

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

Nahum 1:7

MENEDÉK



News letter

1/2011

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." 1Cor. 3:6

Paul wrote this verse to the church in Corinth where there was competition about following the apostles. I would like to share a story, which proves the wisdom of Paul and gives glory to our heavenly Father.

Last March a family came to us (a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law with their children). The mother-in-law soon went back with her children to her husband. The young woman stayed here with 2 children and she was pregnant with the 3rd child. She was shy, hardly spoke and never asked for anything. The staff realized what their needs were and tried to help. They were housed in an independent flat; their next door neighbour was a Christian woman who has been resident of ours for a long time now. They quickly became friends and Zsuzsi was able to hear her new friend's testimony about Jesus and about the love of God. The seed was planted.

At the beginning of the summer, the child was born so Zsuzsi had then to look after 3 little ones. Summer passed by and the autumn brought a change in the life of the family. The oldest child started attending kindergarten, and the woman next door moved away. Zsuzsi started making friends and became more and more part of the fellowship. She was in charge of the Christmas menu. I invited her to



church on 23rd January (Bible Fellowship in Érdliget), where there was an evangelistic meeting entitled "My souls thirsts." Zsuzsi's soul was thirsty and the seeds in her heart were longing for living water. At the end of the meeting she found the One she had been seeking, the Saviour of her life. She invited Jesus into her heart and started a new life. Since then this "new plant" is being looked after and watered. She attends Church every Sunday and every fortnight she attends a Bible study for explorers, a study run by Rev. György Varga. She says: "I was baptised as a child in the Reformed Church. I believed in God." Then she made some bad decisions and difficulties started to appear in her life. "I wavered and wondered if God really exists because I have suffered so much. Marcsi (the next door neighbour) helped me a lot. She spoke to me a lot about Jesus. When you invited me to the meeting I was really interested. I was touched by the message of the preacher (Sándor Tóth, a pastor from Debrecen). For me, his life was genuine, as he changed and trusted Jesus. Earlier I had always wanted to meet the expectations of men.

Since I have been walking with Jesus, I know that he is the one who gives me my abilities, and I don't have to meet the expectations of men. It is so good that Gyuri and his team speak so clearly about the Bible and God. It is easy to understand. Since I am a Christian I can accept lots of situations in peace.

Before, I was quick to feel pain when I was hurt. But not now .I would rather not speak. I have shared my story with some mothers in the Shelter. Some have received it with joy but others were not interested. I cannot see the solution for the future yet, but my hope is greater than ever, because I can ask for help from Jesus.”

This is how the Lord Jesus looks after his newborns and God makes them grow. I am thankful to see his miracle in Zsuzsi and it is a privilege to be a tool in her spiritual growth. May God keep her in the narrow road of faith so that she may experience the Father’s care. I ask you to pray for Zsuzsi and her children.

Ágnes Sinka

THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

Budapest

The Mother’s Shelter

News

After the Christmas holiday the mothers and children started the new year with its daily routine hoping that this year will be better.

On 24th February inspectors came to check our professionalism. Thanks God, everything was fine.

One of the children was accepted to attend a local kindergarten. We consider this a miracle because we struggle with the kindergarten centre. The children from the Shelter seem to be on a never ending waiting list.

As well as our struggles there is joy. Mrs. Krisztina Popp has joined our staff as a voluntary worker and we are thankful for her.

In February we said good bye to our psychologist Mrs. Gabriella Ócsai. She was not able to continue her ministry among us because her husband, who is a pastor, was called to serve in Cegléd. We are grateful for her help and service amongst us - may God bless her future ministry.

Ágnes Sinka

The Men’s Shelter

Does the Men’s Shelter really mean home for the men?

