

Year of World Mission  
2010



Annual Report  
of the Reformed Church in Hungary

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2010

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## REFORMED CHURCH IN HUNGARY, 2010

### Table of Contents

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1	Message of the Presidium of the Synod
	– <i>Being Christian in a Changing World</i> (Gusztáv Bölcskei)
	– <i>“The LORD is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer...”</i> (Pál Huszár)
5	The Synod’s Activities in 2010
9	Main Events in 2010
19	The Relationship of State and Church
23	Relations Within and Without the Carpathian Basin
29	Partner Church Relations
35	Mission Activities
	– World Mission
	– Local Mission
43	Our Church Aid
	– Hungarian Reformed Church Aid (HRCA)
	– Ecumenical Diaconal Year (EDY)
47	Health Care Services
49	The Church of Young People
53	Education
59	Life of the Reformed Church in Hungary in Numbers

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# Message of the Presidium of the Synod

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## *Being Christian in a Changing World*

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One of the principal aims of this newly published annual report is to mediate between two distinct views of the church. Many people regard the church as an institution like any other, and rightly expect it to be efficient, self-sufficient and transparent. Others, however, would like to see the church helping people to develop a spiritual foundation, which helps them discover the meaning of life. I personally believe that if the Reformed Church in Hungary is able to adopt both of these perspectives to a certain extent, we are on the right track. The Reformed church is an institution indeed – the annual report as a genre underlines this –, a complex institution in which pastors, lay employees and volunteers work in several professional fields, and we have a duty to report on the results of these activities, to show why they matter, both to ourselves and to others. On the other hand, the church is also something different: it is more than the sum of its institutions or the work that these

Twenty years after the political transition that took place in Hungary, we are thankful, despite all the difficulties, for the resulting freedom and the long way we have come since then. The life of our communities and institutions have undergone a transformation, but the foundation, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is still the only solid guidance for us amidst all these changes.

institutions do. The activities of the church have an additional value that is difficult to express in terms of numbers or efficiency indicators, for the church is not a service in the commercial sense of the word. Our actions are not determined by market analyses or strategic interests, but by the calling and certainty that God redeemed the world through Jesus Christ: He destroyed death, and His grace overcomes all distress and suffering on earth. As servants of Christ, we follow Him and spread the redeeming Word of God, while helping those who are sick or in need, and educating the youth. Therefore, it is by constantly listening to Christ that we can be of most use to humans and humanity. This is the greatest secret of the church. It is His presence in this changing world that provides our church with the opportunities of freedom and efficient service in communities, based on a real understanding of life and people.

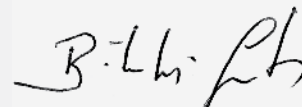
Message of the Presidium of the Synod

2010, among other things, was the twentieth anniversary of the political transition in Hungary. This anniversary, as well as this year's national and international events, gives us reasons to thank our Lord for our redemption, for the new horizons that opened for us two decades ago. Although certain political, economic and social analyses regularly point out the drawbacks of the political transition, and people themselves have mixed feelings about it, I am positive that the church has to consciously stand up for democratic social values and processes. Twenty years ago Hungary was able to leave the house of servitude behind, where the whole community's life had been dictated by a central will of power. Just like Hungarian society, our church experienced a transition from a complacent but steady atrophy to a state filled with challenges and tensions. After the initial euphoria, this change – quite naturally – proved to be strenuous and risky to all. Therefore, the last twenty years has been a transitional period in many respects, a period of strengthening both in domestic and regional contexts. Recently a new generation has come of age, whose knowledge of the pre-transition era comes solely from history books, while the world view of the older generations is still largely determined by the real or imagined injustices of the former political system. In such a duality, it is the duty of our church to face the past, to reveal how the anti-clerical and destructive mechanisms of the one-party system operated among and within us. At the same time, we need to create and spread the experience of responsible self-determination that stems from the opportunities of freedom and self-sufficiency. One

of the recurring questions of the political transition concerns the relationship of state and church. According to public opinion, this is primarily a question of world views, meaning that the state's attitude towards the church is always determined by the political identity of the ruling party; and vice versa, the church is closer to the parties that proclaim the same values as the church. Conversely, the intentions of our church over the last years have been based on the respect of democratic values. We would like to make it clear for every government: we believe that the only way for us to cooperate with the state is to have a partnership based on mutual respect and regular professional dialogue. We are looking forward to the realization of the above principles in the wake of the general elections of 2010.

When we consider the international role of our church in 2010 – the events of the Year of World Mission or the Reformed world community united in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA –, the sense of freedom is even more apparent, with its exciting new dimensions for our church. The past year proved yet again that the Reformed Church in Hungary is a worthy and respected partner in the work of international church organisations. The last few years have confirmed our belief that we, the Hungarian Reformed people in the Carpathian Basin, can be effective and fruitful members of the world not only in our smaller regions, but also on the level of global responsibility and action.

Finally, with gratitude for the grace of God, let me present the annual report of the Reformed Church in Hungary for the year 2010.



Gusztáv Bölcskei  
Presiding Bishop of RCH

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## *“The LORD is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer...” (Psalms 18:2)*

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By the infinite grace of our God, the year 2010 was highly eventful, bringing several duties of varying difficulty, as well as plenty of joy, in our efforts to build our church and complete our tasks. We can say with a grateful heart that our Heavenly Father was by our side in all these situations, with His mercy and blissful love.

It is only natural that we as a church have always considered it to be our most important mission to spread the Gospel’s message of redemption, as this is what Jesus Christ’s great commission commands us to do. We continue to emphasize the importance of involving our lay members – those who are not theology graduates – in building the kingdom of God, as without them, the church would cease to exist.

We also deemed it important to locate and address those who are only “latently” Reformed, since the message of redemption should reach them as well, and we are expected by the Lord to bring this message to those of our brothers and sisters who have lost touch with the Word, or have never had the chance to learn about it. In order

to achieve this, we have organised missions in big cities as well as in smaller communities. Now, the potential results of our efforts are not up to us: our tasks are planting and watering, and we have faith that our Lord will provide growth.

