

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

Nahum 1:7

# MENEDÉK



## News letter

3/2008

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

I greet you with Christian love from Bodrog,  
on behalf of the Menedék team. We wish you a  
blessed Christmas time and New Year. 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@gmail.com](mailto:selmecziles@gmail.com) or a letter to  
the foundation's address:

Menedék Alapítvány  
Selmeczi Ottilia  
7439 Bodrog  
Kossuth u. 155.  
Hungary

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

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

Mrs. Ottilia Selmeczi

### "Maturity"

The parents rejoice because their child has  
come of age and they can see it. They are proud  
of him and thankful for him. It is a joy especially  
when the grown up child has understood nearly  
everything from his parents' life, from their  
standards, aims and behaviours. The time of  
stubbornness, the time of playfulness and  
extravagance and the time of suspicion has gone,  
it is time to make decisions independently with  
responsibility. It is time to show how he can  
manage in life. To be mature is good, because it  
is the beginning of an important chapter of life.

There are several parents in Bodrog who can  
say: "Already the child, who was born here has

grown up, left the family and started an  
independent life." Time flies fast and again and  
again a new wedding is a sign that the mission of  
Menedék started in Bodrog more than 20 years  
ago.

The relationship between the Menedék  
Foundation and its institutes in Bodrog is similar  
to a good parent who prepares his child for  
maturity. The distance helped this process  
because the 167 kms are 167 kms, and the  
travelling expenses grew. For years our aim was  
to help to build up independence for the areas of  
our ministry. Years ago we opened a branch



bank account in Kaposvár,  
which was a signpost for  
financial maturity in  
Bodrog, but we were not  
able to move the  
administration, the  
bookkeeping and the  
employment issues due to  
the necessity of keeping our  
expenses low.

The financial support did not grow at the  
same rate as our expenses, so the education in  
Bodrog and the social sector were often loss  
making, although our workers dedicated  
themselves to education and helping. They had  
exemplary careful management and self-restraint  
but worked in unity and with Christ-like  
patience. More than that, with their superhuman  
efforts and offerings, with gifts, with support  
from Northern Ireland the building project of the  
BOK( Bodrog Educational Centre) could be  
accelerated. As the work was carried out this  
maturity was tested, the parents "only" had to  
fulfil the child's request, so the joy of blessings  
can come as new phases of the building are to be  
opened and used.

In 2007 the advisory board decided that to  
give the 25% of its ownership in the new Bodrog

Educational Centre to the “Lord is good” Baptist Church, who became a legal entity to strengthen the tight cooperation with the church. The worship hall of the church is in the new building. It helps to maintain the building and helps the benefits and the usage of the building.

Because today in Hungary church run institutes receive far more normative support than the civil institutes, the time to take a step to stop the deficit had come, so we have given the management duties for 5 years to the “Lord is good” Bodrog Baptist Church, the church now having the legal responsibility. This time can be extended if the independence and the circumstances fulfil our expectations. The Hungarian Baptist Church supported our aim, which made the management changing quick and smooth. It took place in the autumn. The workers and the children did not notice the change.

The Menedék (Refuge) Foundation gave the management to the church in Bodrog under the condition that the aims of the Foundation must be carried out in the institutes in Bodrog and in the properties still owned by the Foundation. The Foundation cares, supports and helps to fulfil its aims in Bodrog, i.e.: fostering parents could join us, that children under state care may receive Christian families, receiving valuable parenting and education, and protection, so they may become adults and could sent to life with a hopeful joy, that they may become independent, active and responsible grown ups.

With great thanksgiving we think of those who helped the work in Bodrog came of age as they served under Menedék. First of all I think of Anna and Kornél Heizer who were pioneers of the ministry there. They started to fulfil the aims of the founders and then I think of the first families following them, who too, with grown up children enrich the fellowship there: the Dans, the Fodors, the Madarászs, the Erdeis the Paróczis, the Selmeczis to point out the married couples, although many of the single workers could be listed here. We are thankful for the faithful work of Zsolt Paróczi, who is the pastor of the church and the director of the educational institutes and with his wife they are fostering parents for years too. We hope and trust that our fellow workers, tested for maturity, may also reach maturity in organisation. Their future is filled with hope as they obey God, following Him every work.

