to survive that time. The children grew and we had a happy and peaceful life and I felt things are turning to good. Meanwhile I got to know a man who encouraged me greatly. Our relationship was heading in a good direction till March 2012. Then trials after trials came. My boyfriend's mother died and 3 months later my father died. At this point I felt that I had lost everything. I did not have a mum or a dad. What would happen to me? In secret I prayed to God that my boyfriend would stay with me. My prayers were answered. In August 2012 we got married, both of us had work and my daughter came home. We still live in Menedék. At last I can say that I have a happy and peaceful life with the man I love and with those who love me.

I thank everyone who taught me that without faith and love I cannot live.

György Antal

If you wish to support our ministry you can do so:

The bank details are:

Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:

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IBAN electronic form:

HU72117220032002222200000000

IBAN 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

Menedék Foundation:

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

Internet: www.menedekalapitvany.hu

Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155

Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Marispuszta 253/A

For Bodrog:

“Jó az Úr” Bodrogi Baptista Gyülekezet

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Mrs. Otilia Selmeczi



“The Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1Jn 4:14)

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!