Another issue of special importance is to provide for our system of Reformed schools, as we believe the Reformed Christian education of our youth is the hope for the renewal and strengthening of our church. We would be filled with delight if this system could expand further. Yet, when it comes to the possibility of expansion, we need to be extremely careful. There are numerous local governments in serious financial difficulties that would like to have the church take over their schools, but we must not undertake tasks that we would be unable to fulfil due to insufficient funds or personnel.

On 22 May 2009 in the Great Church of Debrecen, we were blessed with the opportunity to sign the Constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church. What had always belonged together was finally formally united. However, this is not the end of a process, but rather a beginning, as the psalm poet put it – “the LORD has done great things for us.” We intend to strengthen the ties to our Reformed brothers and sisters living outside the borders of Hungary, as we still have a long way to go until we can achieve a true unity. In the spirit of this intention, the number of congregational partnerships reaching across borders has greatly increased recently, which is joyful news. Similarly, there have been more frequent visits, more sermons and lectures delivered by our church leaders in areas of pre-WWI Hungary, since these Reformed communities also require our attention and care. It was a bitter pill for us to swallow that not all of our pastors felt it important to follow the related suggestions of the Synod – in this specific case, the commemoration of 22 May.

In the meantime – may God be praised –, the conditions of living in former territories of Hungary have become somewhat more favourable, even if sometimes the opposite seems to be true on the

## Message of the Presidium of the Synod

surface. First, the borders that were forced upon our country by higher authorities have become less distinct and easier to cross. This year there were no unpleasant consequences of the speeches commemorating 15 March 1848 in Kassa (Košice) and Magyarbőd (Bidovce, both in present-day Slovakia). Likewise, the speakers had no reason to fear reprisals because of the commemoration of the Treaty of Trianon in Érmihályfalva (Valea lui Mihai, present-day Romania) and Beregszász (Berehove, present-day Ukraine), nor did the audience have to hide their enthusiasm.

On 16 November 2010, we unveiled the plaque of Gábor Bethlen, the great Reformed Prince of Transylvania (1613-1629), in Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), the capital of the former Principality of Transylvania. We honoured this historic achievement – worthy to be remembered forever by Reformed Hungarians as well as Hungarians in general – by placing an epitaph between the plaques of György Fráter and Gábor Bethlen. It was uplifting to see how many people came to pay their respects to Bethlen's memory. We believe that this event was also an opportunity for us to strengthen ourselves by experiencing the faith of others.

The annual meeting of the Reformed General Convent was held in Révkomárom (Komárno, Slovakia) in 2010, and this was the first time that we transcended the Trianon borders violently imposed on us. Let us pay tribute to the leaders and members of the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia for undertaking the successful organisation of this event despite the fact that they had to postpone the official joining due to external pressures.

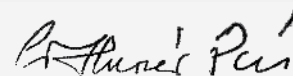
Commissioned by the Synod, a committee of historians was set up to investigate and reveal events of the past, more specifically the period of Communist dictatorship in Hungary. Their work is bound to be time-consuming, as it requires careful and detailed research. It is expected that the names of those pastors and other church officials will surface who were, for one reason or another, unable to resist the brutal threats and cruel blackmailing, or those who would not say “no” to the temptation of collaborating with the authorities, and wrote reports about their colleagues, supe-

riors, or even members of their congregation. It is certain that such names of pastors and their superiors will appear, and they will rightfully be condemned by later generations. We will never hear the names of those, however, who were actively engaged in this shameful work, as their anonymity is legally guaranteed, and they can go on living undisturbed, while the fate of their victims is condemnation.

We are filled with joy and gratitude towards our Lord that the international perception of the Reformed Church in Hungary has been absolutely positive. The writer of these lines had the honour of being invited to Duisburg, to attend and give a speech at the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary Synod of the Rhine Church: he had the chance to share that the so-called “Presbyterian polity,” rediscovered by John Calvin and adopted at the 1610 Synod by the Rhine representatives of the Helvetic Reformation, was also favourably received by the Hungarian Trans-Danubian Reformed community a few years later, after which the first Hungarian session was formed in 1617 in Papa.

The economic recession, affecting both our church and the whole of our nation, is not over yet. We are concerned about people's fears for their jobs and pension. There is an even more serious spiritual burden as a result of an ethical crisis, in which morals are turned upside down, and we are surrounded by gilded but worthless ideas instead of our true Christian values. It is our duty to offer real human and Christian values to as many youngsters as we can possibly reach.

Adults have to face similar problems, as they are flooded by commercial images of hoarding and consuming, seduced by a supposedly ideal lifestyle. How great it would be if we could make both young and old aware that the source of help is in God. They refer to the Book of Psalms, chapter 50, verse 15, where we can read the joyful promise of our Heavenly Father: “and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” May the Almighty God allow us to undertake our future activities in the spirit of this message, so that we can fulfil our duties of continually building the church.



Pál Huszár

Lay President of the RCH



**The Synod's  
Activities in 2010**

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*The Synod, the supreme legislative, decision-making and executive body of the Reformed Church in Hungary held two assemblies in 2010, while the Synod Council, the supreme body responsible for management questions came together four times.*

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To commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon – in the middle of the assembly room of the Synod Headquarters, a table symbolising pre-Trianon Hungary and a flower garland in the shape of the Holy Crown of Hungary was displayed at the June Session.