Bodrog has become a high tower in front of our eyes in the clouds of testimonies. May this

tower talk about the deeds of God. It will be steadfast in storms if its anchors are not fixed to itself, but will continue to be cared for by many from a distance.

First of all we give thanks to God, to Him glory is given for everything that is happening in Bodrog. It is our wish that all that is good will be continued and that everything that happens happens by God’s will, for his glory. If there is Someone who can care for it, it is the One, who has started the good work.

The Lord is good. He is the refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

Zoltán Kovács, the Chairman of the advisory board, a founder

## THE NEWS OF THE MENEDÉK MINISTRIES

### BUDAPEST

#### *The Mother’s Shelter*



We are thankful for our team of workers. There are 9 mothers with 21 children in the Shelter with 8 full time workers. It is a privilege to have volunteers or/and students who do their practical term with us. We greatly rejoiced when Mrs. Andrea Herman applied to help us. Years ago she used to live here. Her life got back to normal; she has joined to a free Christian church. God has given her a desire to come back with some folk from her church, and be a living testimony for the mothers. She can share about the power and the love of God, which changes lives, giving a solution and peace.

We got to know several families during this year. Some stayed here just for a short time; some are difficult to help because they do not see the need for counselling. It is a joy to see mothers who were able find employment and are able to work and to save some money to rent a flat.

We are especially thankful for those who are open to receive the Word of God. It is usually the children who come along our Bible

studies so it is a great joy to see the mothers having a desire to join the fellowship.

Several babies were born in our families. Many children were able to attend Christian camps during the summer. They were sponsored by the Budafok Baptist Church, by World of Life in Tóalmás and by the Grain of Wheat Foundation.

In September our fellow worker, Erika Horváth got married to Győző Seres. May God bless them.

At last but not at least we are very thankful for our support. Week after week we got support from known and unknown individuals. We receive clothes, food and several consumer goods. We are thankful for God who looks after the need of the Mother's Shelter.

Mrs. Marianna Molnár

### *The Men's Shelter*

Since 15<sup>th</sup> March **there is a new shelter manager in the Men Shelter, Miss Anna Andrea Kiss.**

**Generally the men try to keep our house rule.** There are some who promise "everything" as we interview them but later they try to find a way out to break the rules and to push the barriers. It is a great challenge to have men with different kinds of addictions. We try our best to help them as they struggle to be free. We have a very good supporting relationship with the Crossroad Mission. Sadly many leave us for they think our restrictions are too strict and the helping relationship is too tight. To get drugs, some try to steal or to exploit their room mates. We try to be alert to recognize these situations and intervene in time.

**It is our great joy that some men attend church regularly;** some have already found their own fellowship.

László Vasas

### *Future filled with hope*

In the mornings I usually listen to the radio. Today a song, called "What a wonderful world"



made me think. How many people would agree with that sentence today, I wonder?

How many people are there who struggle to make both ends meet? How many people were abandoned from birth, whose childhood affects their whole lives? How many made a wrong decision when they chose their spouse? How many chose gangs, bad friends, the street, sin itself? How many people have only one friend, their addiction- alcohol, or drugs?

And how many more questions can I ask? .

I have been working among those who come from these backgrounds for 9 months now in the Men Shelter of the Refuge Foundation. I never thought of working among the homeless- whenever I passed them I used to pity them.

In the shelter I got to know many people with different backgrounds, temperaments and life stories. Each of their past would perfectly explain how on earth they ended up where they are now.

People with a nice family background, who had good education and have a well paid job, lovely children and so on, may easily judge others.

Most of the people who live in the shelter do not have such a background. They themselves could be the cause of their situation. They reached the worst and could not get over it; they even went deeper, losing everything. They could not do anything to stop ruining their lives.

