

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

Nahum 1:7

# MENEDÉK



## News letter

1/2007

**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 [selmecziles@t-online.hu](mailto:selmecziles@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



**„PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL,  
AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS!”**

Today life is a continuous rush and hurry for all of us. One's financial situation, the desire to live up to expectations, to be successful, and of course many other factors are the driving forces of people today. These things have infiltrated into our lives as much that we do not even realise that our everyday life does not contain anything else than rush, struggle and occasional success.

According to the Bible, life on Earth is only the hallway of Heaven. "For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come." (Hebrews 13:14)

When we go tenting in the summer our aim is not to arrange things for a long-lasting stay. Instead of that, we go and spend time there with the hope that this would have a good effect on our lives in the near future. We would seek to spend time there, time which brings lasting memories, good fellowship with our family members, rest, and, which also renews our strengths.

God had exactly the same aim in His mind when He gave us the years that we can spend on Earth. Because of His grace and the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ we have an alternative, we can choose, through Jesus' sacrifice, to be in fellowship with the Heavenly Father and gain eternal life in Heaven. The chance of accepting or rejecting the ransom, which was paid for us by God, is available to us in this world only. However, we will experience the consequence of our decision in Heaven. Let us then live our life the way that one day our Heavenly Father will be able to tell us: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few

things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

These thoughts made me consider the followings: How did the Refuge Foundation - which is an organisation that came to life by the will of God and was authorized by God to be His hand in its surroundings - fulfil its duty during the past year? What kind of blessings and joy were experienced by those who served God within the organisation, and what sort of difficulties, attacks and failures did they encounter?

Psalm 103, and especially verse 2 as quoted above in the title, helped me to describe my thoughts about my evaluation.

God has done so much good for us during the past year; He has taken care of and provided for us daily.

We are experiencing the consequences of the economical crisis which our country faces at present. However, we were able to meet all of our financial obligations and as a bonus the Bodrog Education Centre building project has progressed a lot.

God has also blessed us with faithful colleagues, who were devoted to their tasks and did not spare time and energy when they helped those who

were in need or when they participated in the education and upbringing of children.

We were blessed also with new colleagues, who joined our ministry with faith and a servant heart. We always rejoice when we look at them, because their presence with us is a living proof of God, who knows and fulfils our needs in every area of the ministry.

I praise God for the hardships and trials as well. He allowed us into situations in which we realised again, that our work is not ours really, but His. It belongs to the Almighty God. The beginnings were in His hands and He holds the future too. As individuals and also as a community we often asked the Lord to be present in every area of our ministry and that we would do only what His will is for us.

I praise the Lord for those supporters who continue to bring the life, the work and the difficulties of Menedék before God. They are the source of our strength.

I praise the Lord for those, who, here at home and over the borders, financially supported our work.

May thankfulness and praise be the essence of this Advent. I wish this to everyone with love.

"Sacrifice thank-offerings to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me."(Psalm 50:14-15)

Mrs. Erzsébet Huszár

**THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE REFUGE FOUNDATION DECLARES THE FOLLOWINGS ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2006**



1. The members of the governing board declare individually and in unity that they are committed to ensure that the work of the Refuge Foundation is carried out according to the purpose of the founders.

2. The base of our work is Christian mission, which is motivated by the love of Jesus Christ. We believe that we help the people in need effectively only if we help them to have faith in Jesus.

3. We are thankful to God for leading us during the past 20 years. We acknowledge that the work and the progress of the foundation have happened under the supervision of the Spirit of God.

4. The constitutional and professional operation of the foundation was and is according to the law, and the foundation has contributed to fulfil the social and educational responsibilities of our country.

5. **Budapest:** We state that the operations of the Men's Shelter, the Mothers' Shelter and the Menedék Office in Budafok are much needed and every worker is capable to fulfil the requirements of the tasks of the ministry.

There is not a need to make changes in the constitution and the infrastructure; however, we have to make sure that we continuously have directors for the two shelters.

Long term dreams: To establish the „Menedék Courtyard”, where these institutions are together in one place, but in separate buildings.