June Session

## Advances in the process of disclosing the past

One of the major themes of the fifth, June session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Synod cycle was the idea of revealing the past. The Synod adopted the Fact-Finding Historian Committee's rules of procedure. According to Article 1:

*"The primary goal of the Fact-Finding Historian Committee, as set forth by the Synod, is to investigate and reveal the operational mechanisms of the era's suppressive organisations in relation to*

*churches. The committee's research should aim to highlight what methods were used by the system to monitor, restrict and suppress the church and its activities."* A further opportunity for the committee is to "do investigative research into the persons whose names arise during the fact-finding work on the operation of the suppressive system." The committee shall collect the relevant documents of the given period from various archives, and these documents shall then become a part of the Synod's Archives in order to enhance further research. The committee shall present quarterly reports, which are not to be disclosed to the public for the time being. The Synod appointed three members



to participate in the work of the committee: Erzsébet Horváth, Director of the Synod's Archives, Dénes Dienes, Director of the Scientific Collections of the Reformed College in Sárospatak, and István Szabadi, Director of the Archives of the Transbiscan Reformed Church District. Furthermore, the Synod resolved, in order to enhance the work of the fact-finding committee, to set up an Evaluating Committee, whose members are respected and trusted by all. Each church district shall delegate one person to become a member of the Evaluating Committee.

## Standardised Continuing Education of Pastors

The Synod also addressed the question of pastors' further training: a credit system widespread in other areas shall be introduced (this shall include the trainings that are related to the work of pastors). Pastors are eligible to receive eight days of paid training leave a year, at least four of which are to be spent completing a formal further training.

## Commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trianon

The last day of the spring session fell on the day of the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon (4 June), so the Synod decided to hold a commemoration. The event had a spectacular start: from the table in the middle of the assembly room of the Synod Headquarters, symbolising pre-Trianon Hungary, a flower garland ascended slowly, forming the shape of the Holy Crown of Hungary. The commemoration was opened by Bishop Gusztáv Bölcскеi, Ministerial President of the Synod, with the same prayer that was told nearly ninety years ago during the first Synod assembly following Trianon. *"Dear Lord! Our Almighty Father! Here we are today, sailors on the wreck of the Hungarian Reformed church, trying to escape from the stormy sea and the wrath of violent winds. Our self-made ropes and sails are torn, the mast is broken, and we cry out for Your help, asking to be spared. The wars of tribulations are beyond our powers, our enemies both inside and outside are stronger than us, and we have no chance of defeating them on our own,"* began the entreaties of the then Presiding Bishop, Dezső Baltazár on 28 Sept 1920.

The commemoration continued the same way as it did in 1920. By reading the minutes that describe scene by scene what had happened ninety years ago, it was revealed that the assembly turned to the League of Nations and the League of Nations-Union with a short memorandum, in which they asked the two organisations to guarantee the organic unity of the Hungarian Reformed Church.

Following these memories from 1920, István Csúry, Bishop of the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District addressed the members of the Synod: *"We all know that we do not act based on our own talents and determination: You are Christ – say the disciples on the boat caught in a storm, and this is what gives us strength as well."*

The last section of the commemoration was dedicated to presenting the resolutions of the Synod that – with the words of Gusztáv Bölcскеi – *"prove that we can all breathe again in the same rhythm."* According to one of these, from now on it is not only Hungarian citizens that can become pastors in the territory of the Reformed Church in Hungary, but any pastor that belongs to the unified Hungarian Reformed Church.

## November Session Seven Years in the Spirit of Reconciliation

6/7

The Synod assembly addressed the issue of fact-finding again, in the form of the report presented by the Fact-Finding Historian Committee (FFHT) founded in September. The Synod approved the appointment of Zoltán Boér, Zalán Bognár and Sarolta Fodorné Nagy to provide assistance to the fact-finding activities of the committee.

During the legislation phase of the session, the Synod adopted the preliminary materials prepared for the law on the legal status of pastors, as well as a draft of the same law. The board discussed a draft of the law on management, and resolved to create a new law based on the now adopted draft, instead of amending the existing legislation. Those who proposed this new law were primarily motivated by the desire to create uniform directives and criteria for the community and institutions of the church.



One of the most important decisions made by the Synod was the resolution that the seven-year period beginning with 2011 shall be devoted to the spirit of reconciliation. The members of the Synod also agreed that the paper called *Református Egyház [Reformed Church]* shall not be published any more in its current form, but shall take on the function of the RCH's journal in the future. The other functions of the sixty-three year old paper shall be taken on by other publications.

A solemn occasion during the autumn session was when the awards established by the Synod were presented. The persons to be awarded had been determined by the members of the Synod in the June session. In 2010, the Dobos Károly Pastor Award was presented to Ferenc Bíró, retired pastor of Budapest-Mátyásföld. The Imre Sándor Award – for advancing the cause of Reformed schools – was presented to Péter Hoppál, Member of Parliament. This year, two professors were awarded the Golden Ring Theology Doctoral title. One of them was Géza Boross, who passed away in October 2010, and the other was Dezső Buzogány, Professor in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania). The Theologian of Golden Certificate title was awarded to Károly Sepsy, retired pastor and organist, as well as Pál Németh, pastor and Islamic researcher. The Diaconal awards were also announced and presented. Gézáné Bodolay and Jánosné Köles received the Kiss Ferenc Award, while Istvánné Nagy and Miklósné Ungvári received the Juhász Zsófia Award.

## Synod Council

### Transforming the Pension Scheme of Pastors

Regarding the transformation of the Pension Scheme of Pastors, the resolution adopted by the Synod Council states that the pension for the members of the RCH's Pastor Pension Institution, after they have completed their period of employment, is guaranteed by the Reformed Church in Hungary. The RCH shall arrange for them to be eligible for the minimum state pension, and they shall also receive the church supplementary pension. The central idea of the transformation concerns the strengthening of the profitable segregated pension fund, apart from the contributions paid according to the "pay as you go" pension scheme and the church supplementary pension paid annually by the RCH. The council stated that the transformation's time schedule and the necessary modifications of regulations need to be drawn up, and preliminary measures need to be taken regarding the transformation of the pension institution.

