

Newsletter (Pilgrim of Benced)

2009. No. 5.



Redacted and translated from Hungarian by: Pall Krisztina
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*Beautiful is the Nyiko Valley and its neighborhood,
Its people believe in God, More beautiful is pussy willow,
Like on other places the lily of the valley,
La la la..." (szekler folk-song)*

Thanksgiving



My Dear Reader our church was an old house, its desk was the floor where it was so good to sit down and his head taking in his arm, being a reminiscent of past, the physically, mentally tired person- yes we are. Those persons, who ere interested to meet, who wanted to come home, to come in house of God, to look back, and to thank. And how much we wanted to come home, to meet, shows gull church, the number of people who where present, 170 getting lord's supper, and the members of their families having other religion. In the middle of hard life dear brother I know that you are coming to thank for our prayer, for our work.

I know you were praying every evening, please God give me the possibility every evening to see next morning, to see the ripen spike, to see my flower, my returning child, to see my full

pantry, vault and granary.

Give me God to see the quiet voiced woman, my mother distributing bread, fruit, and her life.

Give me God to hear my dad's voice saying my son.

Give my God, to live my brother, my sister.

Give God to see in my child's smile tomorrow, to be able to educate, to learn him.

My dear brothers to realize these things we had to work a lot, but I think we had to keep up the apostolic caution to be able to celebrate thanksgiving, be rooted on your homeland, be hard, build your home, and thank it!

1. Be rooted in your homeland as the writer is saying, be rooted, germinate, hold on scrapped seed, hold on this ground my Hungarian man, sing on cornfield, smile on white bread.

Germinate on this ground by your work, dream and prayer. Germinate on this ground by your love of your home, by respect of your family, by peace, by comprehension, be able to see the spirit of your sad friend, remove his tears.

Germinate in this ground by your mother tongue, by your tradition, by the song of the church, because if you don't have root the wind will bring you, without roots you will not be able to feel the ground, to feel the life with its aspirations, memories, what was before and what will be, that fight, the aspiration which move on your grandparents spirit, and will move your heart, too. My dear young man, you are singing I choose this land, I wished this day, I had cradle, I will have grave, and the life is just a beautiful promising.

2. But is not enough, build yourself says the apostle. With hard work you have to build your dreams, the germinated life, with hard work you have to build your home, you community wall.

And we built it my dear brothers.

We built inside and we built outside, we have built in our personal and community life.

We have built when home, gates were renewed.

We have built when we renewed our church, and we were waiting to sit near us in our small white church the goners, our bishop, our church leaders, to show them proud that we love this land, our churches.

We have built inside when we saw our young bravery, being not to much. But they organized with hard work in Benced the 33. Transylvanian Unitarian Youth Conference proving that even we are less, if the aim is common and we can be hard.

We have built up inside when opened the gates of many homes, on tables were bread, when 250 young were hospitalized, felt home, end brought in their heart our community, with its hospitality, kindness, good food. We hope they will never forget Benced.

We have built up because the newsletter of Unitarian Church contains 4 articles about Benced, showing that in Benced ia builder, hard community loves God.

3. Be hard in faith – says the apostle. I hope that this year strengthen us. I believe that by our work, by our faith, by our aims, by our plans become strength and richer.

Believe that those people are happy, who can thank God, who knows that has root. But it is not enough, you have to build inside and outside during your life, without stopping, and you have to stop in house of God thanking all these things.

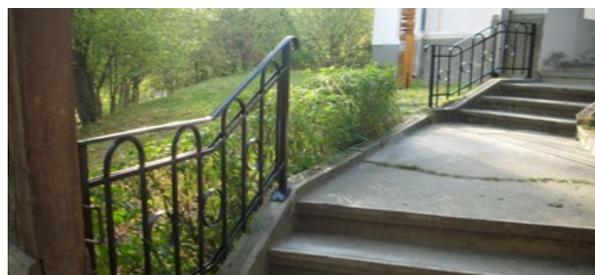
Bless you! Thanks for God this beautiful celebration! **(Hungarian version by Makkai-Ilkei Ildikó)**

Garden at the church ramp



As thanksgiving benefaction Ödön Páll donates a wrought iron fence to the congregation, helping mostly the elders' walking to church. Krisztina Pall's parents hereby this gift would like to thank all that goodness that Bencéd's community manifested for their daughter in these difficult moments. They also thanksgiving to God caring for their daughter at the accident and on her further recovery.

Thanks for their noble gift! Here you can find some snapshot taken during the fixing of the fence.