6. **Bodrog:** We are thankful for the foster parents who have been faithful in the upbringing of their children. We declare that the NECSAK (Foster Parents Association) and the Beginning of Wisdom Kindergarten, Primary School and Music School in Bodrog are much needed institutions; and everyone, who works there is capable to fulfil the requirements of the tasks of the ministries. We have to ensure that new people join the work. We suggest that the director of the school would not teach more than his compulsory hours, and this way he will have more time to concentrate on his other responsibilities.

The BOK (Bodrog Education Centre) building project has priority in the development plan. The work is carried out together with the local Baptist Church.

The mansion should fulfil its original function again, and therefore be available for foster families to move in.

7. **Kiskunmajsa:** We try to ensure that our institutions in the Refuge Town run continuously

and provide refuge for homeless people. If it is needed we operate the kitchen as well. It seems that a new and capable team of workers is being formed at the moment. We have to appoint suitable leaders, one for the Families' Temporary Home and one for The Homeless Shelter.

On the long term basis we have to consider, for the sake of the foundation as a whole, how to make a better use of the buildings and the land, which are in possession of the foundation in Kiskunmajsa.

8. The ministry of the Refuge Foundation needs volunteers in the future too.

9. We need to improve our communication towards churches and communities and share more about the work and needs of the foundation.

Szigetszentmiklós, 25th November, 2006

Members of the Governing Board:  
Géza Huszár, Mrs. Erzsébet Huszár,  
Kornél Heizer, Zoltán Kovács, Zsolt Paróczy

## THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

### Budapest

#### *The Mother's Shelter*



- During the summer the children who attend school were able to attend the **Word of Life camp** in Tóalmás. We are thankful for this opportunity. We also took the children to **the zoo** and to the **Tropicarium**.

- During the summer the residents of the shelter changed.

- On Thursdays the women attend **the tea club**.

- Vali Simon started a **youth club** for the teens aged 10-14 a few months ago

- Ibolya Kiss organizes **the children programmes**, and the Calvary Church helps her in this.

- We always **celebrate birthdays** with a birthday cake and by giving little presents to each other.

- Viki Vaskó, Vali Simon and Béci help the school children with their homeworks.

#### *The Men Shelter*

We received money from a foundation that helps the homeless in Budapest to **renovate the roof** of the shelter. To finish the work we need financial help. **Please ask the Lord** to provide the money we need. Because of the building work we are able to have only 8 residents. After the work is completed we will be able to accommodate 12 again. It is good news that every man is employed.



**Please pray** for the men we look after that their lives may be healed, that we may have good conversations with them. Please pray for unity among the workers in every situation.

Gábor Liptai



### **Tea Club**

Tivadar Molnár is charged for leading the club. Apart from the shelters' residents we have plenty of visitors from outside. We are happy to have everyone on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We received some fund and we were able to buy a digital camera, a backboard to play basket ball and a table football set.

### **Office**

We're well settled in the new office now. We are thankful for the good facilities and for the workers dedicated job. Apart from the administration work **the HEFOP training programme** gives lots of work for the office staff.

There was one five days block of training in early November where the subject was how to help people to lead their own lives.

---

## **Kiskunmajsa**

---

\* It is the changing time of the Refuge Town. **We applied for operation permit for undetermined time to accommodate the homeless.** We are still waiting for the answer.

\* **There are new workers** in the Refuge Town. At present there are 17 workers to help the 44 residents and a number of families who have already moved out.

\* It is a great joy that a number of families moved out to live in their own. We are in touch with them, and they attend our church services.

\* **Sándor Pesti and Éva Farkas got married** (two residents) and their baby **Alex was born**

\* We have good relationships with the churches nearby. We attend evangelisms and youth meetings. During the autumn break the Gate of

Hope Mission Church and the youth group of the Baptist church in Kiskőrös came and had a children programme in the Refuge Town.



\* During the summer 16 children were able to attend the **Word of Life camp** in Tóalmás. We are thankful for this opportunity

Mrs. Judit Terbe

---

## **Bodrog**

---

\* 8-15. July, a team from the **Dungannon Baptist Church**, from Northern Ireland came to help on the building site and in the preparation of the music camp.