### The RCH Takes Over the Operation of the SDG Conference Centre

The Synod Council resolved that the church should take over the SDG Conference Centre in Balatonszárszó from January 2011. At the same time, a thematic and professional concept needs to be prepared on how to utilise the property in the mid to long term. On the recommendation of the council, the Synod temporarily suspended the autonomy of the conference centre in terms of church law.



**Main Events  
in 2010**

## Commemoration on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protest against the Protestant Patent

*"In the name of the Emperor of Emperors, I hereby declare the meeting open!"* Tradition has it that one hundred and fifty years ago Péter Balogh Reformed Auxiliary Bishop used these words to open the district general meeting that condemned the decrees of the Habsburg imperial patent which discriminated against Protestants. A nation-wide series of protests ensued, and the Emperor was forced to revoke the decree. It was this event that was commemorated at the location of the meeting, in the Small Church of Debrecen, on 9 January with a worship of praise and thanksgiving. The sermon was delivered by Gusztáv Bölcskei, Bishop of the Transtibiscan Reformed Church District. Richárd Hörcsik, Professor at the Debrecen Reformed Theological University gave a lecture on the events that took place one and a half centuries ago. The Protestant Patent was issued by the Austrian government on 1 September 1859. It was used and enforced until 15 May 1860, when – pressured by the protests – the king issued a handwritten note, declaring a return to pre-1848 legal conditions.

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## Charity Ball in Debrecen

The Transtibiscan Reformed Church District held a charity ball on 19 February in Debrecen, to help a struggling institution, the Rozsnyó Reformed Elementary School in the region of Felvidék, Slovakia. Year after year, this school has had to struggle for survival, as the congregation that it belongs to is unable to provide for the development and maintenance of the institution, nor can it afford to supply the necessary teaching aids. The roof insulation is leaking, the doors and windows are worn, the facilities are out of date, and there is no gymnasium. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reformed Charity Ball, 1.2 million HUF was raised, and this sum was sent to the Rozsnyó Reformed Elementary School via the Alma Mater programme of the Reformed Church Aid.

## Revival of the Parochial Library

In 2007, the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary adopted a resolution to resume the publication of the so-called Parochial Library series cancelled decades ago. The volumes of the series will be published over the next few years, in connection with the Calvin Memorial Years (2009-2014). As part of the series, Calvin's Bible commentaries on the New Testament will be published in a planned 14 volumes. It is expected that by the end of 2013 the rest of the New Testament commentaries will have come out, and in 2014 an annotated version of *Institutio's* new translation will be published by Calvin Press. According to the Synod's resolution, Hungarian Reformed congregations will be able to purchase Parochial Library volumes for a symbolic price.

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## New Publication of the *Institutio*

On 25 February, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary hosted a book launch, where two books were presented: John Calvin's *Az keresztény religióra és az igaz hitre való tanítás (Institutio*, translated by Albert Szenci Molnár, Hanau, 1624, facsimile edition), as well as *"Biblia Hungarica Philologica – Magyarországi bibliák a filológiai tudományokban"* [*Bibles from Hungary in Philology*].

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## Calvin Commemorative Medal to István Monok

During the book launch at Károli University, Reformed Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei presented István Monok, former Director General of the National Széchényi Library with a commemorative medal. This was an expression of gratitude towards the former Director General, who for several years provided assistance in preserving and disseminating Reformed cultural heritage.

## Preparations are Underway for the New Hungarian Reformed Hymn Book

On 23 February 2010, the Hymn Book Committee of the Reformed Church in Hungary was founded. The committee is responsible for the preparatory work on the new hymn book. The eight members of this body represent the opinions of their own church districts, and also integrate the knowledge and experience that have accumulated over the last fifty years in the Reformed Church in Hungary

in connection with Reformed hymns and singing. The committee has created a detailed system of criteria that will provide the basis of their work. The new hymn book will only be truly meaningful in the community and unity of the Carpathian Basin. This activity is related to the revision of the Book of Order within the General Convent, supervised by the Liturgy Committee.

## Hungarian Seminarians in Kenya

Thanks to the organising work of Budapest pastors and theologians, a group of Seminarians from Debrecen, Pápa, Sárospatak and Budapest participated in a missionary study visit to Kenya. The journey started on 3 March, and the Seminarians were the guests of the St. Andrew Presbyterian congregation in Kenya. They visited the Presbyte-

rian University as well as a secondary school supported by the congregation. In Hawa, they went to a home for street children, and they also visited a home for children with HIV. During their trip, they also reached Mashuru, a territory where the Maasai tribe lives.



## The Educational Programme of the Vilmány Congregation Received EU Subsidy

Since 2006, a programme called "Esélyt adunk" ("Providing a Chance") in the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District has helped several congregations to form a loose network of mutual support, and in February 2010, it reached another milestone. This was when a EU subsidy contract was signed, regarding a section of the Vilmány series of programmes, which operates as a central model programme. Within the TÁMOP (Social Renewal Operative Programme) system, a so-called "Tanoda" [School] will operate in Vilmány for two years. The aim of this school is to enhance the integration of children with multiple disadvantages, to help with their learning and personal development, to encourage them to enter higher education, and as a result provide better opportunities for them in the labour market. It is not only local pastors that assist in the realisation of the programme, but also teachers, special needs teachers and other professionals from local or nearby congregations.

### Day of Hungarian Reformed Unity



On 22 May we celebrate the common Constitution of the Reformed communities in the Carpathian Basin. The Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary decided that from 2010 on, the Sunday closest to 22 May shall be the Day of Hungarian Reformed Unity. One element of the celebration was the fact that on 23 May during the Pentecost worship, the same hymn and prayer could be heard in each and every Reformed church, symbolising unity. Several pastors from different parts of the Carpathian Basin visited and served in other congregations, which enhances the building of new relationships. To provide a tangible symbol for such new relationships, a special postcard was issued, and members of congregations could send one of these abroad or within national borders to another Hungarian Reformed person, showing this way that we belong together, as well as reminding each other of the historic event of unification.

