

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

Nahum 1:7

# MENEDÉK



## News letter

SUMMER 2006

### Dear Friends and Supporters of the Menedék (Refuge) Foundation,

I greet you with Christian love from Bodrog, on behalf of the Menedék team. In this newsletter we want to share some events of the year and ministry of Menedék. We thank you for your prayers and support and interest in our work.

If you want to receive this newsletter in the future, please let me know. You can send me an email on [selmeczileszo@t-online.hu](mailto:selmeczileszo@t-online.hu) or a letter to the foundation's address:

Menedék Alapítvány  
Selmeczi Ottília  
7439 Bodrog Kossuth u. 155.

If we can reach you by email, please let us know. Thank you.

May God bless you and keep you.  
Yours in Him, Ottília Selmeczi

### ***FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY***

It is a privileged generation. In spite of all its difficulties, it is unique and it means there is a challenge.

One of the social pillars of morality are good conventions and traditions. From the middle of the last century the national traditions were forcibly under control. After that time people experienced personal liberty as the airplane pilot bales out without a parachute: he enjoys the great freedom of floating for a while but the end is certain death. A miracle can help. We need an experience that will shake us up, and grace from heaven, because without these we cannot have dreams for the future. Where is ethical feedback

in our everyday life in our everyday deeds? Where is the sign which tells us that what we are doing is either right or wrong? And after realising and understanding it, do we change direction?

There are no bounds in personal liberty. At least that is the suggestion from TV: from the soaps, advertisements and from the tabloids etc.

Is it really true that there are no bounds in personal liberty? No, it is not. We cannot do things whatever we want to without consequence and punishment. It is possible to live with drugs, in sexual licentiousness, to live without a home and without employment, it is possible to run away from home but it is not worth it. Why? Because this way of living means losing worth and it leads to nihilism.

Even in the empty soul there is a hunger for love. There is a need for order, for peace, for harmony, for the Spirit of God. And where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom. This knowledge is the basis and the start of responsibility. To recognize responsibility means deliberating. A responsible person knows that his/her acts count. That person knows that it matters what his/her children see, what his/her neighbour think about him/her, what will happen in his/her town, village. Morality is a learnt value that we can pass on. The Christian moral is Europe's heritage, which is being wasted. But the personal morality is above that of society.

To call a person to account for something makes sense today, and at the final judgement. This is responsibility. This knowledge makes us responsible and gives us strength to follow the rules of life which were written into our hearts by God, not by ink, but by the blood of his Son our Saviour and because we are saved and God's Spirit lives in us. It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to affect the present and the future in a good way. Let us be free to be responsible, to live a responsible life. This is the

thing that gives us liberty, which makes us unselfish and enables us to cooperate in team work.

One of the conditions of responsibility is unselfishness. Am I responsible? Yes, I am. In liberty I have a freedom to choose. What do I choose? How do I spend my time? How do I make decisions? Do I speak? Do I keep quiet? What do I watch? How do I spend my money? What do I allow? etc. We influence each other. We are responsible for each other. Liberty is whole when it is filled with responsibility. Without responsibility our future is chained to the consequences of licentiousness. Are we going to be slaves or free people? I hope that we made a definitive decision that we want to be free and responsible.

Zoltán Kovács

### **WE VALUE HUMANITY – The Menedék Foundation’s training project for social workers**

In our first news letter we shared that with the support of HEFOP from the EU, the Menedék Foundation can provide two years of educational training for its workers. The course contains six \* two day, and four \* five day blocks of training. So far there has been one five day block where we learnt about the methodology of Menedék, and two \* two day blocks in three places: in Budapest, in Kiskunmajsa and in Bodrog. The subjects were: basic computer techniques, personality development, and the world of work.

