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Christian Gipsymission Foundation

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## My most precious treasure – thoughts on Easter

Approaching Easter, as normally, due to the usual treadmill syndrome I am getting so close to the passion week when my head perks up and I begin to think over what we celebrate now. For this reason I decided to start fasting as Catholics do, to be able to concentrate and wait for the Celebration of Resurrection. I do not want to swim with the tide—the tide of everyday life that deters my attention from the most important treasure.

There is no resurrection without the death on the cross. There is no death on the cross without Good Thursday, when the Lord put down His life into the hands of the Creator. All these events cumulated in the most wonderful morning of the human history: the resurrection of Christ, the first fruits comes alive. The perfect winner! The resurrected! The result is the most important milestone of the Christian faith, which I get for free as a present. What are my words in return? Do we have any words for this act? I do not know any. In general there is price for everything in the everyday life. If there is not, it can be calculated. But this treasure is not for sale, you cannot pay or serve for it. Cannot give anything in return. The treasure of my resurrection, which I feel deep inside of me, was given for free. There is only one work for this: Grace. GRACE, given or not given by the privilege of God. This grace works wonder that simply comes to my heart, He, the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Without Him there is no resurrection. He guarantees my resurrection. He is the deposit, as a present by Christ, a DEPOSIT given by grace, of my resurrection (2 Corinthians 1:22).

Easter is always an important holiday for me. It is the holiday of my future, my faith, the basis of my life. Without it our religious life is only a social club meeting, lacking any power, impersonal and groundless. Paul is speaking about it when he rejects having hope only in the earthly life (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Who is present in me, deep in my soul? The same spirit that made my Lord, Jesus Christ resurrect at dawn at Easter. He is the DEPOSIT, the safe treasure of my resurrection and eternal life. My own! Can you get any more in your earthly life? I am sure that you cannot. It is my most precious treasure, my most feared and supreme treasure. It has no price, you cannot work for it, you cannot get it even for your life, because it is not for sale. You can get it only as a present, by His GRACE.



When approaching Easter, I want to be sure that my Treasure is safe in me. A Bible verse is accompanying me from my childhood in the many roads of my life: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30). Is there any more important thing that can come before it or rewrite it? No, and I am writing with fear: there will never be! I wish a happy, real, personal Easter!

Dániel Kőszegi, founder of the foundation



## Winter events in the mission

### Christmas presents in Abafája (Apalina)



I would like to say thanks for those plenty of physical and spiritual blessings we were provided by God last year through your organization. I would like to highlight the shoebox presents that were given to Roma children on Christmas.

Gipsy children do always wait for Christmas very enthusiastically. The days of preparation are so different from the other days, as they have to visit church more frequently, they memorize poems and different roles in plays, and also because they know they will get a present soon. For many children this is the only present they get in the whole year. I can always see that the number of children coming to church is increasing in December, but, still, I cannot frown at them: I am delighted when I see such an honest and innocent wish to get a present.

In 2014 750 children received a shoebox present due to Christian Gipsymission Foundation in the district I am ministering. Most of the children live in Apalina, where we could distribute more than 400 presents. We held special evangelism services for children, and they were also ministering on the first day of Christmas in front of their parents and a jam-packed church. It was such a pleasure to see the children's honest gratitude and joy when getting the packages. The pictures describe their feelings, too.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the sisters and brothers abroad, who contributed to the preparation, transportation and the distribution of these gifts. May He bless you and reward you with a heavenly prize for your ministry.

With brotherly love: pastor Attila Tóth

### Christmas in Marossárpatak (Glodeni, Romania)

"...Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed" Proverbs 11:25 - it is such a pleasure to experience while ministering. Let the following lines about the Christmas ministry of the children in Marossárpatak (Glodeni) encourage us to minister joyfully.

"It was a great joy for the children to see that while they are doing ministry, they are getting plentiful blessings from God. The children from Marossárpatak (Glodeni) went to minister at a retirement home at Christmas. In this retirement home there are old people who need a smile or a kind word. Children were happy to visit them and minister towards them with their pure heart.

Glory to God for that He blesses everyone who cries for help, He pours His blessings and restores their life to be fruitful. It was so pleasing to see how delighted the 63 children were when they got the shoebox presents. Their heart got filled up with gratitude, because they do not get too much at home, sometimes nothing. There are also orphaned children among them, who could see that God loves them, too, He wants to do good things in their lives and help them.

Thank you for the presents, and may God bless you abundantly!

Attila Moldován and the children in Glodeni"

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that He blesses  
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to be fruitful."**

## **Christmas in Gernyeszeg (Gornesti)**

By the grace of God we could celebrate Christmas together in the Roma Baptist Church in Gernyeszeg. Here we could hear the ministry of three groups: younger children, older children and high-school students of the Mentoring Program.