### New Memorial in Fehérgyarmat

On 5 June 2010, one day after the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, there was a ceremony in Fehérgyarmat, where a new memorial was presented, called *Community of Reformed Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin*, symbolising the unity and confession of Hungarian Reformed people declared in Debrecen the previous year. The idea came from the message of the Debrecen events, and this was moulded into a physical shape by Lajos Bíró, a sculptor from Mátészalka. The memorial was placed in the heart of the city, in the Kossuth Park, with the Reformed church in the background.

## Church Persecution and Church Persecutors in the Kádár Era



István Szabó,  
Bishop of the Danubian Reformed Church District

On 6-7 May 2010 in Budapest, a conference entitled Church Persecution and Church Persecutors in the Kádár Era was held at the Sapientia College of Theology. One of the speakers of the event was István Szabó, Bishop of the Danubian Reformed Church District, who pointed out in his presentation: *“When investigating the past, we must not overlook what is evident. One such evident fact is that there was church persecution in Hungary during the Communist dictatorship, and a second one is that churches suffered in multiple ways as a result. A third one tells us that no reconciliation has come about so far, although there have been attempts at that, and a fourth one is that church persecution was present not only in a legal or political level but also on an intellectual one, and while the dictatorship has ceased to exist, its essence has not evaporated yet.”* The conference was jointly organised by the historical Christian churches of Hungary, and the speakers included Péter Erdő, Archbishop, Cardinal.

## Exhibition on Melanchthon, Hungary’s Teacher

12/13

An exhibition was organised in the Reformed College of Debrecen, entitled *Melanchthon and Hungarians*, featuring the significance of Melanchthon – a prominent figure of Protestantism, Calvin’s friend – and his influence on Hungary. The Year of Calvin (2009) was followed by the Year of Melanchthon; the memory of this great teacher of Germany was celebrated in his home and all over the world. The exhibition was international, organised in association with the Melanchthon Academy in Bretten. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, over a thousand Hungarian students attended the University of Wittenberg, and four hundred and thirty of them were students of Melanchthon. He maintained a regular contact with the association of Hungarian students – and this is how he earned the name: Hungary’s Teacher.

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### Formation of the Reformed Memorial Place Committee

The formation of the Reformed Memorial Place Committee is the realisation of a long-held desire: it aims to discover memorial places related to our Reformed predecessors and collect information on them, from the period of Reformation until the present day. Each church district delegated two people to become members of the body.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Convention of Trans-Danubian Reformed Medical Doctors

A hundred Trans-Danubian Reformed medical doctors attended the convention organised by the Trans-Danubian Reformed Church District, which is the first in a series of conferences that aim to address the Reformed intellectual community of the Trans-Danubian region.



Gusztáv Bölcskei, Transtibiscan Bishop and Sándor Imre, Lay President are placing a wreath upon the relief.

## Placing a wreath upon the relief of István Tisza in Debrecen

There were over three hundred participants present at the student reunion of the Reformed College of Debrecen. On 30 May, an entire day of programmes awaited not only alumni, but also current students. One of the highlights of the reunion was the unveiling of the relief of István Tisza located by the staircase of the Oratory in the Reformed College, by Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei and Rector Sándor Fazakas. Wreaths were placed at the relief of the former Prime Minister by Tibor Patay and Gábor Patay, as well as the great-grandchild and great-great grandchild of István Tisza.

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## Hungarian Heritage Award to István Hegyi-Füstös

The Hungarian Heritage Award, established by the Hungarian Heritage and Europe Association, was presented on 19 June 2010 in Budapest, at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. One of the seven people awarded was Rev. István Hegyi-Füstös, contributor to the Hungarian Radio, writer of articles on art, education, history, literature, author of essays, reviews and biographies. On the occasion of this event, the pastor's artistic works were lauded by Bishop István Szabó.





## Trans-Danubian Reformed Church Days in 2010

This year, the Reformed Church Days – Trans-Danubian Region was held between 25-27 June in Pápa. It was the fourth time that this biennial meeting took place, and nearly ten thousand people were present. According to József Steinbach, Trans-Danubian Bishop, not only was this event the meeting of Reformed people in the Trans-Danubian region, but it also encompassed the Carpathian Basin as a whole. Held in the Castle Yard of Pápa, the festival offered eighty programmes in eight different venues. The event featured presentations on the question of salvation, touching upon the issues of church and society, mission opportunities and the media.



Nearly ten thousand people participated in the Trans-Danubian Reformed Church Days in 2010

14/15

## Full House Concert of the Reformed Choir of the Carpathian Basin

A concert entitled *Reformed Songs* took place on 25 June to a full house in the Palace of the Arts for the ninth time with a performance by the United Reformed Choir of the Carpathian Basin. This choir consisted of three hundred and seventy members of nineteen choirs from within and without the borders of Hungary. Before each section of the performance, Zoltán Balog,

Minister of State for Social Inclusion, Reformed theologian, read out passages from the Bible. The organisers announced a fund-raising for the reconstruction of the Reformed churches in Tiszabura and Felsőzsolca, both damaged by flooding, and the money raised was sent to these two congregations via the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid.

## The Four-Hundred- and-Twenty-Year-Old Vizsoly Bible

Four hundred and twenty years ago, on 20 July 1590, the printing of the first Hungarian Bible was completed in Vizsoly, located in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county. It was Gáspár Károli, a Reformed pastor from Gönc, Superintendent of the Kassa Valley Presbytery, who translated and printed the first complete Hungarian-language Bible in 1590, which consisted of 2412 pages and came out in roughly eight hundred copies over a period of one and a half years. It weighed nearly six kilograms. We have knowledge of fifty-two surviving copies, twenty-four of which are currently outside the borders of Hungary. There is one original copy in the church of Vizsoly. The translation was a major milestone in the development of Hungarian language and literary style, providing a basis for our literary language. The Károli-Bible, with certain revisions, has had over a hundred editions, and to this day it is the most popular Hungarian Bible translation in areas where Hungarian is spoken.