\* 22-29. July, **Music Camp** in two places: Bodrog + Balatonszemes

\* 31. July-5. August, **Exodus evangelism** together with a group of young people from Northern Ireland

\* 7-13. August, **Canoe Camp** by the Bodrog river, organised by the youth of Bodrog

\* 12-19. August, a team from the **Bloomfield Presbyterian Church** came to help on the building site and took part in the **English Camp**

\* 26-27. August, **Christian motorbikers meeting**

\* 1. September, opening ceremony of the new school year

\* 22. September -1. October, **Choir tour in Northern Ireland**

\* 1. October, Kornél Heizer was elected to be the **mayor of Bodrog**, and Dezső Madarász became a representative in the local government. Both of them are workers of the foundation.

\* 17-24. October, three members of the **Bloomfield Presbyterian Church** came to help finish the roof of the BOK.

\* 5. November, **Thanksgiving Church service**

\* 30. November, Ottília and László Selmeczi's third child, **Samuel**, was born

\* 1. December, **Graduation Concert** of Márta Dan, who successfully finished her university

education in music. She directed the choir of the foundation with great success.

\* 16. December, Zsuzsa and István Dabronaki's fourth child, **Jonathan**, was born.

\*18. December, **Christmas Concert**

\* During **Advent** the children from the school took part in several evangelism and plays in different parts of the country.

\* 20. December, Tímea Orsós daughter, **Adrienn** was born.

### **CHRISTIAN MUSIC CAMP**



This summer the 8<sup>th</sup> music camp took place in Bodrog. Because of the growing number of children, who wanted to attend, we had to organise the camp in two different places this year. Children between age 6-11 came to Bodrog and the older ones were hosted by the Baptist Church of Balatonszemes. In both places the children were divided into little chamber music groups. The theme of the week was the Psalms for everyone.

Of course the week was closed by a beautiful concert. Here every soloist and every chamber orchestra musician got the opportunity to perform and to show what she/he had learnt during the week. I can say in the name of the children and the teachers that we spent a blessed and successful week together. I would like to thank every teacher and helper for the work they have done, hoping that we all will meet again next year! Of course, only if it is the will of the Lord.

Zsuzsanna Berkes

### **ENGLISH CAMP IN BODROG**

According to a longstanding tradition in the summer an English camp waited again for the children in Bodrog.

Our guest teachers arrived from Northern Ireland this time and dealt with the children with

lots of patience, love and competence. During study time the kids were occupied first of all with work, but also games, songs, jokes and lots of joy took part in the classroom teaching.



During the outside games we enjoyed the good team spirit and also experienced that in this free activity the language barrier was not a problem at all. The games were followed by Bible studies where the children got to know a new Bible story and learnt a Bible verse every day.

The week passed by very quickly and it was very hard to say good-bye to the teachers at the end.

I would like to thank for the work of everyone, who took part in organising and running this camp. I hope we will meet again next year!

Mrs Andrea Steiner

### **THE CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE EDUCATION CENTRE OF BODROG**



In the previous newsletter we already reported that the Bodrog Baptist Church has joined in the building work of the Education Centre and has become part owner of the property.

During the past summer and autumn the work continued. Several individuals and churches helped the project through donations or by working on the site.



We, like the widow of Zarephath, experience the providence of God through our financial sources. We always had just enough to finish the next stage of the building project.

We are really thankful to God because before the winter arrived we were able to finish the roof, all the outside windows and doors were built in and even the outside plastering was done.

At present a group is working on the dividing walls and this will be followed by electrical installations and inside plastering.

This building will provide a place for the kindergarten, school and music school of the Refuge Foundation and also for the “Lord is Good” Baptist Church. We would like to put the building in use section by section. The plan is that in the first stage the primary school and the church will move in.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in different ways. We needed and appreciated your encouragements, your work on the site and your financial support the same way. May God, the God who knows our needs, bless your life! We need not only his blessing, but first of all we need Him, Himself, because He is our Creator, our Saviour and He loves us very much.

Anita Ficsór

### ***MOTORBIKER'S MEETING***

The Hungarian Christian Motorbikers Association (MKMK) held a meeting in Bodrog, in county Somogy between 26-27 August.