Now they are staying with us and they cannot grasp or do not want (not yet) to accept that they are in a good place here. Do not misunderstand me, I do not mean the conditions of the shelter, neither the workers' team nor the fellowship of the men who live here. I mean the closeness of God. I think that for those who are in such great needs, it is the greatest miracle to listen to the word of God day by day for we know that there are Someone, the only One who can help us, no matter how much we had ruined our lives, how deep we are in sin.

Some times it is said that we cannot say anything new to those who have experienced hell here in earth. Knowing their stories, humanly speaking I may agree. But we cannot believe or cannot make people believe that there is no

solution. Our duty is to stand up not only in our families, in our working place, but also all over the world and to proclaim the Good News. Our duty is to tell to the people that God loves you - even you. Seek the solution with Him. The solution may seem unbelievable, but He is able to help you, He is the only One, who can. We are too small for that, even if we try our best to help.

I believe that the seeds of the Word, which is sown in the Shelter, will bring life and much fruit in many lives. I would like to do my part in helping and to point the way to the One I seek - my gracious heavenly Father.

Miss. Anna Andrea Kiss

### **The joy of the shared work**

After a tiring day it is great to see what was achieved. We experienced this several times in the summer as we worked together to clean and to renovate the yard. It was a great challenge for after the construction work from last year there was a lot of rubbish around, and we wanted to have a nice green spot to relax. We managed to clean the yard and make it green. We have a new fire place now where we can have a barbeque. In the spring we would like to have the street ball equipment out and to have some fruit trees as well as a rock garden.

Gábor Liptai

### **BODROG**

All the areas of the ministry here in Bodrog (fostering care, education and the village assistance service) are good opportunities to reach out to people. We would like to do this ministry in a way which pleases God and we would like to see people get to know God as their personal Saviour as we serve among them. In this we receive lots of spiritual and practical support from different churches. Especially it means a lot to us to keep in touch with them. They are the parents and our visitors from near and far. We are thankful for them, for by them we are



strengthened. The Bloomfield Presbyterian Church support our building project regularly. The Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church in Newtownards invited our pastor and his wife for a long weekend, to take part in a fund raising concert, where they were able to personally talk about our ministry.

**Three young persons came to Bodrog to work here as volunteers.** **Philip Surgenor** from Northern Ireland helps at the building site and also involved in some of the English lessons. **Dénes Molnár** studied at the Music Academy and is a member of the Baptist Church in Tordas. He teaches in the music school and helps at the building site. **Ilona Novák** came from the Baptist Church in Tokod. Due to her degree she helps with the administration and in school in the afternoon. For a short time we had **Laura and Aminta Burgett** with us from the USA. We thank them all for their dedicated work and help.

### ***Kindergarten***

At present there are 2 kindergarten teachers and a nanny working with 28 children. Our great thanksgiving to God that the work at the kindergarten site in the BOK building is nearly finished. We would love to move the kindergarten in this school year.

### ***Primary School***

- With the help of a team from Bloomfield Presbyterian and Mary Fisher from St Mark's in Tunbridge Wells we held our **English and Bible Club in August**. It was a joyful and useful week with many blessings.

- We started this school year with **72 pupils**. More than the half of our pupils comes from other villages or from the town. At present we transfer those by 3 min buses and they are not enough. There are several families who are interested in our education institutes

if there was a solution for the travelling to Bodrog. **We are in a great need of a bigger 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 with a note "for school bus."

**In the BOK building the construction work** of the classrooms and the offices carries on above the kindergarten. At present walls and preparation for the electrical work are being made. By the end of this school year we want to finish the school phase in the south wing of the building. In the middle of November a team of 13 arrived from Bloomfield to help in the work. **Please pray** that the necessary resources will become available to continue the building project and for the necessary operation permits for the kindergarten and for the kitchen from the authorities.

### *Music School*

**Our music camp was held** here in Bodrog with approximately 80 kids and young people. We are very thankful for the Christian music teachers who taught there and took part in the spiritual fellowship. We received great practical help from the Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland to prepare for that week.

**We received support to renew our brass instruments from Bloomfield.**

We had our Advent and Christmas concert where the children could play their instruments, showing the fruits of their work.