Younger children ministered with poems and songs. Then the high-school students performed a play about the celebration of a poor Roma family, who chose a simple way of celebration with God, instead of a glamorous festivity with the exclusion of the Lord. It was followed by the performance of the older children whose play was entitled The three pine trees. In the story the first pine tree became the manger where the little Jesus had been lain.

The boat for Jesus was carved from the second. And the third pine tree became the cross which had been carried by Christ. Although, all of the trees had been dreaming of a pompous life, which they did not get, they could convey the Godly Child, Jesus, and could point at the Lord.

**"He gave me  
much more and  
a much better  
life than I had  
ever asked or  
imagined."**

This performance taught us a precious lesson. Thinking of my life, my situation before my conversion, I was like these pine trees: I was grumbling about being a Roma, who live in darkness, ignorance and great poverty. I wanted something better. How good that it was not my job to decide on it! It was God who made the decision, who is much wiser and knows better what is good for men. He gave me much more and a much better life than I had ever asked or imagined. His light was



easier to notice in the darkness of this people than in an environment that seems moral from a human point of view. The difficulties I had to face in my childhood made me stronger and shaped my personality to a great extent. Humiliation, despise from others has been teaching me to be humble. Seeing the high illiteracy rate and educational problems within my people made me obtain a university degree. I am presented with a blessed and useful life by God. I live my life as a teacher, a mentor, but first of all as a man loving and serving God and people. With the words of the pine trees in the play, I can also say: Sometimes it hurts, but, still, what a happiness it is to point at God with my life. It is beyond my dreams. I would not wish a different way of living!

Dear Reader, if your situation now or in the future is similar to the situation described above, feel encouraged by the following verses:

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my

thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

In the second part of our service the message of God was interpreted by pastor Attila Tóth from John 1:11: “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”. He described the miserable condition of people without faith. He also proclaimed the Gospel, the good news, which says if you receive Him, if you follow Jesus, then you are the son of God (John 1:12), and will be blessed with a blessed, happy life. Which do you choose? – did he ask the people.

Towards the end of the service we could give shoebox presents to the children, due to the Christian Gipsymission Foundation. These boxes are the most precious presents in the whole year for many children and families. We would like to express our gratitude towards everybody who contributed to the preparation and transportation of these shoeboxes. Glory to God and joy to the man for taking part in His work.

Zoltán Kalányos (Zozo), missionworker  
Gernyeszeg



**“...if you  
receive Him,  
if you follow  
Jesus, then  
you are the  
son of God...”**

## **Christmas in Bihar (Biharia) and Pelbárthida (Parhida)**



In our district we gave shoebox presents in two churches: in Bihar (Biharia) and Pelbárthida (Parhida). In these two places we had special services visited by 130-140 children, and most of them we could give a present.

In Bihar we held a service for children in the afternoon on 19th December, and the double container-church proved to be small! There were Sunday School teachers there from the Hungarian church, they ministered towards the children, telling them the story of Christmas, and also teaching them some Christmas songs.

There was a similar service in Pelbárthida, too, on 21st December with the help of the teachers from the Hungarian church in Paptamási (Tămașeu). After the service we gave the presents to the children here, too.

Thank you for the great efforts and sacrifice of those brothers and sisters who prepared the boxes. With their help we could make the holiday more joyful for many poor kids.

Zsolt I. Albert, pastor



## The church of the future – events in our schooling programs

### End of the first term in the school in Szanisló (Sanislău)

We were very busy around Christmas, as besides the usual jobs we were also preparing for a performance with poems, songs and a play. In addition, we were making fine Christmas decoration, and we decorated the classroom while practicing the songs. Children prepared some decorations for their home, too.

Our students were so joyful on 6th December, on Saint Nicholas's Day. They received a present, but before that they could perform their songs and poems. This day was also a good excuse to meet parents in order to show their children's progress between September and December. Parents could have a look at their children's drawings, task-sheets and fruit of their craftwork all around in the classroom. Parents were satisfied with the results. They could understand that the after-school is for the benefit of their children.



**"Parents were satisfied with the results. They could understand that the after-school is for the benefit of their children."**



Our students were preparing for Christmas, too. Younger children learnt songs and poems, while the students in 6th – 8th forms performed a play. We prepared Christmas tree decoration and costumes to the play together. On 25th December we performed our program to the local community. After the play children were given shoebox presents, for their great pleasure. We are grateful for these boxes to the supporters very much!

Now, we are back to school after the winter break, and our major purpose is to reach the best possible grades at the end of this term.

We are pleased to be able to help.

Szanisló (Sanislău), 21st January, 2015.