Our union has a small number at present, but we hope that the membership will grow gradually in the future. We arrived from different corners of the country. Our motorbikes were diverse too. There were models from 50ccm to 1200ccm, from scooters to choppers.



On Saturday after arrival first we had lunch together and afterwards we all went for a ride in the nearby countryside.

On Sunday we attended the service of the local church, and after lunch we took the children of the foundation for a ride. They thanked us with beautiful happy smiles and shiny eyes.

The Hungarian Christian Motorbikers Association (MKMK) is a non-denominational organization. Its members believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Saviour. Our aim is to follow His life principles in our own life.

We strive to live out these principles among our fellow motor bikers and encourage them for safe and responsible riding. We also would like to present an answer to those who, maybe after surviving a serious accident, are searching for the “One”, who blesses them with a safe arrival home every day.

If anyone of you would you like to join our association, please contact Kornél Heizer at the following address: heko@t-online.hu

A blessed motor biking to you,

Zoltán Zergi

### ***CHOIR TOUR IN NORTHERN IRELAND***

Our connections with Northern Ireland started over 10 years ago, when Ottília Selmeczi and Julianna Gerlinger, among other Hungarians, studied at Belfast Bible College. During their studies they were supported spiritually and financially by Christian churches. These Presbyterian and Baptist churches were interested in their lives and ministries later on as well. They followed up their new work and life in their new congregation with attention and waited for their news and prayer requests. Even some visitors came from these congregations, who wanted to see them in their ministry and also got to know the Bodrog Baptist church. These visitors carried the news about the work in Bodrog home to their own churches, which resulted in the visit and help of whole volunteer groups. In these occasions our

Northern –Irish friends joined in our summer English camps, youth evangelism events, and helped us manually in maintenance and in the building project. These personal contacts have grown into friendships between our congregations.

Our visitors noticed that the biggest demand of the ministry in Bodrog was the completion of the education centre and church. Two of them, Mrs Maureen Crawford and Mrs Isobel Plunkett, offered to organise a tour for our choir to Northern Ireland with an aim to sing in different churches and through this introduce Menedék. They also offered to collect donations towards our building project. After a year of organising, this plan became a reality in September.

It is mainly the students and the teachers of our school and music school who form the choir of the Refuge Foundation. Our aim is that through the songs we bring joy and encouragement to our listeners. We would like to encourage them also to think about God and seek a relationship with him. Because we choir members and also our listeners are all different, we choose songs from different ages and different styles. We hope that our lives and our community have a message through the testimonies and through the music.



This tour was a big challenge for us. The core of the choir is 8-9 faithful girls. This core was made complete by boys and teachers, who joined in. We all said yes to the task before God. We praise God for keeping us together even after the tour has ended.

As the conductor of the choir, the plan of my heart was to sing songs, which talk about the Bible verse of Menedék:” The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him” (Nahum 1:7). We searched for songs which would fit in to the three parts of this Bible verse; and we completed our programme with testimonies.

I am really thankful to God for using us in order to touch and refresh others. He has also enriched our group, for young people and teachers became partners in service. Our hosts surrounded us with lots of love and because of this we travelled home with a refreshed spirit.

Now we are preparing for our new tasks. It is an additional joy for us that we were able to contribute something to the building project.

Mrs. Márta Dan

### *THE „TRAINING” OF GOD*

It was one of the beautiful afternoons of October when, after finishing teaching in Bodrog, I put on my “spacesuit” and mounted my favourite V2 motorbike, in order to roar home to my family. I was very excited when I imagined how my brothers and their children would enjoy the gifts I brought back for them, the previous week, from Northern Ireland. However, I was not carrying presents for them only, for I had already wrapped my gift to one of my friends, whose wedding I intended to attend the next day.