**We urgently need a violin teacher. Please pray for that need.**

### *NECSAK -*

#### *The Network of Fostering Families*

**We are thankful for the smooth management changing.** Due to the increasing administration Mrs. Ágnes Madarász became a full time worker, she is also a consultant in the fostering network.

**Many children who grew up in our families have reached adulthood.** We pray a lot for them, for their future as they start independent life and their own family life.

**The Network of Fostering Families is to be expanded nationwide.** There are two families to join the network where they live. Please pray for them and for the children they are going to foster. We trust that the children will get to know God, who loves them in their new homes.

Due to the management changes the amount of administration work has grown. To help with this **Tibor Dan has joined the office work.** Tibor, together his wife, Márti has been a fostering parents for years here in Bodrog.

During the year we were able rejoice on **three weddings** with the young people who grew up here and started their family life. On 30<sup>th</sup> August **Noémi Madarász and Tibor Gál**, on 11<sup>th</sup> October **Iona Orsós and Áron Horváth**, on 15<sup>th</sup> November **Terézia Németh and János László** got married. May God bless these young families.



On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 **Hajna Juhász was born.**



May God bless the family.

Anita Ficsór

### THE NEW BANK ACCOUNT FOR BODROG

Due to the changes in the management there is a bank account for "The Lord is good" Baptist Church in Bodrog where you can send your gifts directly to our ministry.

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

THE NAME OF THE ACCOUNT:  
**„JÓ AZ ÚR” BODROGI BAPTISTA  
 GYŰLEKEZET**  
 THE ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
**11743002-20178141**  
 INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNT NUMBER (IBAN):  
**HU75 1174 3002 2017 8141 0000 0000**

BANK:  
**OTP BANK NYRT. D-DUNÁNTULI RÉGIÓ  
 7400 KAPOSVÁR SZÉCHENYI TÉR 2.**

OTP BANK SWIFT KÓD:  
**OTPVHUHB**

## KISKUNMAJSA

**It is a great joy that from 1<sup>st</sup> September we have received the operation permit for undetermined time to accommodate single homeless people. It is a real answer to many prayers.**

In September we received the following letter from someone who used to be under our care in Kiskunmajsa.

*Dear Géza,*

*“On the occasion of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary we want to thank you. Firstly, because I met the Lord. I am thankful for the people who were given to me by God, so that I may belong to him. I also want to thank you for taking me in 10 years ago, helping me to get out of my difficulties. I give thanks for the Refuge Town, for we found a home there. Thank you for helping me in parenting. May the Lord Jesus bless you and your family and all the workers who work hard to help lifting people up from their troubles. Please, take our thanksgiving with much love. With love, the Tejfel Family”*



### **Temporary Home for Homeless Families**

“O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.” (Psalm 65:2). **We have experienced the truth of this verse many times. It is great to know that God listens to prayer and we can see his answers.**

Summer was full of activities. The children attended two camps, **sponsored by Word of Life and Eastern European Mission.** We organized the Children’s Day. **This was attended by the families. We had lots of activities and competitions. It was a blessed and joyful day.**

**We would like to know the children who live here in the care of God. We pray a lot for them.** On Fridays we started a club for

teenagers. **We prepared for Christmas with carol singing and with a drama.**

In November our staff attended a three day long conference for temporary Homes for homeless families in Mosonmagyaróvár. **We learned a lot. During one seminar the speaker shared his experiences. He told that as she visited these homes all over Hungary she had realised that Christian people get better results in their work than others and their belief and life gives extra to their work. It was so encouraging to listen to her.**

**We made a calendar for 2009 with the drawings of the children. There is a drawing and a Bible verse on each page.**

**We are in need of dedicated Christian social workers – we need a nanny and a family counsellor. Please pray for God’s provision and call.**

György Antal

**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): OTPVHUBB

Bank address:

OTP Bank Rt.

1221 Budapest

Kossuth L.u.31.

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Kiskunmajsa: 6120 Kiskunmajsa, Szegedi u. 11.