It was resolved in 2006 that a revision of the Protestant New Translation Bible published in 1975 was necessary, although this text had been revised once before, in 1990. This work is still in progress, under the supervision of a committee of four – consisting of Reformed, Lutheran and Adventist theologians. The aims of the committee are to preserve the layout of the Biblical text, improve the consistency of the translation, correct the typographical errors as well as the mistranslations noticed, and also replace archaic and outdated phrases with more modern equivalents.



## Mission Service of Cistibiscan Pastors

On the 11 July general meeting of the Transcarpathian (Ukraine) Reformed Church District, József Csomós, Cistibiscan Bishop appointed Rev. Gerzson Taracközi to participate in a mission service. Taracközi is originally from Kárpátalja (Ukraine), and from 1998 to 2003 served as a pastor in Beregszász (Beregovo) with his pastor wife. Subsequently they worked in Miskolc, and in 2010 returned to Kárpátalja, and in the future, they will continue their mission service in Munkács (Mukachevo). During the celebratory worship, Sándor Zán Fábián, Bishop of the Transcarpathian (Ukraine) Reformed Church District, expressed his joy that there are pastors returning to their mother land, and pastors from former Hungarian territories are ready to serve in communities of present-day Hungary.

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## Annual Meeting of the Collegium Doctorum

The Collegium Doctorum, the main scientific body of the Reformed Church in Hungary, held its general meeting and conference in Pápa, at the Reformed Theological University between 23-27 August. The Monday section of the regular plenary session highlighted two crucial events of 2010. The Swiss Jacques Matthey of the World Council of Churches gave a presentation on the significance of the World Mission Conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910 and the recently finished centenary celebrations. The other important event in terms of church history was the formation of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA in the summer, which was evaluated by Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei. The Tuesday section was opened by the worship of Gábor Vladár, Rector of the Pápa Theological Academy. Professor Tibor Marjovszky commemorated László Márton Pákozdy, who was born a hundred years ago. Zoltán Tarr, General Secretary, Secretary of the Calvin Memorial Committee, discussed the theological aspects of the Hungarian and international events of the Calvin Year. The second section of the plenary session was closed by the presentation of academician Pál S. Varga.

## Pál Huszár's Book on Calvin was Named Book of the Year

The Collegium Doctorum, at its annual general meeting held on 25 August 2010 in Pápa, awarded the Book of the Year title to a work by Pál Huszár – Lay President *Life of John Calvin, His Work in Theology, Reformation and Church Government*, published in 2009. Huszár's book was written for Reformed people who have no formal theological background and for anyone interested, and its primary aims are to provide an accurate extension

to readers' image of Calvin, and to refute misconceptions that became attached to Calvin's name over the centuries. The author wished to present Calvin as someone who decided to use the multiple talents received from the Lord to the benefit of mankind, someone whose spiritual heritage is still an organic part of our Christian convictions as well as our awareness of being Hungarian.

## Creation Time – in the Spirit of Protecting the Created World

For two years now, the period between the last Sunday of September and the first Sunday of October has been devoted to the Creation Time – based on a European example – by the Protection of the Created World Committee and experts of the Reformed Church in Hungary, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, the Catholic Church in Hungary, as well as the Social Ethics Committee of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary (ECCH). The event, which is part of the church year of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox denominations, draws attention to the increasingly pressing question of how to react to the disruption of ecological balance.



16/17

Common worship celebrating the created world in the St. Stephen Cistercian church was held in Buda. The photo features József Steinbach Reformed Bishop, Ákos Előd, Roman Catholic Priest, Péter Gáncs, Lutheran Bishop.

## A Book of Sermons on the Gospel According to Luke

In 2009, a book of sermons was published in the Trans-Danubian Reformed Church District, containing the sermons of eighty-seven pastors. This book prompted the idea of publishing a series, the first of which would interpret the Gospel According to Luke with the help of sermons. It was published in autumn 2010, with the sermons of one hundred and forty-nine pastors. The series is to be continued, with a collection of sermons on the Book of Psalms currently in progress.

## Diaconal Centre Opened in Miskolc

The Diaconal Centre of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District was opened on 26 September, located at 8 Palóczy St., Miskolc. The centre aims to coordinate the diaconal work and the helping services of the institutions and congregations within the church district. In his opening address, Bishop József Csomós emphasized that the motto of the centre and its activities is: *"I have set before you an open door [...] I know that you have but little power."*

## Twentieth Anniversary of the Alliance of Presbyters

On 10 October, an anniversary worship of praise and thanksgiving was held in the Reformed church of Budapest-Kálvin Square, celebrating the foundation of the Alliance of Hungarian Reformed Presbyters. The worship was followed by an open meeting of the presidium. The sermon was delivered by István Szabó, Bishop of the Danubian Reformed Church District, drawing particular attention to the essence of being a member of the session.

## Reformation Gala in Uránia

The event was organised for the 17<sup>th</sup> time in the Uránia National Film Theatre in Budapest on 17 October, where a wide array of cultural programmes gave Protestant churches the chance to recall the centuries-old roots of their common religious heritage.