Éva Szalontai and Mónika Chivu, teachers



## Christmas in the after-school in Érkötvélyes (Curtuişeni)



The students in the after-school in Curtuişeni were very happy when they got the presents for Christmas. Altogether 23 students were given shoebox presents, full of useful things like exercise books and pencils. The Christmas program of the children was very nice. Both the parents and the other visitors enjoyed the program given by the children very much. Pastor Szilárd Filep also visited this event.

The children who participate in this schooling program come from multiple disadvantaged families, where parents are illiterate many times. For this reason, they usually cannot help their children in learning at home. However, with this program that started in September, they have a chance to catch up with the others. Thank you for this possibility, on behalf of the children and parents, too.

Teachers in Curtuişeni

## The first months in the after-school in Albis

The first term of the school year is approaching to its end. When we started the after-school program in Albis, I thought it would be easy, but it wasn't. The abilities of children are very different and require a special attention.

The pupils in Albis show a great progress. For example, Szandra, a little girl, can count better and better, which is a great achievement from her, and a joyful experience for me. The problem is that they miss many classes due to illness, though, they try to catch up with the rest of the class afterwards.



The month of December was very special. We celebrated Christmas in our small community, with presents to the children. As the big day was approaching, children could not wait, they were asking if they would get any presents. Of course, they did. We celebrated Christmas with lots of songs and poems, all of the children could tell them. After that they were happily playing with the toys they got in the shoeboxes. We are thankful for the presents and the possibility to learn in the after-school!

Gertrúd Nagy, teacher

**"... with this  
program ...  
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**"Despite all the  
difficulties we  
believe that with  
God nothing is  
impossible!"**

### **First term in the after-school in Asszonyvására (Targusor)**

The time of advent, time of waiting was coming. Children were happy to realize that we started the preparation for Christmas.

We started our preparation with craftwork. We are grateful for the colourful decor papers, from which we were preparing lots of winter decorations. We could decorate the windows, the classroom and the Christmas tree with hand-made decorations and ribbons. Beside craftwork, we were waiting for Christmas by learning lots of poems and songs.

A student from the fourth form, Zolika Rézműves helped us a lot in learning the songs, as he was accompanying us with guitar. We would like to highlight his hard work and dexterity. He is coming from hard circumstances: he lost her mother soon. They live below the subsistence level, it is difficult for the parents to give even the daily meals to their children. The parents are grateful that Zolika can attend this program, and there are teachers to help his studies.



We gave the children the shoebox presents on the last day at school, within a Christmas celebration. Children were so happy about them. We would like to say thanks for these boxes to the supporters.



Our heart is filled with joy, as all the children who take part in our schooling program could fulfill the requirements of the first term in the elementary school. Despite all the difficulties we believe that with God nothing is impossible!

We got to know that a retired mathematics teacher teaches music to children in this village. He is called Adam Tempfli, and does this ministry with pleasure. We asked him if he could teach our children in the after-school, too. He answered yes, without any financial compensation. I am quoting his words: "It is my commission, given by God, to help children in need."

The children were happy about the possibility to learn music. I would like to say thanks for the musical instruments on behalf of the children, too. Glory to God alone!

Noémi and Lili, teachers



## The first term in the after-school in Gálospetri (Galoşpetreu)

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) – I think this Bible verse is very true. Education has a key role in the future of children.



The after-school programs of the foundation mean great possibilities for children in need. This is my daily experience here, in Gálospetri as well, where the schooling program started last September. Now, towards the end of the first term, we can see the results in detail. It means such a pleasure for me to hear the words of acknowledgement from the teachers and the principal of the local elementary school. They often tell me that they observe a change in the behavior, attitude and

performance of the children at school, for which they are thankful.

One of the most significant events of this term was Christmas. Children had been waiting for this holiday very much since Santa Claus's Day (6th December). We were preparing to the holiday by coloring and making paper decorations, and by decorating the classroom and the windows with the pieces of the children's craftwork. We were also preparing to Christmas with a performance: we learnt songs, poems, and a play about the birth of Jesus Christ. We made our own costumes, too! We performed our program in the local Roma Baptist church on the last Sunday of advent. Parents were also invited. It was good to see that non-believer parents did also come and they were also very satisfied with their children and our work. At the end of the service an angel visited us as well, and we could give all the thirteen children a nice shoebox present, thanks to our supporters. We would like to express our gratitude for the presents, as in many families it was the only gift the children were given.

After the winter break, we started the work with new strength. Unfortunately, even during this short period children forgot lots of things, because they had learnt very little or not at all at home. However, we have some important results. The 70 percent of the children can read with a little help. They can count fluently up to one hundred, moreover, they can do simpler additions and subtractions in their head. They have a gift for drawing, and now we are learning coloring punctually. Their manual skills need some development, obviously they are not used to do finer handiwork. We are working on it hard. Learning Romanian language is also very challenging for them, but we do not give up.



