



# Living Hope Foundation

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**John 13:1.** “[Jesus] [h]aving loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” (John 13:1). In Mark 10:29, Jesus says: “ ‘Truly I tell you,’ ” Jesus replied, ‘no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.’ ”

What John in his Gospel writes about God’s, about Jesus’s, love is palpable reality today in following Him. I am growing old, so I many times think back to several years, how much I/we have received from God: brothers and sisters with caring love, not necessarily properties, yet open and receiving hearts... Wherever I have been in my country or abroad, I found everywhere brethren who opened even their homes for us. In the past weeks, we received several requests from families, from ill people; they needed hospital beds, wheelchairs, commodes, and medical devices. There is almost always one we can offer. Where are they from? I was thinking. Many years ago, we received several medical devices from our French brethren. How is it possible that we can still help with them, using them? Those who had been given these devices gave them back to us when they no longer needed them; this way they can be great help for others again. Isn’t it God’s love lasting to the end through active, helping brethren and friends? God loves us today and to the end. For this love, my heart is full of gratitude.

## THE PAST - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

On 18 December, we had the opportunity to organise a Christmas celebration for children in the local Bárdos Lajos Primary School. Similarly to each previous year, our young people performed a play whose preparation had already been a great experience. Following the COVID pandemic, we began preparations uncertainly, not knowing if anyone would come along. Last year’s experiences, however, encouraged us. We are very grateful for the school auditorium which we filled with children and their parents. We are grateful to the principal for this.



## PRISON MISSION

In Baracska, in the morning of 24 December, we celebrated Jesus’s birth with a great number of inmates, proclaiming the wonderful message of salvation with God’s Word, testimonies, and songs. We may continue our ministry in prisons, though within limited framework and in an intermittent manner.

On 12 September, there will be a conference organised by the Hungarian Prison Service again, where we hope a more intensive cooperation may begin concerning the work in prisons anew.



## FRENCH RELIEF

At the end of March, our French brothers, Daniel Suret and Frédérique Brun (directors of Partage Plus), sent a truckful of donation, covering the whole cost of this transport. How many people are happy about the many and many kinds of clothes, household appliances, furniture, and tools! We are grateful to God and them. We are expecting the next truck containing thirty-four pallets of donation.

## THE FAMILY

István must often go to the doctor because of his health issues. He took part in a three-week rehabilitation to gain strength. Rózsika has been waiting for a knee surgery for long weeks. Bea’s older daughter, Móni, starts the second grade in primary school; her younger daughter, Fanni, starts the kindergarten. Bea has become a certified kindergarten nanny; she would like to have a

job, earn money, since her husband, Laci, has again ended up in a drug rehabilitation centre. Zoli J. has found a job in a junkyard. We have two new residents: Attila J. has come adventurously from the complete unknown, János L. left the prison in Baracska. There are others too; they would like to move in to us. The R. family: Nori, Vali, and Liza have moved to Budapest. Their daughter, Liza, successfully graduated from high school, she goes on to study at a university where she has been admitted to.

A devoted married couple or family would be needed in the house, who would strengthen the huge family with their presence and Christian mentality.

### SUB-CARPATHIAN CHILDREN'S CAMP, PROVISION OF RELIEF

Following Christmas, another transport went to Sub-Carpathia in spring and at the beginning of June for the preparation of the last children's camp. We bought food in Sub-Carpathia since it is cheaper there. From CEF Hungary, we got backpacks, the Gospel of John booklets, pens, a booklet titled *Do you Wonder Why?*, and gospel bracelets from Paul for the children.

In the camp, groups were made of the children wearing tee shirts with different colours with the writing: For Jesus Roma Camp 2023. The cost of tee shirts was high, but there were generous donating people who enabled children to receive one tee shirt for the whole week. This way they could take off their dirty, tattered old clothes, and get a new one. According to people there, it changed even their behaviour.

The children's camp was organised on a camp site in a village called Frigyesfalva, beside Mukachevo, with altogether 103 children, but about fifty older kids also came along. There were thirty helpers doing activities with them. Even adults and people working in the canteen wished to participate in the programmes; they played together with the children. They have never participated in anything like this.

We are grateful because despite several obstacles, this unique event could be realised; many participants accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Let us pray for them that they remain on His way; let them have helpers who can lead them. It is still a problem that many of them are illiterate, however, they learn quickly after listening. Some kind of education would be useful for them. The overall cost of the camp was nearly three million HUF, but we are grateful to God who encouraging many people to donate provided for all the money, tools, and helpers. Thanks to those having given donations and to the helpers.

Our task is still to collect donations and prepare transports. Our brother, Attila Boldizsár, coordinating, we continually do this work. The transports contain, as before, clothing, kitchen utensils, tables, food, gospel tracts, prams, blankets, and washing powders – everything coming together from donations of brothers, private persons, Brethren churches in France, and Christian publishing houses. Along with transports and purchases, it is our practice and plan further on to build brotherly relationships when visiting churches, and help spreading the Gospel through



evangelisations.