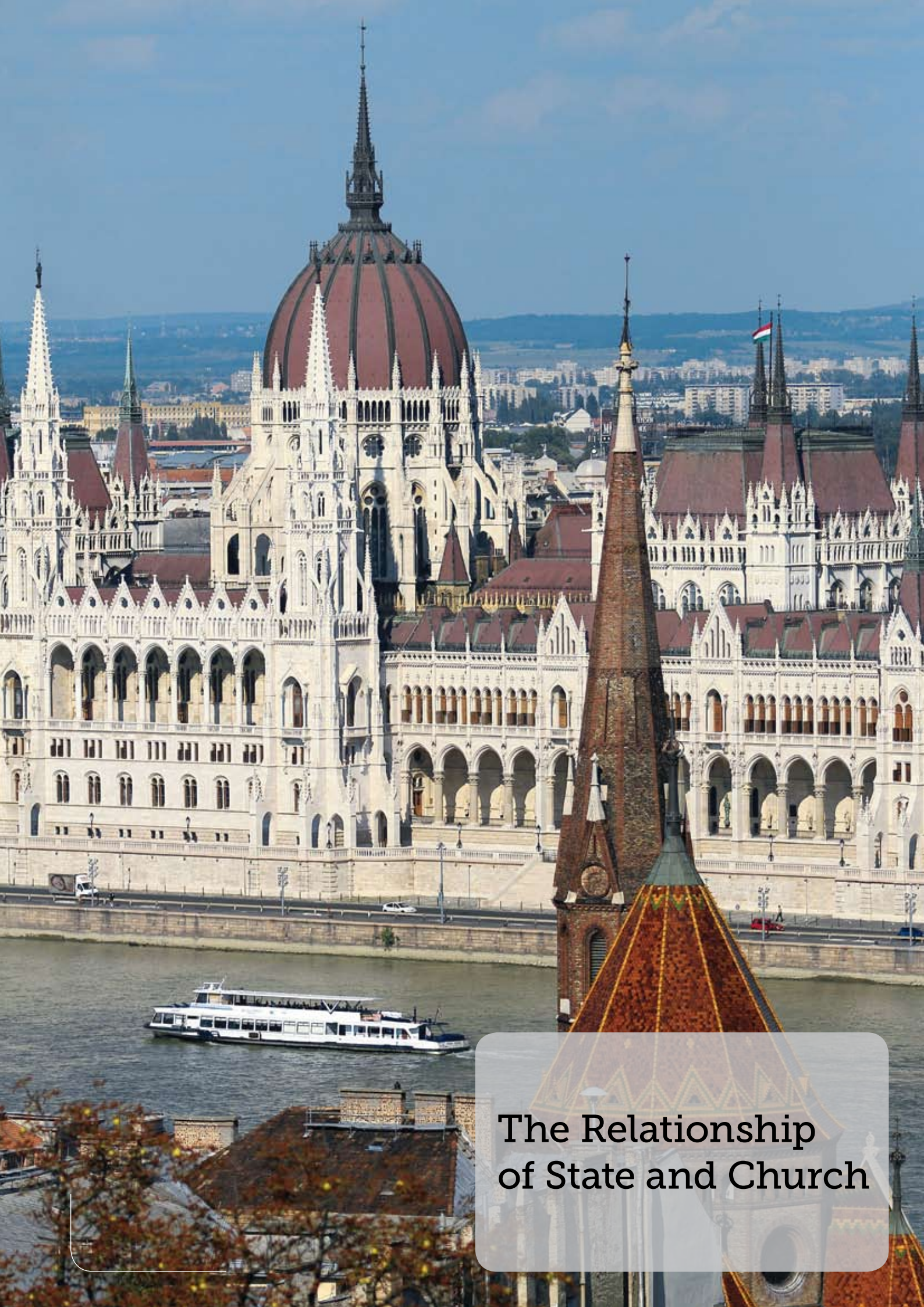
## Twentieth Anniversary of Sárospatak College's Return to Church Governance



With a worship of praise and thanksgiving, held on 30 October, the Sárospatak Reformed College celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its return to the church in terms of governance. The celebration was twofold, as the institution turned four hundred and eighty years old this year, and the worship was the first in a series of programmes.

## Churches and the Rotating EU Presidency

The annual general meeting of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary – which consists of ten member churches and eighteen partner churches and church-affiliated social organisations – was held on 6 December. This year, the council's agenda included issues of European integration, in particular church and ecumenical challenges, opportunities and tasks in relation to the Hungarian EU-presidency coming up in January 2011.



## The Relationship of State and Church

## Twentieth Anniversary of the Church Law

On 24 January 1990, the Hungarian Parliament passed the Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religion and the Churches (Act IV of 1990), with three hundred and four votes in favour, one against and eleven abstentions. This constitutional two-thirds law provided the legal basis and guarantees for the freedom of conscience and religion, as well as the operational freedom of churches, denominations and church institutions. The act codified in detail the definition of freedom of conscience and religion, stating that it is *“a basic human right of freedom available to all.”*

## Recognition of the Work of Árpád Kovács

The Synod Presidium of the Reformed Church in Hungary awarded a commemorative coin to the former President of the State Audit Office in recognition of his good will towards the Reformed Church and his continuing efforts in service of the country. Árpád Kovács received the commemorative coin – issued for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Calvin – during the meeting of the Presidium Council held in Budapest on 17 March. Árpád Kovács was head of the State Audit Office between 1997 and 2009.



## Worship prior to the Opening Session of the Parliament

Members of Fidesz and KDNP gathered in the Hold St. church of the Budapest–German-speaking Reformed Congregation to participate in an ecumenical worship before the 17 May first session of Parliament. Apart from the leaders of the winner parties – Viktor Orbán and Zsolt Semjén –, several other MPs (elected again or for the first time) were also present. *“Is there any hope that in today’s world, the execution of earthly power could remain humane?”* asked Gusztáv Bölcskei in his sermon. The presiding bishop said it would be no exaggeration to state that in the Hungary of 2010 this was a basic question for those who had been elected to govern the country.

## New Basis for State-Church Communication

László Szászfalvi, Minister of State for Church, Civil Society and Nationality Affairs of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, held a meeting with Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei, Ministerial President of the Synod, Péter Erdő, Cardinal and President of the Hungarian Episcopal Conference, János Ittész, Chairman-Bishop of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, and Péter Feldmájer, President of the Alliance of Hungarian Jewish communities. The aim of the meeting was to enhance joint efforts for the benefit of Hungarian society, in the spirit of partnership. The participants of the meeting agreed that there had been a significant shift in the direction of regaining trust between the state and churches. Furthermore, it was emphasized that church-state relations need to be stable and predictable.



