



**2/2008**

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

With Christian love I greet you from Bodrog, on behalf of the Menedék team. With 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.

Part of my work is to keep in touch with the friends of Menedék. If you want to receive this newsletter in the future, please let me know. You can send me an email on [selmecziles@gmail.com](mailto:selmecziles@gmail.com) or a letter to the foundation's address: Menedék Alapítvány

Selmeczi Ottilia  
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Hungary

**“BE STRONG AND  
VERY COURAGEOUS!”**

After the fall worries and fears are part of our daily life. Our God knows this very well and he knows how much we need encouragement. When the Lord Jesus was on earth he not only saw but also experienced the power of fear in the Garden of Gethsemane. I am very thankful



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

May God bless you and keep you.

Yours in Him, Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi

for his understanding, love and encouragement we can read about in the Bible. His encouragements have purpose in our lives. We not only receive comfort and strength from them but also they help the hope we have to testify Christ, so they may turn into blessings for others.

**We need courage to keep going in difficult situations.** Each day, in each hour you must hold on. Many experience this in their marriage: some live with a non Christian spouse, or with an alcoholic, some have to look after a very ill wife/husband. There are families where a child is very ill. These situations require a long burning courage, where love and hope must be present each and every day. Our heavenly Father knows this very well and he says. *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* The Bible tells us to encourage each other (Hebrews 3:13), to comfort each other (1Thess. 4:18, 5:1) and to carry each others’ burden (Gal. 6:2). So do not just stand there - to feel sorry is not enough. But I can pray (even together with my brother/sister) I can give a phone call, I can send a card and give practical help.

**We need strength and courage when we “struggle” with ourselves.** When we feel that we are not good enough yet we want to be good. I can see that there are times when it is difficult to serve God because we feel unsuitable. Certainly it is more difficult to be productive with 2 talents than with 5. Good news that God accepts the things from me that he entrusted me. Our abilities to achieve are different from each other. There are people who are able to carry as much as a Mercedes lorry. Others like a Mini Morris. . *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul testifies to his weakness and renewing power of God’s grace. We know that Timothy was weak and sickly yet a dear tool in God’s hand.

**We need courage to accept God’s will in dignity and peace.** All of us will face death one day, but before that there will be things to face: illness, tragedy in the family, with giant “WHYS??”. We need courage when we are disappointed with God, when the answer to our prayers is “no”. As Joseph’s fiancée, Mary accepted God’s will with courage and peace when she was visited by the angel. Imagine! All her plans turned upside down. She had conceived by the Holy Spirit and it meant shame, to be outcast from the society. She gives birth, buries her husband, and lets Jesus leave from home to fulfil his mission. Years later the same child

suffers and dies on the cross before her eyes. We see the same in Jesus’ life: he took the Father’s will with courage. He left glory, became man, and he did not have a place to sleep. He was despised and the religious leaders wanted to kill him. In the Garden of Gethsemane he sweated blood and took the suffering and the cross. *“Be strong and courageous.”* My brother if it is difficult to accept the will of God in your life now. *Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*



**We need Christian courage to go against the stream.** Today post-modern society is about egoism. Advertisements shower the world’s expectations on us. *But there is always a narrow road in the middle of the wide one. This road goes against the stream.* In our everyday life we need courage to testify Christ by our speech, deeds and thoughts. This is true for every Christian, especially for the young people. Christian teenagers are under a great pressure. They need to take courage to say “no” to sex before marriage, to drugs and alcohol, stealing, lies etc. We need courage to confess our sins and to hang on to the Word of God in this corrupt world. *“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”*

**I need courage to be generous with God.** The woman who washed Jesus’ feet demonstrated this kind of courage (Lk. 7: 36-50) when she poured out a year’s wage worth of oil. Jesus Christ himself testifies this courage as he made himself nothing and took the very nature of a servant (Phil.2). I need courage to give my life to the Lord. If I want to walk on water I must get

out of the boat. Peter had great faith and a great courage at the same time. We know from the Gospels that even though he was a fisherman he feared great storms, yet Jesus helped him and encouraged him. *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.* God wants me to be generous with him. No matter if I am strong, or weak, if I am young or old. As I am writing this article several Christian friends come into my mind: some in wheelchairs, some as deaf, there are some as pastors, others parent children or look after the ill, some live among the homeless, others write books, play music. Some are young and some are over seventy, but all of them serve the Lord. I would like to be the same; I want to serve my Lord as long as I live.