We have small reasons to be joyful every day: a perfectly read word, a well done math example, or a nice drawing that I get every day from the children in which they express their gratitude. I hope that we will witness more and more success in the future, for which the only thing we need is what the children are saying all the time: "May God bless and help us!"

Leonetta Bődő, teacher

**"We have small  
reasons to be  
joyful every day."**

### After-school program in Abafája (Apalina)



The second week of February was the beginning of the spring semester of school here in Romania. We took advantage of this new beginning to refresh our perspectives and recommit to some of the core values of the after-school program.

One of the biggest changes we made is that we now divide the kids solely on their skill levels rather than on their grade levels.

This change has already proven to be a great decision, because the kids in the lower levels are learning even faster now that they have more specific instruction for their needs. We also made a renewed commitment to teaching important life skills and life lessons like personal hygiene and how to deal with conflict.

For our first field trip of 2015, we are planning to take the kids to play soccer at one of Reghin's public soccer fields - a big treat for us all!

Because of the leadership's excitement and renewed passion, the kids have also been more excited and their attendance and behavior has improved as well. We're already thinking and praying about more changes and growth next school year!

Paul and Katie Crook, missionaries"

**"Because of the leadership's excitement ... the kids have also been more excited and their attendance and behavior has improved as well."**

### Schooling program in Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni) ready to start

We are delighted to share the news that on Saturday, 11th April, 2015, we are going to hold a dedication service in the new Roma Baptist Education Centre in Gheorgheni. This building will serve as a venue for the after-school program to be started. We believe that everything will be completed by the time of the dedication. Our Lord has also provided us with the necessary school equipment. We were given 25 benches and



50 chairs that were transported to Gheorgheni by the missionworkers of our foundation, Kornél Nagy and Csaba Ilyés. They also took part in setting up the electricity system one month before the planned opening. The photo was taken in March, well before the opening service. Hopefully, we can illustrate our report in the following newsletter with the joyful pictures of the dedication service.



## Results of the Roma Mentoring Program in Gernyeszeg (Gornesti)



Except for one student, all the students taking part in the Roma Mentoring Program in Gornesti could close the first term of the school year 2014-15 successfully. Moreover, a surprisingly great change and development can be observed in the studies of more students who took part in our classes regularly and actively.

**Szilárd Kállai** is one of the students whose life changed a lot due to the program. Several years ago he left school, and decided not to be involved in education any more.

Thanks to our program, we could attract him into institutional education again. Unfortunately, his environment is a bad influence on him. He gets comments that hint that he should leave school as there is no point in studying. These comments make him sad, but after our personal meetings he always feels relieved, as he says, he takes wings and feels like going ahead.

**Szabolcs Marián** is another student in our program in whose life and school results our program has a key role. In our math and Romanian classes he shared the problematic issues with the teachers, who were happy to help him. As a result, he got an average result 9.20 at the end of the first term (10 is the maximum), which was the best in his class. Szabolcs admitted that our mentoring program is indispensable for his studies.

**Dániel Rácz** is the third Roma student whose school performance makes me thankful and pleased. He also became the best student in his class with the average result 9.20. Quoting his words: „My mentor helped me to have more self-esteem, with always suggesting that I am capable of even more.” He is also very satisfied with the work of the teachers and the classes provided by them. Without these extra classes he could not be the first in his class.

**Mária Ötvös** also showed great progress in school performance and attitude towards education. Now she understands that learning is not only a duty, but also a possibility in order to have a happy and successful life. Her average result in the first term was 8.60. It reflects a great movement towards better marks, as her earlier average result was around 7. With this result she became the second best student in her class.

**Tamás Panczi** became the third best student in the first term with the average result of 8.26. According to his information, only 10 out of the 25 students could pass the exams in Romanian and math subjects. Half of the 10 students are taking part in the mentoring program. In the extra Romanian and math classes teachers helped him catch up with the others, and even facilitated him to get among the best students.

The above mentioned students go to the same class, and they became the best students in

**“...a surprisingly great change and development can be observed in the studies of more students”**



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in."**

their class in the first term. Szabolcs and Dániel became the first ones with the average result of 9.2, Mária became the second with 8.60, and Tamás the third with 8.26.

**Arnold Marián** is our only student who failed in Romanian grammar and literature. However, at our first meeting he was pleased to say that his first mark in the second term had been a mark 8, which is a good start.

**László Kanczi** is also very pleased about his marks, as he got an average result over 8, which took him to the top students in his class.