What is the ideal family today? There are several answers, depending on your point of view. Some say the vital and necessary elements of a family can be safety some say it is harmony and unity and others say it is the financial background or the exit of the spouse. What do people mean by family? For most of us it means the unconditional love for each other seen in practice. We can show this love not only to our family but for others, showing them our care and interest. As we smile, as we open the door to someone and as we give a glass of water we can express our love and respect. The practice of this kind of love, tolerance, and affirmation was important recently in the life of the Shelter due to the renovation work. For some projects we had professional workers but the rest of the work was done by the staff and by the residents. It was good to see the men joining in with the work without being asked and the staff working extra hours. With the windows changed and with the plastering done in light yellow the building looks very nice. We have an extra room; there are good quality bunk beds and new shelves in the rooms. The office moved to the ground floor. Tiles were being put in the residential flat so our workers would be able to move in. All that meant dust, noise, moving and packing yet we experienced unity in the Shelter: obedience, willingness to help, tolerance and respect were expressed. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for what we have managed to complete to make the Shelter more cosy and comfortable.

As in every family, there are some problems in the Shelter too. Many of the laws regarding social work have changed. From this year we have not received the extra state support from the local government. Our expansion expenses are not covered. We have to give full support to our unemployed residents who find it difficult to find work for months on end. Their future seems very discouraging because there are fewer and fewer opportunities for them to be independent, to start a family and to be honest citizens in our society.

We try our best to help but it is not enough. Our work is in vain without the blessings of God. We need Him and His encouragement. It is good to know that our Father knows the future and He is faithful. We trust that He has plans for the Men’s Shelter of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation in the future. We want to serve among the needy who find their spiritual family among us.

*Anna Andrea Kiss
Institute manager*

Tea Club

What does “*tea club*” mean? Is it a club about tea and about making the tradition of tea drinking more popular? Or is it a place where you can talk about the world news while you are enjoying a cup of tea? Neither of those. ***Tea Club means something else; there is a history behind it.***



Let us go back in time to 27 years ago. In 1984 the *Tea Club* started among young people who suffered from addictions and lost their families. The aim of the founders was to reach out among these young people, to listen to them, to accept them, and first and foremost, to help them to meet God. Since then the *Tea Club* has been there week after week. The residents and former residents of our Shelters attend. They play table-football and chat, there are sandwiches to eat and tea to drink (this is the origin of the club’s name). When everyone has arrived and has eaten, the singing and Bible study starts. After reading the Word, questions are asked, testimonies are shared, and the meeting ends with prayer.

In 2009 an important change happened: we started a children’s club for the children who came with their mothers. Previously it was a challenge to keep the children at the club because the Bible study was for adults. Tivadar Molnár, the leader of the Tea Club, asked for help from the Budafok Baptist Church and the



church provided extra rooms for the children. A Sunday School teacher Mrs. Ida Verebes helps to teach the children. They are in two groups: kindergarten age and primary school age. There are two assistants who help with the children and

we are thankful for them. The children learn about God, about the Lord Jesus and about ethical issues.

The *Tea Club* is open; we welcome everyone on every Thursday at 5.30 pm.

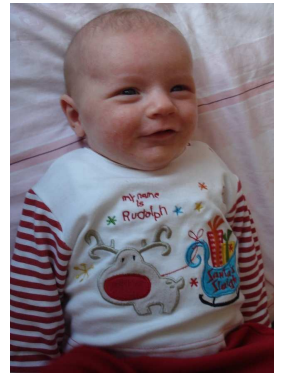
Sinka Ágnes

Bodrog

News

In January and in February we held prayer meetings with the churches in our neighbourhood.

11th January: Mánuel Dan was born, the second child of Dániel and Mónika Dan. May God bless their family.



26th February: The Network of Fostering Families held its annual meeting in Bodrog. The future of the ministry was discussed.



The fancy dress ball was a joyful event both in the school and in the kindergarten.

4th and 5th March: Our school and our church were visited by an evangelist who lives and works in India. We know Chopra and have supported him since 2000. On the Friday he spoke to the children in the school and on the Saturday he shared about his church planting work with the Bicske Bible School and with our fellowship. May God bless and protect our brother as he shares the good news in India.

The Baptist Churches were praying for western Hungary in March. **There was a prayer day for the ongoing church planting work on 26th March, in Balatonszemes.** Let us pray for this part of Hungary!