It is a great pleasure to see that our brother, József Kulcsár, in Berehove continues with his whole family the ministry in full time towards people living poverty, transporting and distributing relief further on, and last but not least, proclaiming the Gospel, visiting and serving new congregations. As we see, he should be financially supported as well every month to be able to carry on his ministry. We believe that it is from God, and He will prepare everything for it.

### **Hungarian Clothes Distribution, Provision of Relief**

Beside the circumstances in Ukraine, we see that more and more people get into difficult financial situations in Hungary. Naturally, on account of greater need, we continue the distribution of second-hand clothes. From the grace of God, our warehouse contains many different donations, and thanks to the willingness and hard work of Marcsi and Margit first of all, many people find solutions for their needs of clothing, furniture, etc. during appointments or regularly announced distributions.



### **Church Camp**

We are glad that God blesses our congregation as well. We could spend a week together this year also, in the beautiful Danube Bend. We were fewer in number than before but in peace and quiet. The title of our topic was *Our life in Parables*; in the evening we discussed what we heard in the morning. Although the bed and devices for my mother-in-law had to be taken with a trailer so that we can bring her with us, she enjoyed herself despite the new environment. Many people talked to her, this way she was not bored. Unfortunately, we were infected with a virus, but thank God, we quickly got rid of it.



### **PACKING THE JOURNAL (VETÉS ÉS ARATÁS) SOWING AND REAPING**

Workers of the Hungarian Evangelical Publisher and Literature Mission edit the journal *Vetés és Aratás* and publish it in 37 500 copies. This journal is a free publication for our Hungarian brethren in Hungary and in about thirty countries worldwide. From this journal, about thirty thousand copies in different quantities must be packed to be posted on each occasion. Our local congregation, along with residents of the foundation, has been regularly participating in this work for years.



These occasions are always blessed periods, despite us feeling very tired, though we “only” work together, but for the Lord. We are normally few in numbers during summer packings because of the holiday season, now again only seventeen of us started, but as the work went on, the number of us invisibly grew, this way, about fifty of us finished packing within three and a half hours. May God bless the readers.



### **ENERGY CRISIS, POWER, GAS, PELLETS**

We are constantly struggling with the Hungarian power company (MVM). Despite being social workers for public benefit, entitled to a discount price according to the relevant legislation in force, we have to pay the expensive gas price of major consumers. We are looking for possibilities among the calculations of past months how we could live on lower expenditure, how the house could be maintained on lower expenses. We continue our struggle to get into the relevant legislative category in which our gas prices can decrease. We keep writing emails to the power company not only because of our wrong category, but also because of wrong bills, double bills, misregistered gas meter readings. As we experienced last year, cooking is cheaper when we use propane-butane gas receptacles. Unfortunately a gas boiler cannot be used with this method, so heating will be done during next winter again with our pellet boiler. This way, we expect that the expense of heating and warm water during the heating season, using pellet, will be between 1.1 and 1.6 million HUF. This cost was 180 000 HUF monthly last winter, however, the price of wood pellets has also considerably increased due to the greater demand. Propane-butane gas receptacles used for cooking cost about 7



000 or 8 000 HUF bimonthly, and their price also increases. We realised that out of the heating season, warm water provision costs less if we use gas than when we use wood pellets. Advantages of using gas:

There is no soot, no need to work with the boiler several times a day, there is no breakdown because of blockage. Naturally, we made calculations as to the use of electric power as well, but its cost is even higher than that of the gas. American brethren provided donation for us, from which we could order 14 tons of pellets that we even received at the beginning of August. A truck brought it from Ukraine.



We are thinking about being even more energy-efficient since our electric power consumption in winter is 900-1000 kWh, which is quite a lot. If we could have solar panels installed, first, unfortunately, we would have to repair the roof as the slate of it is old, so on it solar cells cannot be fixed. This is another considerable sum.

## OUR VEHICLES

We make much use of our Dodge. Its great advantage is that we do not need to take out and put in the seats since they can sink within the car, this way there is room for many things (e.g., a hospital bed with all its accessories) when we bring or take donations and relief. It is also important that it has a tow hitch fixed on it, and our trailer may carry one ton of load. It is also a great help for the transports to Sub-Carpathia.

Our Toyota Yaris still functions thanks to the second-hand engine it has been fitted with, but mechanics are not hopeful as to this old car, so we would like to have a newer one.

Our Toyota Hiace microbus is repaired at last, though there are one or two things left to be repaired in it; probably, we cannot plan with it either in the long run.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Vicus's mother can no longer stand on her own, so she needs assistance. Though because of Alzheimer disease and dementia, she is often completely disoriented, does not recognise people, does not know where she is, and talks to imagined people, still, sometimes during church services, she also prays, and it is quite interesting that she makes herself understood clearly and well.

My brother, János Szabó (62 years old), did not get better in March, eventually he passed away to his Heavenly Father.



Thank you for praying for us until now; we ask you to do it in the future, too, since we need it very much.

We thank you your financial support as well.

József Szabó and Éva (Jóska & Vicus)