## **THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES**

### **Budapest**

#### ***Life in the Mens’ Shelter***

I have been working among homeless people for years and during that time I realized that the main reason people become homeless is recorded in Genesis 3: 1-24. The essence of the fall is the distrust towards God and unbelief. In the Shelter we welcome young men (aged 18-35 yrs) who want to have a change in their lives, and want to have freedom from the bondage of addiction. Our aim is not only to give a shelter to the homeless, but also to show them the possibility of new life, and help them to reorganise their lives. We have 12 places in the shelter: three rooms with four beds. We have a common dining room and a kitchen, and a bathroom with showers and toilets. The concept of our theory and method is to give them a constant example of a contented, biblical

lifestyle as seen in the lives of our counsellors in all area of life. Once a week we attend the Tea Club where there is a possibility to learn from the Bible. Our purpose is to reach out and to help lonely and the troubled young people. The meetings are informal. There are several programs after which we serve a cup of tea and bread. On Sundays we attend the church service in the Budafok Baptist Church.

Most of the people arriving are unemployed and they don’t have any idea about their future. Many don’t like working. I can share with great joy that at present each resident is either studying or working somewhere. They have to learn how to spend their spare time too. Most young men have a bicycle, they go to work by bike or ride it as a sport.

The main meal is the evening meal. After cleaning we often watch films both Christian and non Christian ones- films which are good and build us up spiritually.

The day ends at 10 pm as everybody needs to be refreshed for the new day. With this routine they gain hope to come out from their homeless and disadvantaged situation.

László Vasas



#### ***Conversation pieces***

A long touse headed young fellow asks for an appointment. We sit down and have a chat. We talk about many things. And an important thing comes to light:” *Aren't I allowed to watch TV whenever I want to? If so, I prefer being on the street*”I am a bit shocked.

Private conversation during the Tea Club: “*Gabor, is it possible for me to become an honourable person?*” In my opinion, the person who is thinking about that, can be. “*But if you will look to God and plead with the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your rightful place.*” Job 8:5,6

Gábor Liptai

## ***The Mothers' Shelter***

*„The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.  
He cares for those who trust in him.” Nahum 1:7*

We profess this verse by heart and by mouth. At present there are 10 mothers and 20 children in the Shelter. There are 6 workers: 3 family counsellors and 3 children's nurses. On Mondays we hold a Bible study led by Géza Kovács. For a few weeks it has been attended by some mothers. They are very open and interested. Since Christmas some mothers, together with their children, come for the Tea Club on Thursdays. Several times we have opportunities to have one to one conversations and it is good to see the children being so open to the Good News. It is good to see that The Refuge Foundation is a real home: people live here as a big family. They help and care for each other. There are friendships being formed among the mothers and the children. A great event was when a baby was born in the Shelter. Each mother helped in a way. Our prayer request is that after the 18 months spent here, the mothers may live in peace and in safety.

The Mother's Shelter Team

- The Mens' Shelter has a new manager. Gábor Liptai works for Menedék since October 2005.
- Four new workers arrived to the Mothers' Shelter: Mrs Turjányi, and Ildikó Kún who are family counsellors, and Márta Budavári and Márta Nagy who are children's nurses. May God bless them and keep them in their service.

## **Bodrog**

- On 15<sup>th</sup> December Barnabás Juhász was born – the firstborn son of Andrea and Gábor Juhász.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> Tünde Erdei was born – the firstborn daughter of Attila and Mónika Erdei
- The 7 -8 grades of International Christian School in Diósd visited our school and spent a few days in Bodrog. Our students were invited by them to attend a musical presented by the pupils of that school in December. It was a great event.
- Early November we had two visitors from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church who invited a team from our church, so we can strengthen the fellowship of the churches. From 10<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> April a team of 12 visited the Bloomfield Church. They were involved in the church's life and in their Easter outreach among children. God richly blessed the week. In August a team of 20 will visit

Bodrog for a week. They will help to run English club for kids and will be helping with the building project.