**Jenő Puczi** also had a successful term. He is going to graduate from high-school this year, so we started the preparation in Romanian and math from the beginning of the first term. I and the teachers pay a special attention to him. In the last mock-exam he performed good results. He told us the following on his preparation and success: „If it hadn't been for this program and especially the mentor, I would have given in. No-one in my environment, neither my family, nor relatives, friends and teachers in school support or motivate me in studying except my mentor.”

To sum up, three of the students taking part in our program became the best students in their classes, one got the second and another one got the third place in their class. As the leader the mentor in the program I think that the mentoring program of Roma students reached its most successful phase in its operation.

Beside the nice results I would like to remark that the number of the students got reduced in this term. We started the term with 9 students, but one of them, Csaba Nagy left the program because he could not take part in our meetings and classes.

I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the students in the program, too, and say thanks for all our kind and enthusiastic supporters for their sacrifice and help, which makes it possible to operate this program. May God bless them abundantly in their life and ministry.

With thankful heart,

Zoltán Kalányos (Zozo), mentor





## Adult education programs of our foundation

### Adult education in Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni)

On 12th January, 2015 we started new reading-writing courses for adults in Gheorgheni.

There are classes 4 times a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, for each group. The classes take two hours. The course will last until June – then the Roma population spend their time in the forest to collect mushrooms and blueberry. Several age groups are represented in classes: the youngest is 15 years old, while the oldest is around 50.

I am teaching two groups: beginners and advanced students. We start learning the alphabet with the beginner students, and we are reading the Bible and practice a lot with the advanced students. The advanced group consists of mainly the participants of the previous course last year. Beside reading and writing, we try to teach them other things, too: reading the clock, identifying the months, days of the week, seasons, hygiene, elements of proper behavior. With the beginners we learn a new letter every day, and we link a Bible story to each letter, e.g. A-Adam and Eve. We also learn a verse from the Bible every week.

Last year we called believer Roma people to take part in our course. This year we opened the possibility to non-believers, too. I am sure that God is with me and He will give me His strength in this new situation. He called me to this ministry – although I had not been thinking about it. I have lots of pleasure in this job: when I can see that God opens minds to knowledge, and the moments when they can read the first words in their lives, or can write down their names for the first time. I admire the power of God. This work is wonderful and I am doing it with joy in my heart.

I do not know why God asked me to do this ministry, but I know that He has great plans with us and that nothing is accidental. I always try to prepare to classes, then with the help of the Lord I try to accomplish it. Glory to God!

Rebeka Deák, teacher

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why God asked  
me to do this  
ministry, but I  
know that He  
has great plans  
with us ..."**



### **Missionwork and adult education in Pele (Becheni)**

We are so grateful that due to the devoted work of brother Miklós Gombos mission-worker, mission is flourishing in two additional settlements: in Pele (Becheni) and in Érkőrös (Chereușa), where our foundation is planting new churches. We share the following pictures with joy in our heart. In the first picture you can see the ladies' meeting, where we could host sister Annuska Veress who gave a teaching to the ladies. The other pictures were taken at the reading-writing course for adults and the children's Bible study in Pele. These latter two ministries are done voluntarily by the wife and daughter of Miklós Gombos. The mission in Pele is among our programs that need support, you can read more on page 21. Please, pray for this mission!

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## Adult education in Betfalva (Betești)



Last August I was accompanied by two sisters from Turda (Turda) and one sister from Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) to a mission trip. During our ministry I told them that the brothers and sisters towards whom we were ministering could not read or write. Brothers and sisters in Betfalva (Betești) and Rugonfalva (Rugănești) are illiterate, so they cannot read the Bible. I mentioned them that it would be so beneficial for

the local brothers and sisters if someone would teach them to read and write.

Not long after our discussion, one of the sisters called Emma Bátori told me that she had decided to obey God and enter this ministry. She was ready to teach these people.

I am so happy to report that we started the education of 10 Gipsy brothers and some sisters in Betfalva with the help of sister Emma Bátori on 5th January, 2015. She comes to give lessons every day.



**"...students, who had not known the alphabet before, were reading the first words in their lives."**

By the grace of God, I can take part in the reading-writing lessons occasionally. I had a pleasant experience on the 27th January, when I could hear as the students, who had not known the alphabet before, were reading the first words in their lives.

God will bless the effort of those who are working for His glory. Sister Emma Bátori is teaching the Romas with great patience and love. Her love and attitude motivate the Roma people to learn hard. She is doing this work with pleasure.

They start and finish each day with a prayer and a song, then they read some verses from the Bible. As a result, both the teachers and students have undergone a great spiritual progress. Glory to God, there is an apparent result of this work.

Please, pray for her and the students, too.