Visit of Project Harvest Hope in Bencéd

On 7th of September the former and the present president of Harvest Hope Foundation from USA and the representative in Transylvania Kelemen Eva, the wife of minister of Okland visited us, visiting the results of the project sponsored by them, too.

Our community shows them our realizations; we talked about our dreams, plans, too. Finally they visited the new toilet of the Culture House financed by them, too. They were really excited. The present president of the Harvest Hope Foundation, Will Saunders wrote us a letter:



*"Article for Pall Krisztina, Bencéd
September 23, 2009*

During the week of September 7, 2009, I was delighted and privileged to visit eight villages in Transylvania where Project Harvest Hope supports Local Development Agents who are functioning as community organizers in their villages. This was the first time that, as President of Project Harvest Hope, I had the opportunity to witness, to see first hand the work of our partnership with the Transylvanian Unitarian Church and CIVITAS: Foundation for Civil Society to renew civil society in the Unitarian homelands. It was also the first time that I had the opportunity to meet many of the wonderful people who are working so hard to turn the hopes and dreams of our Transylvanian

brothers and sisters into reality. During my visits, several impressions and observations were fixed in my mind:

- I was struck by the way that each village was able to embrace its own identity and how each village was different from the others. I was pleased that each village seemed to be able to respond to its own unique needs.
- There are two parallel programs in each village. The first is a tangible project – renovation of a room, installation of a milk cooler, construction of a playground. The second is less clear and less tangible – the recovery of a dream, the joy of working collaboratively, an increased sense of hope in the future. In some villages, the intangible seemed primary; in others the tangible seemed primary. They worked together and reinforced each other. I came away with the distinct feeling that they are inextricably linked.
- I also observed that the familiar American dichotomy of religious and secular, church and community, is often false. In many of the villages I visited, there is no separation between the church and the community. So, for example, whereas the focus of our project is on “community organizing,” in truth, that means nothing less than “church organizing” for many of the LDA villages.
- In all the villages, the role of the minister was critical. In every case, the minister and the LDA worked “hand in glove.”

We discovered some confusion about the role of Project Harvest Hope. So let me explain that once again and then reflect more directly on my visit in Benced.

Project Harvest Hope has contracted with CIVITAS: Foundation for Civil Society, to train, supervise, and provide resources for a group of Local Development Agents in eight villages. We provide the funding. The selection of the LDAs and the financial oversight is delegated to a Steering Committee made up of representatives of CIVITAS, the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, ODFIE, and the Project Harvest Hope Representative in Transylvania, Kelemen Eva. There are several beliefs that guide our work. First, we believe that all the work must be done by Transylvanians and that the programmatic decisions should be made by Transylvanians. Second, we believe that the strategies for development must be developed locally, in Transylvania, reflecting Transylvanian customs and traditions. Third, we believe that American involvement must be minimal and only in areas where local resources are inadequate. Control must rest with Transylvanians.

Now let me thank you, the people of Benced, for your wonderful work and your vision. You have shown incredible resilience in waiting so long, one hundred years, for your own minister and now she is living among you. You have done marvelous work in installing both men’s and women’s bathrooms in the culture house so as to increase its utility for large functions and to assure improved sanitation in the center of town. You have been able to apply for and receive funding from other sources to compliment the funds available from Project Harvest Hope. This is very important!

Again, thank you for your kind hospitality and vision in renewing your village to align with your dreams. I anticipate visiting again and seeing the next phase in your development.



With love and care,

Will Saunders, President
Project Harvest Hope”

News from overseas

In our partner church’s newsletter from Hanska in USA appeared the fourth number of Bencedi Zarandok.

At the same time we can read on several web pages from USA about Benced:

www.nora-uu-church.org

www.uupcc.org

<http://www.uupcc.org/ccb.html>

www.nujournal.com/

<http://portal.icuuw.com/icuuw/Newsletter/ICUUFallNewsletter09.pdf>

www.harvesthope.uua.org/

Congregation's News

We have finished our second project financed by the American Harvest Hope Unitarian- Universalist Foundation: inside men-women toilet implementation in the culture house. We received sponsorship from Siménfalva's Local Council also, thanks for both contribution.

On 7th of September the ex and presently chairman of the Harvest Hope Foundation, the Transylvanian project leader and Éva Kelemen priestess of Oklánd visited our congregation in order to examine the sponsored projects.

This time our church welcome the guests, spoke about great success, and our community's achieved acts. Finally we took a look at the achieved projects. The sponsors were fully satisfied with it's construction.

We started to get ready for the elders' festivity among the children with religion class.

Thanks for all persons, who get Lord's Supper at Thanksgiving Day. We were in the Church more than 170.

[Our community's website:](#)

www.benced.ro