5th - 13 April: a team of 12 visited us from Jesse Remington

School. Both Remington School and our are member of ACSI. The and students our school on trip. The aim visit was to get



High the Jesse High institute schools teachers came to a mission of their to know

another Christian school and to serve among us. They took part in the Bible studies and in English teaching, and they served in the church too. We spent a blessed 9 days with them.

9th April we held a day for couples. György and Anikó Varga

came and taught the couples.

18th-25th April: András Simon, a Christian artist has been invited to Belfast by the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. During Holy Week András Simon is going to illustrate the message with original artwork. On 23th Saturday there will be an exhibition to support the ministry in Bodrog. We are grateful for this offer and for the organizers and supporters.

Appeal

In the mansion house we would like to offer simple accommodation to families and groups of up to 50 people. For this we need 30-40 beds and bunk beds. Please pray for this need and if you are able to help in some way, please contact us at selmecziles@gmail.com . Thank you.

Mrs. Otilia Selmeczi

News of Network of Fostering Families

A new phase has arrived in the life of the Network of Fostering Families. This is mainly because our children have grown up and grown out of the fostering age range. Seven young adults left the foster care last year. Most of them were able to start independent lives, having finished their education. Some of them did not make the most of their time spent in the families. They will have challenges and their families keep praying for them. Their relationships with God are different and we keep praying for all of them. Two children were adopted in the Sztasák family, and Adrienn Orsós lives with her mother now. Both Adrienn and her mother, Timi were fostered by the Erdei family.

At present there are four foster families with ten children. This is not a great enough number to be an independent organization. For this reason the future is very much in our prayers and thoughts. We would love to extend our ministry with new active fostering families and to be able to help children in need. As long as the present laws allow us we want to continue our ministry. Please pray for us.

Mrs. Ágnes Madarász

Kiskunmajsa

Church life

Pastor consecration in the Menedékváros Baptist Church

20th March 2011 was a historic day in the life of the Refuge Town. God can give more than we are ever able to imagine. Today there is an enthusiastic church in a club room of the former Russian army base having a consecration ceremony. But how did we reach this far?

13 years ago the Menedék Foundation started its ministry here. After the renovation of the former army base we opened the Temporary Home for Homeless People and the Temporary Home for Homeless Families. Mr Géza Huszár, an elder of the Budafok Baptist Church, started the pioneer work in the Refuge Town, believing that giving social help is not enough to save people, but that the gospel needed to be preached as well. Many heard the comforting good news and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Many of these people live and work here even today.

Peter Csaplár joined the ministry in 2006 as a social worker and he began to preach more and more in the church. Over the years he completed his studies at the Baptist Theology College. As he served among the needy, more and more he felt the call to be the pastor of the church and this was recognized by the congregation and the leaders of the church.



It was a joyful day and church service, conducted by Géza Kovács, the official pastor in charge and one of the founders of the Menedék Foundation. He shared that by the power of the gospel 70-75 people (out of 250) had opened their hearts and had invited Jesus Christ into their lives during the last 13 years. During these years there were 29 weddings and

nearly 40 people were able to move on, starting a new life.

The church hall was crowded. Katona Béla, the chairman of the south diocese preached the Word, Dr. Kálmán Mészáros, the

Chairman of the Hungarian Baptist Church shared Peter's life journey and talked about the importance of the pastor consecration. After the laying on of hands and prayer for him, Peter shared his vision about the church, including the encouragement from God to plant a Baptist Church in the town of Kiskunmajsa by strengthening the existing home group there. After that greetings were shared on behalf of churches, fellow workers and guests, including Zoltán Kovács, the Chairman of the Foundation. The worship was lead by the youth of the Budafok Baptist Church. After the ceremony there was a lovely lunch to close the day.

Kati Csöndes, Gábor Liptai

The Temporary Home for Homeless Families

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.” (Mt.28:5). I often meet people who seek in vain for happiness and a purpose for their lives. I want to encourage all the readers to seek these things through Jesus and they certainly will be found.