With love,

Rupi Gábor, pastor

**"God is well  
pleased in Jesus  
and in us, too, if  
we live our lives  
in Him."**

## Events of our churches and foundation

### Performance of 'Small Seed' puppet team



To the great joy of children we could host the 'Small Seed' puppet team from Nagyvárad (Oradea) in the season of advent and Christmas again. The leader of the team was Attila Szűcs, from Child Evangelism Fellowship, who was accompanied by four volunteers.

Children were so happy about this interesting, interactive program. They could understand the difference between real

faith and gullibility with the help of the play.

The puppet team visited the following churches with their performance: Érselénd (Șilindru), Szaniszló (Sanislău), Érmihályfalva (Valea lui Mihai), Gálospetri (Galoșpetreu).

May God bless the work of CEF, and the lives of the children who could hear the Good News in this way.

László Papp, pastor

### A wonderful evening in Milota

On the 21st January, Wednesday, at 5 PM we could experience the blessed presence of our Lord in our church in Milota.

At the beginning of our service brother Dániel Mursa mission-worker addressed the congregation with enthusiastic, encouraging verses. It was followed by a common singing and worship led by brother Árpád Algács. The congregation received the message of God with pleasure, which was interpreted by a friend, a guest pastor from Holland. He was preaching about the justice and love of God, underlining that God is well pleased in Jesus and in us, too, if we live our lives in Him. Brother László Dan turned the attention of the congregation towards the calling voice of Jesus. He warned that we must seize the present, and also obey and follow Him.



It was wonderful to be in the presence of the Lord in teaching, in worship and in prayers. We gained new strength to go on our way.

László Dan, president



## Baptism in Asszonyvására (Targusor)



We took part in a special baptism service in Targusor, where an old man asked me to baptize him. He began to visit our services regularly, but soon he got seriously ill. When his illness turned even more serious, he asked me to let him be baptized at his own request, as he had regretted his sins. After several meeting and praying together I told my fellow ministers that due to the poor physical condition of our brother, we should organize the baptism service at their house. This special baptism service took place on 27th February, at the house of our brother's son. His wife expressed her wish to take part in baptism together with her husband. As she had confessed her faith previously, too, she was also baptized in this special service.

Brothers Szilárd Filep and Kornél Nagy did the ministry of preaching. The members of the family, sons and daughters (the old couple has 9 children), son-in laws, daughter-in-laws, grandchildren were listening to the preaching with a thirsty heart. Some members of the local church were also present. It was such a pleasure to see that our brother's face radiated with happiness after the baptism. Now his soul is in peace, waiting for His Lord's calling him to the heavenly home. We wish our Lord's blessings on their lives, and that the members of the extended family would follow his example.

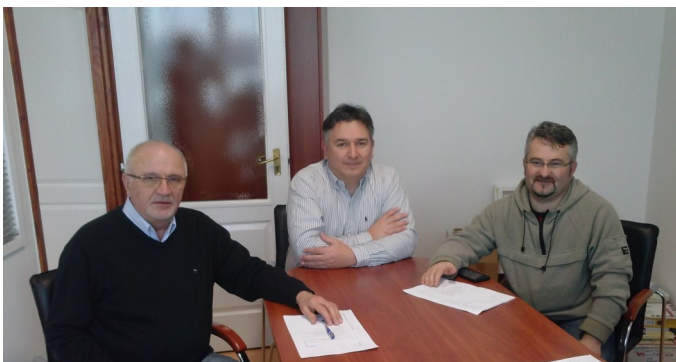
With brotherly love: László Papp, local pastor

## Foundation news

We are grateful to report that at the beginning of 2015 in the Romanian branch of Gipsymission Foundation we could purchase a new car, which will be used in the mission by pastor Szilárd Filep, president of Fundatia Gipsy Mission Romania. Our feelings and thoughts are in harmony with the message of the abbreviation in the registration plate: SDG - Soli Deo Gloria! Glory to God alone!



**"It was such a pleasure to see that our brother's face radiated with happiness after the baptism."**



On 23rd February, 2015 we could hold a board meeting in Christian Gipsymission Foundation. We have reviewed the activities, running programmes of the foundation, evaluating the projects of the last year and also looking ahead of the tasks in front of us. It was such a beneficial and valuable meeting, and

hopefully it will result in plentiful blessings in our educational programs and in the lives of our churches. Please pray for our work, for God's blessings in the mission in this year, too!

**"The Lord has  
listened to our  
prayers, and  
there were  
people who  
converted."**

## Winter evangelisms, mission in our churches

### Magyarkéc (Cheț)



missionworker: Béla Ferenczi (Viișoara).