God wants us to live in happiness serving him in joy. We need to find balance. But there are times when God asks us to be very courageous and strong just like he commanded Joshua before entering Canaan. The Holy Spirit and the hope we have inside gives us joy in trials. We receive encouragement from the Bible and from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One day we won't need to be courageous and have any encouragements. Then we will stand before the Lamb in joy and happiness. He will call his own: *“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”* Still then, whatever situation we are in, the Lord tells us: *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

*Ottília Selmeczi*

## THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

### Budapest

#### *The Mother's Shelter*

**We are thankful for our team of workers.** At present there are 2 family counsellors and 4 nannies who work hard, often in challenging situations. We have reworded our aim, which is to help the mothers and their children, so that we

might be able to parent the children with kindness and with success leaving them under the parental care.



One of our special tools is love that we use as an opportunity provided by God and not as a forced method. We do not mind if the kids or the mother under our care take advantage of us, for us it is important to provide a progress for the family. There are 9 mothers with 21 children in the Shelter. There is a family where 6 children enjoy the care of their mother (with our support). She is expecting the 7<sup>th</sup> baby now. Many times we say that the child, life itself is a gift from God. We celebrate birthdays and several holidays (e.g.: Santa Claus Day, Christmas, New Year's Eve) but we also celebrate when a family gets back to normal and is able to move to a new home.



Gift aids such as clothes and other items mean great help. “Szilvi” and “Sára” often come and visit us: playing with our children, talking to the

mums. We are thankful for their service. They are called by God to help us. We received gifts from different charities, such as the Morning Star Foundation, and we received shoe box gifts from Budafok Baptist Church. This is how it is possible for us to help those who are in great need. We help them in a loving atmosphere, advising and counselling them, providing them a home, food, clothes, helping them in shopping, finding them employment, making both ends meet, cooking, helping their children to attend school and in many other ways in order to make the family feel secure.

**Our workers are:** Ágnes Böszörményi, Márta Budavári – nannies; Erika Horváth, Andrea Kis – family counsellors; Mrs. Marianna Molnár – nanny; Tivadar Molnár – caretaker

Géza Huszár

### *The Men's Shelter*

**We had a blessed Christmas Eve with the men who are under our care.** After having the Christmas dinner we had an opportunity to talk about the real meaning of that holiday: why it is more than a birth of a child, we examined the Old Testament prophecies; we examined the question why Jesus came to Earth: that we may get to know the Father, and be reconciled with Him. Everyone received a small gift from Menedék with a Bible verse. It was a special time, for many it was the only gift they received and the only time they were able to share Christmas with others. **Let us give thanks for this occasion and let us pray for the sown seed.**



**The renovation work:** Thanks to voluntary offers the interview/living room will be

completed soon. We welcome further offerings for putting in the kitchen and the bathroom and also for a room to place the social worker who is on night duty. We want to renovate the rooms and the bathroom downstairs. **Please pray for finance to carry out the works and for construction work to be continued.**

After coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost Peter addressed the crowd in Jerusalem. When the people heard Peter they were cut to the heart and asked. “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts. 2: 37). The men who arrive at the Men’s Shelter could ask the same question about their situations: What shall we do with our damaged lives, damaged relationships, with the fact of being in a homeless shelter? Peter talked about our personal relationship with our Saviour, Jesus Christ but we can address the same question about our physical life. Every resident has an opportunity to restart his life. Not only from the physical but also from the spiritual point of view. We have many new faces in the shelter. Let me share some situations they are in:

A. O. came from the countryside to the Shelter not knowing Budapest at all. He was determined to find a job in the unknown city and as a result he found employment and his employer covers his travelling expenses to get to work.

Z.D. gave up smoking by himself two months ago.

We discovered that F.V. is able to memorise very long poems by heart we would like him to be developed in this area so we support him as we can.

### **Some prayer requests:**

- \* We ask you to pray for the men under our care as they seek solutions for their lives and for their future.
- \* That the Lord may lead people in need to the Shelter who want to be healed.
- \* That we may have peace and good atmosphere in the Shelter
- \* That the men may be open for the Gospel.
- \* For spiritual unity among the workers.
- \* That the Lord may lead the men under our care in life and for employment for them.
- \* Gábor Liptai and László Vasas

## Office

On 16<sup>th</sup> February Johanna Bokros was born. May God bless and keep the whole family.



## Bodrog

**In January we held a week of prayer** together with the Catholic and the Presbyterian churches from nearby. Also, we had an Alliance week together with the Methodists and the Pentecostal churches.

**Our school was visited** by a branch of Christian teachers from Vésztő, where they run a Christian primary school under a foundation.

After months of inspection by the authorities our **music school** received the excellent category. We are very thankful for that. . At present the brass instruments are taught by a supply teacher. **We are seeking a full time Christian brass instrument teacher. Please pray and ask God to send the right person to Bodrog.**

**On 24<sup>th</sup> February 7 young people were baptised in our church.**



(Gergő Paróczi, Salamon Heizer, Sámuel Dan, Debóra Dan, Szellő Patona, Dániel Standi and

Nimród Selmeczi). May God bless them as they follow the Lord Jesus.