I knew that travelling more than 200 kilometres would take me several hours, since I had travelled on the same road many times before (once even in heavy, nationwide rain). But now the road was dry, the sunset was beautiful and on the eastern horizon the Moon was exceptionally big. I was even thinking of calling my brothers and tell them to have a look at this rare sight. However, because of the darkness I decided not to stop, but hurry on instead. The road was not busy that night. I was driving with a similar speed as others. I like this peaceful atmosphere the best in motor biking. A truck in front of me was quite slow, so I decided to take over. I saw that the opposite coming car was still far away. It was not a big deal to accelerate with 36 horsepower so I took over quickly and started to come back to my own lane when I realised that my motorbike was sliding on straight as if it was on ice. I tried to balance my bike and as much as I could I tried to move to the right. I was near to the bisecting line when the oncoming car arrived. I felt, I knew that I was not going to clash into it on the front part, but I was unable to avoid the clash on the side. I saw that my knee bumped into the car, and I also saw that my trousers tore. In the next moment the motorbike slipped and I hit the ground.

I felt nothing else than a big numbness in my left leg and I was so relieved when I realised that I could still move my toes. I took off my helmet and then I noticed why the road was suddenly so slippery; the dew had fallen on the road.

At first I was happy that nothing serious had happened, I thought perhaps my leg was broken, but thankfully I did not hit my head, my chest and I did not lose my consciousness. However, I started to feel sorry for not being able to go home that night and to the wedding the next day. I felt embarrassed, because the traffic had to stop and also because I knew that my family and friends would be so much worried about me. In that very moment the desire of my heart was to turn back the time a bit and work things out better.

This time of the year, during the autumn the Christian churches gather to remember the blessings of God during the year past. I was thankful for my health earlier as well, but in my present situation my health is not only a point of praise anymore, but now I have a whole list of praise!

I was taken to hospital and was told that my left thigh bone was broken in two places. The good news was that it was not a compound fracture and because of the protective clothing my knee joint was not damaged. It was also good that the doctor on duty, who had to operate me, was a leg specialist and my body accepted the “foreign” material, which was built into my bone. It seems that I have a big chance to recover completely.

While I was waiting for the operation it came to my mind that I would not have been here if I had chosen the train instead of the motor bike. I also started to feel guilty because I did not think of the dangers of the humid autumn evenings. However I soon realised that even if I caused the accident, what had happened was not accidental, was not by mistake from the point of view of the Almighty. He allows different trials to happen in my life, but He has an aim with these trials. And above all, He perhaps even allows me to understand his aim.

Before my accident I experienced a completely different trial, in which I became very bitter. I had less and less energy and I started to worry that, if things did not change, I would be incapable to teach the children and to do the things I had done

in Bodrog with lots of joy before. There were two Bible verses I could cling on to. The first one is a promise: “In all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28). “In all things.” I cannot comprehend this, I can only believe in this promise. And in times when I felt that I could bear it no longer another verse came to my mind: “He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.” (1 Cor. 10:13).

Yes, I know God exactly like that, he even gave his son for me, and I know that he did not want my destruction. He does not allow me to be tested beyond my strength, even if I do not feel strong enough to cope. I do not know whether or not I would be strong enough to cope with the trials of others, but I know that the trial which was allowed to happen in my life by my Creator cannot be too much for me. I knew then that I only had to wait. Job, Abraham, Sarah and Joseph, they all had to wait and the Lord led them on. Perhaps they were bigger human beings than me, but their God is my God too.

I have already come to understand a few things in relation to my accident and recovery: God wants me to be alive; he gives me a chance to recover and allows me to serve him as a healthy person. He gives me an opportunity to spend more time with my family (from whom I moved away to Bodrog 12 years ago), he also gives me more time to think. I am experiencing the love of my family, friends, and colleagues through their care, phone calls, letters, gifts, visits and in the school through their work. Now, I do not want to turn back the time. I praise God for testing me, because through this I was able to get to know his amazing care more and also I realised how much I needed him. I would like to get to know him more. I know that the Holy Spirit is the best teacher; he knows exactly what kind of methods are the most beneficial for me. I am thankful that my “further training” is in his hand.

Anita Ficsór

---

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

Menedék Hungarian Forints Account:  
117 220032002222200000000

IBAM electronic form:  
HU72117220032002222200000000

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

Internet: [www.menedekalapitvany.hu](http://www.menedekalapitvany.hu)

Bodrog: 7439 Bodrog, Kossuth u. 155

Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Szegedi u. 11.