By His grace we could hold an evangelism week between 26th Januar, Monday and 1st February, Sunday. The small church building got full every evening. We were pleased to have ministers among us this week: László Szabó (Oradea), László Papp (Valea lui Mihai), László Dan (Debrecen), Zoltán Bödő (Valea lui Mihai), Szilárd Filep (Săcueni), János Kajcza (Roma congregation in Oradea), and Efraim Veress (Viișoara) on Sunday. Organizer, local

### Nagyvárad (Oradea)

Evangelism series started in Nagyvárad on 8th February, Sunday. In the following week brothers Dániel Kőszegi, founder, and László Dan, president, and other missionworkers were ministering there from Christian Gipsymission Foundation. We are quoting the words of pastor Efraim Veress who also ministered in the evangelism event: "The Lord has listened to our prayers, and there were people who converted. We were praying with them at the end of the service for the remission of their sin and a new life in Christ. Let His name be praised for this!"



### Abafája (Apalina)



for the people that made a response to the gospel presentation. Please pray for those who made decisions. Pray also for our church and our leaders as we seek to help these new believers in their walk with Christ.

Paul Crook, missionary

Evangelism meetings were held in Apalina each night from February 10-15. We had pastors from different churches come and share the good news of the gospel. We were blessed to have the church full each night...many nights with people standing because there were not enough seats! Small groups from the Apalina church also took a turn each night sharing testimonies about what God is doing in their lives. We are so thankful for



## Szilágypér (Pir)



Between 9th and 15th February we held evangelism evenings in Szilágypér (Pir, Romania). On the closing day we were so pleased to hear the ministry of the children and the youth group. It was also such a blessing to hear the testimonies of our brothers and sisters Janny and Harmen Hulsman and Annuska Veress. The common singing was led by brothers Béla Ferenczi and György Lukács, and we were also very thankful for the ministry of the choir of the church in Pir. The preacher was brother László Dan. The host of the whole event was brother Béla Ferenczi.

We are grateful that more people obeyed the call of Jesus, and came ahead to the pulpit in this evening. We were praying with them for conversion, for the renewing and delivering power of Christ in their lives. The fellowship of both the local church and churches in the district gained new strength from the blessings of the evangelism week.

## Good news of the mission in Érszöllős (Viișoara)

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37

My mother got acquainted with a young Roma woman from Kisbacon (Bățanii Mici) in October, 2014. As a result of their meeting, this Roma woman, Gyöngyvér Bánfi, converted. She is bringing up her two children alone, and lives among harsh circumstances, but this fact could not hinder her from getting to know Christ more and more. When my mother came to us in January, 2015, Gyöngyvér arrived with her, and we were hosting her and her children for a few weeks, so that she could see how believers live, because in Kisbacon there isn't an evangelical congregation. She visited most of the services and events in church, and her faith and knowledge got more and more firm, so when we organized an evangelism week in our village, Érszöllős (Viișoara), she went to the Roma people, giving them her testimony, and asking them to visit the evening services. She taught them songs, prayed with them, and as a result, many Roma people in Érszöllős converted. It has a serious impact on the life of the village. There is no need for the police to visit the Roma part of the settlement, because it is peaceful. Roma people are visiting the services in the church, they are coming to the baptism candidates' meeting, and their spiritual development is apparent. Since then, Gyöngyvér has gone home to Kisbacon, and has been continuing her mission-work. There are converted Roma people, mainly her relatives, in Kisbacon. They regularly gather at homes to read the Bible, to sing and pray. A new congregation is taking shape. Glory and gratitude for this to the Lord! I can say that it was well worth accepting Gyöngyvér and her children into our house, to share what we have with them, to make sacrifice for them, because the Lord has poured His grace on us in a multiple way. Soli Deo Gloria!

Efraim Veress, pastor (Viișoara)



**"There is no need for the police to visit the Roma part of the settlement, because it is peaceful."**

## Gernyeszeg (Gornești)



By His grace, we could hold evangelism meetings between 5th and 8th March in the Roma Church in Gernyeszeg. While preparing for the services, we visited people in their houses and addressed them personally asking them to visit our services. The ministers, local organizers were brothers Attila Tóth, Zoltán Kalányos, and Sándor Ruzs. We were pleased to hear the worship team from Abafája (Apalina), the local worship team, and also the personal testimonies in the

evenings of the evangelism series.

In the first evening we could welcome Barna Kocsis from Gheorgheni, who ministered with preaching and also with a personal testimony. During his testimony people were sitting still, listening and wondering God's deeds in our brother's life with tears in their eyes.