**5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April a group (6 students and 2 teachers) visited our school from Portland Christian School in Louisville, Kentucky.**



**“Enter his gates with thanksgiving in your heart”**

After the opening celebration our church has been holding their services in the new church hall.



In January and in February the school was moved. Finally on 28<sup>th</sup> we hold a short fare well service in the old school building that we rented from the local government of Bodrog for 12 years. The workers of the local government were present at the celebration. During the years they not only tolerated, but enjoyed the noise of our children and they usually attended our school programmes. At the end of our celebration the pupils of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade took the Hungarian and the Menedék flag, closed and took the open Bible from the hall and the whole school marched through the village to the new school building. During the following day with the help of the parents we moved the school and decorated the new classrooms and the corridors so we were ready for Monday morning. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March we gave thanks to God together with the members of our church for the many people who were helping to complete the school part of the

BOK building by their love, by their giving and voluntary work. The flags and the Bible were put into their new place in the hall. We sang our national prayer, the Hungarian anthem and the children crossed the doors of their new school by singing: "For the Lord is good, he is merciful and faithful forever".



**The building project of the Refuge Foundation.**

**We are very thankful to God for the improvement of the building work and for those who support our project by any means. At present the work is carried out at the kindergarten site.** The dividing walls are made and the electrical work is being carried out.

### **A new school bus is needed**

Due to the strict new laws regarding transport we won't be able to use the Iveco as a school bus from next year. It means that **we urgently need to change our school bus.** We would like to buy a bus with 30-35 seats. We ask you to pray for God's provision. If you wish to contribute to this great need of ours, please send your gift to the Menedék Account with a note "for school bus."



### **A sports field is being born**

Our school has to have a sports field and changing rooms for the PE lessons as well. The

cost of a concrete one is approximately 1,7 millions of Hungarian Forints. Please pray for the financial provision to cover this cost. If you want to support this project you can do so by sending your gift to the Menedék Account with a note "for the sports field in Bodrog".



**The summer activities are being planned now.** We ask you to pray for the preparations.

The fixed dates are:

5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July: A team from Greenwell Street and Regent Street Presbyterian Churches are coming to help with the building work and with the preparation for the music camp.

13<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> July Christian music camp

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August English and Bible Club with a help of a team from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church.

Anita Ficsór

### **Appeal invitation**

In our primary school we would like a Christian native English speaker who can dedicate a few months or a school year to serve among us as a voluntary classroom assistant together with our English teacher. The application has to be sent to Rev. Zsolt Paróczy, the director of the educational institute via [Ottília Selmeczi at selmeczileso@gmail.com](mailto:ottilia.selmeczi@selmeczileso@gmail.com) or by post at

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## Visitation in Fishingen

Fishingen is a beautiful Swiss village in a valley of the Alps. During the Easter holiday I visited my friend Julianna and her husband, Markus. She was a teacher in our school for 6 years. It was a great joy to see how Julianna settled into her new home and how they live as a couple in a fellowship of love with each other and with God. In a long term they are preparing for mission work in abroad meanwhile they reach out among the local people. Julianna studies to be a nurse in a home for the elderly.



During my short visit we encouraged each other in our faith and we were strengthened by the fact that we are in our place if we depend on God alone and serve him under his protection.

Anita Ficsór

## Kiskunmajsa

**The Menedékváros (Refuge Town) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday last year.** There are people who arrive here as their last chance and some are escaping from sinking. Most people are escaping from the abuse present inside the family. We do not want the children to be taken away from the family but we want to give a chance to restart for the parent in crisis. At present there are 40 residents more than 50% of them are children. People arrive here from all over the country. The local Baptist Church has a great role in supporting and helping- we are a Christian institute. There are lives changing here for ever. Here we share the story of Katalin Réti.

“My life was hell. My husband often beat me, took away my money and brought prostitutes

into our flat. I had to make the bed for them and sometimes he forced me to go to bed with them. I wanted to commit suicide. I took our little daughter and went to the railways but I was recognised by a friend who called my sister. Finally, by the help of the family support office I arrived to the Refuge Town” – says Katalin. She has found a spiritual support in the church here and met her new husband, Géza Réti. He arrived here homeless, coming out from prison. He says: “I have been in prison for year. Again and again I ended up in prison for stealing and fighting. When I was in jail, in Vác, I heard about Jesus and I was converted. “ Katalin and Géza got married in 2004 in the Refuge Town and they have a child now. At present they live in their own house in the town of Kiskunmajsa but they hope to move back to the Refuge Town soon and Katalin hopes to work as a social carer in the shelter for the homeless.



**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): OTPVHUHB

### **Bank address:**

OTP Bank Rt

1221 Budapest

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