At Christmas we received gifts from the International Christian School in Budapest for which we are very thankful. The staff in Kiskunmajsa made a calendar from photos taken during the whole year together with Bible verses. We gave this as a gift to our residents and they were very happy to get it. There is one family whose first family picture ever taken is in that calendar.

We are thankful that the renovation work keeps going: there is another room with a new floor and new furniture.

This winter we had some snow so we were able to sledge. We pulled the big sledge by car, having 8-10 children on board. That was a great experience not only for the kids but for the adults too.

In the kids club we asked the children to write about their past, their present and what they think about their future. They were very honest as they wrote and drew their pictures. We also held a programme for the children, called “care for a flower”. We bought the seeds and cared for them. As the plants grew each child had his or her own in a pot with their name written on the pot. The



children had to look after the plant, supervised by adults. The flowers are to be planted in the garden. We would like to hold similar programmes for the adults too. Hopefully we can report about them in the next newsletter.

György Antal

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

Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:

117 2200320022222000000000

IBAN electronic form:

HU72117220032002222000000000

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: www.menedekalapitvany.hu

Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155

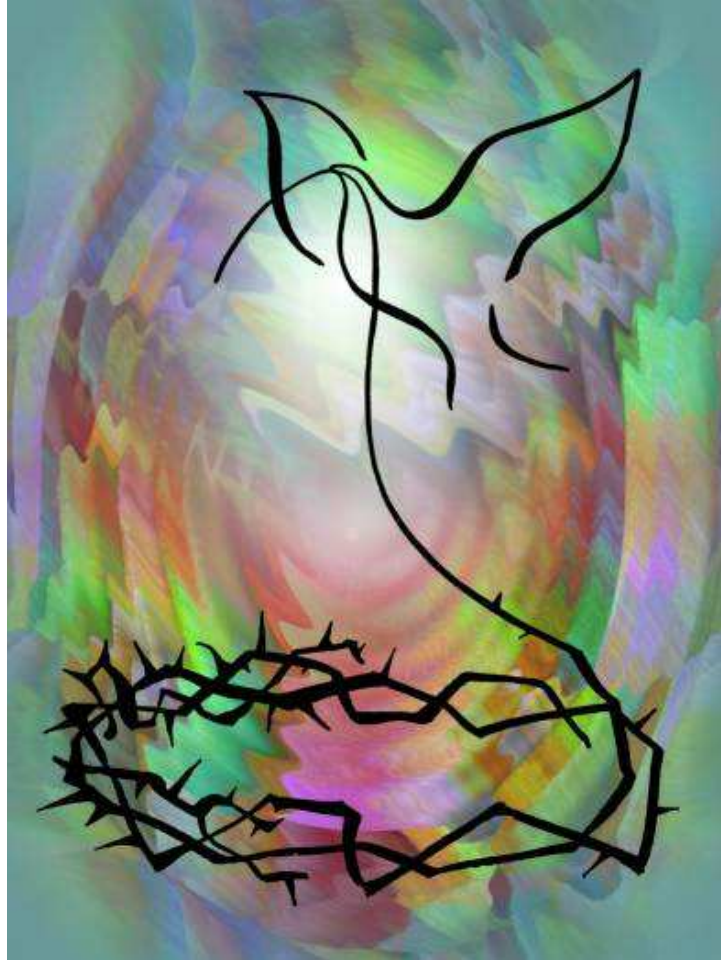
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or write to Bodrog address. Thank you.

EASTER

The love of God at Easter is there for all to see
He died for us and rose again and won the victory!
God bless you with his peace and joy at Easter!



András Simon: Victory

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church Services for Holy Week: Art and Worship

Wednesday 20th April 8pm András Simon tells his story

Thursday 21st April 8pm Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

Good Friday 22nd April 8pm The Crucifixion

Saturday 23rd April 10.30 am- 4.30 pm Exhibition, Sale and Art Workshops

Sunday 24th April 11am Easter Day - Family Service

Join us in worship as we prepare for Easter with our celebrated guest artist from Hungary András Simon who will illustrate our messages with original artwork.