In the second evening we could welcome the pastor from Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), accompanied by a few brothers, who also ministered with their testimonies. In this evening we had the privilege to listen to a converted Jewish brother to speak about the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). His message was shocking, because the events in the prodigal son's life were also shocking. Nowadays people behave and think in an astonishing way, but our Heavenly Father's reaction, grace and love is also stunning towards the sons who are heading home. He is always joyful when we are approaching Him: *„For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”* (Luke 15:24). The prodigal son's faith, his respect towards his father, and his willingness to serve have also been come into life.

On the following day we could listen to József Kovács, the secretary general of the Convention of the Hungarian Baptist Churches of Romania. He shared his thoughts on the parable of the King's wedding in Matthew 22:1-14. He told that after the officially invited people, the Hebrews, the King invites the gentile people, also the Romas to the royal wedding. Brother József Kovács also mentioned the many excuses we tend to say in order to explain our staying away. He emphasized that the dress is made by the King himself, and He gives it for free to all the honestly converted people.

The evangelism series was closed by the ministry of Rupi Gábor, pastor of the Roma Church in Korond (Corund). He addressed the audience through the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), who was despised by the people because of his life and deeds. Our brother enthusiastically preached that even if other people despise us, God loves us! *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”* (Luke 19:10).

It was heartwarming to see that the small church got full every evening, and there were always some people who had to stand during the service. There were people standing even in the hall. We were blessed as there were some people who answered to the calling of God. We praise the Lord's name for this! We pray that God would accomplish everything he wants in the human hearts, both in the hearts of the Roma people in our district and in many other places where the Gospel is being shared.

Zoltán Kalányos, missionworker

**“...even if other  
people despise  
us, God loves  
us!”**

## Projects that need support

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do ." Ephesians 2:10

In this page we would like to share those requests in which we need your support. We would appreciate material or financial contribution, volunteering and praying in these issues.

### What we give thanks for



We are delighted to share the news that the requests we wrote about in our previous issue, have been listened by the Lord. We got a meaningful donation in the past season: a **fork lift** and two big, **high-performance copiers**. We are grateful for our supporters, and we encourage everyone who would like to experience miracles to ask God with faith. We are also thankful that it seems that there is a sponsor who is going to support the **after-school program in Sanislău**.

### What we pray for

In this issue we would like to ask for your contribution to our **children's summer camps**. As summer is approaching, most of us are planning our holidays. During the exhausting weekdays we are thinking of the approaching days or weeks that we can spend together with our family or friends. However, many brothers and sisters in our Roma churches cannot afford to provide their children with such an experience. We would like to help these families and let children have a memorable experience in our camps, where they can relax and also develop spiritually. There are usually many interesting programs in our camps for children: craftwork, sports games, playful Bible studies, lots of singing, and delicious food. **The camp for one child, including accommodation and three meals for three days, costs: 7.800 HUF/ 26 EUR/ 19 GBP**. If you can support the participation of a child in our camps, please, transfer this money to the bank account whose details you can find at the bottom of this page. Please, write the remark **"Summer camp for children"** into the note section. Even a small amount can help our work a lot! Hopefully, in our next issue we can share the reports on our camps joyfully.



What we give  
thanks for &  
What we pray for

Our other request leads us to the mission in a very poor settlement. As we reported on page 14, the **mission in Pele** is evolving in great leaps with the help of a missionworker and his family. We are thankful that we could purchase an old building for the purposes of a church, however, it needs a serious renovation. We need your help to cover the expenses of the material cost of the renovation of the building. The cost of the planned renovation is **3.200 EUR**. If you can contribute to the coverage of this amount, then you can transfer any sum to the bank account below. Please, write the remark **"mission in Pele"** into the note section. We hope that this very poor village will soon change, and will shine like a candle in its environment. Thank you!

Beneficiary name: Keresztyén Cigánymisszió Alapítvány  
Name of the bank: Citibank Europe plc Magyarországi Fióktelepe  
Address of the bank: H-1051 Budapest Szabadság tér 7  
IBAN (international) account: HU23 1080 0014 0000 0006 1036 9308  
SWIFT code: CITIHUHX



**Newsletter of the  
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**"I have made you known to  
them, and will continue to  
make you known in order  
that the love you have for  
me may be in them ...."**

**John 17,26**

The Christian Gipsymission Foundation has been in the ministry of soul saving for 16 years. The foundation is present in more than 60 places in Hungary and Romania, which we regard as a privilege. During our work we had to face the severe circumstances that are mainly unknown by most of the people in our country. In the heart of Europe, hundreds of thousands of people live lacking the elementary things that are needed to human life. We feel obliged to this community. We believe that in order to experience the change of this situation and to witness the recovery of these people from the miserable circumstances, they need a life change.

**We wish a blessed Easter to our  
Readers, our Brothers and Sisters!**



**Revelation 5:9**

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."