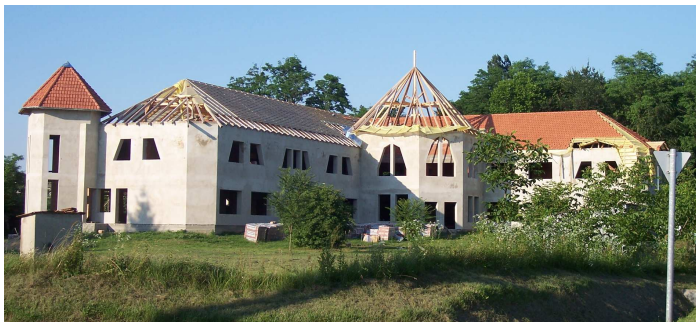
- There was a concert of the music school's pupils in February. Nearly 60 students played their instruments. It was a long concert divided into two parts. In the break the teachers, the parents and the children had a chat with each other with a cup of tea and biscuits.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> March our church and the Kaposvár Baptist Church organized youth evangelism in Bodrog. Approx 80 young people came along from the neighbourhood. We hope to have similar events regularly in the future.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> March the music teachers and the students of our school had a program to celebrate Purim in Kaposvár. There were Hebrew songs and a play about Queen Esther. A week later this programme was on in the Kaposvár Baptist Church's evangelism.
- 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> our church joined the ProChrist satellite evangelism from Germany. We held the meeting in the "culture house". Many people came and listened to the Good News each evening. Let us pray for the fruits of this evangelism all over Europe.
- The Refuge Foundation received second hand clothes. The foundation shared them with the villagers. Many people got some clothes they can use. We helped the needy.

## **BOK (Educational Centre)**

Last time we wrote about the next step for the educational centre building. With great joy we can share that the roof work started in early April. The "Lord is good" Baptist Church in Bodrog decided to build their church in the BOK building, and now

together with the Menedék Foundation the building is being continued. People offered voluntary work and financial support has been received both from Hungary and from abroad. At present the roof is being built. The gutter material was bought. The outside plastering work is finished.

After the roof the next big step will be the doors and windows. Please, pray that the necessary resources will become available for the building to be continued.



## INVITATION

**THE BODROG CHOIR WILL BE VISITING NORTHERN IRELAND** from 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October. They will be giving fundraising concerts in  
 Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
 Portstewart Baptist Church on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
 St. Anne' Church, Dungannon on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
 Regent St Presbyterian Church, Newtownards on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
**For details contact John and Maureen Crawford**



at 02887761468 after 6pm  
 or Isabel Plunkett at 02891818513.  
**Offers of help welcome!** Drivers needed for minibuses, also sponsorship for airfares etc.

## Kiskunmajsa

- The children living in the Menedékváros attend kindergarten and school. We give them lifts to the institute in the Mazda.
  - Quite a number of people work outside (e.g.: for the box factory, pasta factory, for a private painter).
  - In early summer renovation work started on one the flats we use. The corridor's floor was changed and the painting work has started in December. Please pray that the necessary resources will become available for continuing that work.
  - Our cars are old and it is expensive to keep them. They are on sale.
  - The operation permit of the institute for the homeless provision came to the end from 1<sup>st</sup> April. We appealed for a new one, at present we are waiting for the decision.
- Géza Huszár

## *Church*

On 19<sup>th</sup> December eight people (three men and five women) were baptised in the church.

On Sundays we have a kneeling prayer meeting, a morning service, and afternoon service. On Thursday evening we have a service. Each evening we have a quiet time 18-25 people attend those.  
 Mrs. Ágnes Madarász

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

Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:  
 117 220032002222200000000  
 IBAM electronic form:  
 HU7211722003200222200000000  
 IBAM printing form:  
 HU72 1172 2003 2002 2222 0000 0000

OTP Bank SWIFT code (BIC): OTPVHUBH

Bank address:  
 OTP Bank Rt  
 1221 Budapest  
 Kossuth L.u.31  
 Menedék Foundation

Budapest: 1221 Budapest, Leányka út. 34. III/ 21  
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 Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155  
 Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Szegedi u. 1