János Székely, Gusztáv Bölcskei, Zoltán Balog, Péter Erdő, Fülöp Kocsis and László Szászfalvi

## Cooperation for the Roma

At the invitation of Zoltán Balog, Minister of State for Social Inclusion, church leaders and government members held a discussion about church services that aim to better the situation of the Roma. The meeting was held in early September, and the churches were represented by Gusztáv Bölcskei, Bishop of the Transibiscan Reformed Church District, Ministerial President of the Synod; Péter Erdő, Cardinal, Primate and Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest, President of the Hungarian Episcopal Conference (HEC); János Székely, Auxiliary Bishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Esztergom-Budapest, Chair of the Roma Committee of the HEC; Fülöp Kocsis, Diocesan Bishop from the Byzantine Catholic Diocese of Hajdúdorog. Apart from Zoltán Balog, the government was also represented by László Szászfalvi, Minister of State for Church, Civil Society and Nationality Affairs, as well as senior members from the State Secretariat for Education and Social Affairs of the Ministry of National Resources. During the meeting, the churches presented the variety of activities they have undertaken for the benefit of the Roma. The participants were in agreement about the fact that the social inclusion of Roma people is a mission task on the one hand, and a long-term social investment on the other. In order to strengthen the actual cooperation, they resolved to set up a working party with the inclusion of church communities. This party, in the spirit of equal partnership, will give recommendations to the government.

20/21

## No VAT on Donations

According to a 10 June decision of Parliament, public donations are VAT-free once more. It was the Gyurcsány-administration that introduced the taxing of in-kind donations – citing EU practice –, which came into effect on 1 January 2008, claiming that when a company reclaimed the VAT on food products that were given away as donations, it was not only the company, but also the state that contributed to the donation, with the sum of the tax. The decision – one of the first reached by the new Parliament – was welcomed both by aid organisations and churches, as the state no longer hinders the work of those who would like to help people in need.



Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei is showing a publication called *Kálvincsillag* [Calvin Star] to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán

## Meeting of Gusztáv Bölcskei and Viktor Orbán

A few days prior to general elections, the Ministerial President of the Synod and the President of Fidesz met at the Bishop's Office of the Transbiscan Reformed Church District in Debrecen. The issues discussed during the meeting included social questions and the cooperation of church and public leaders. The Prime Minister candidate was accompanied by Lajos Kósa, Mayor of Debrecen, and MP candidates László Pósz and János Halász. Gusztáv Bölcskei presented Viktor Orbán with a token gift of the Constitutional Synod of Debrecen. The President of Fidesz had attended the celebration of the unified Hungarian Reformed Church on 22 May 2009.

Following the April elections, PM Viktor Orbán invited Gusztáv Bölcskei into his office. The Prime Minister and Bishop Bölcskei reviewed the relevant questions of joint responsibility, such as the strengthening of social solidarity, the role of church institutions in education, social and health care, cross-border cooperation and the success of the Hungarian EU-presidency.





Relations Within  
and Without the  
Carpathian Basin



Members of the General Convent assembled at the Main Hall of Selye János University

## General Convent in Komárom

The plenary session of the General Convent – the common representative body of Hungarian Reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin – was held in Révkomárom (Komárno, Slovakia), with nearly two hundred and fifty participants. During the six years of the body's existence, this was the first location outside Hungary's borders, after plenary sessions held in Budapest, Debrecen, Sáropatak and Pápa. It adopted a common budget and a statement on the Treaty of Trianon. *"Bear with the power of faith, but do not forget – that is what the Hungarian community has to do on the ninetieth anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon,"* reads the document. A publication was also presented during the session, entitled *The Reformed at the Throne of Grace – Theological Principles of the Renewal of Hungarian Reformed Worship*, edited by the Liturgy Committee.

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## Synod Resolutions on the Anniversary of Trianon

*"The Reformed Church in Hungary, sharing a community with all Hungarian people, welcomes and embraces the Day of National Unity. We are especially pleased that this secular commemoration is close in time and nearly identical in its aim to the Day of Hungarian Reformed Unity, a church event on 22 May, celebrating our reunited Reformed Church,"* says the Statement of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary, welcoming the decision of the Hungarian Parliament – set forth in the form of an act – to declare 4 June the Day of National Unity, commemorating the signing of the Treaty of Trianon in 1920. *"We believe that with this amendment Hungary benefits not only Hungarian minorities, but the whole region as well. If Hungarian communities are strengthened in their identity and are able to express this identity freely, they can be worthy partners to neighbouring nations, just as the Hungarian Reformed Church is a partner to the church communities of the region,"* reads the Synod statement of the Reformed Church in Hungary adopted after the amendment of the Act on Hungarian Citizenship.

# Statement of the Hungarian Reformed General Convent in the Carpathian Basin on the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Trianon Peace Treaty

To carry it with the strength of faith but not to forget it – this is the task assigned to Hungarians on the ninetieth anniversary of the Peace Treaty of Trianon.

We Hungarian Reformed people never spoke against others but only for ourselves and our perseverance. The Peace Treaty of Trianon is an unjust verdict which spans generations and maims nations, people and families alike. It still makes life and relationships rather tense, not only for Hungarians but also for all the other nations' in the Carpathian Basin. Trianon, the child of Europe, is a historical heritage which we, the nations living in the Carpathian Basin, must jointly carry. After three generations we must learn to live with this shocking reality of our history to build a common future which surmounts this division and also spans borders based on a new European order.

The borders defined in Trianon not only caused a division in physical terms but also parted Hungarians in spirit. One of the demonstrative examples is the painful message of the referendum held on 5 December 2004. Rejection stemming from disinterest and the interests of party politics tore long-healed scars open again.

The respective church bodies in Hungary, Carpathian-Ukraine, Vojvodina, Transylvania and Partium signed the Constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church on 22 May 2009. Taking this step manifested our

centuries-old community, the community of Hungarian Reformed believers, after toiling for nearly 20 years. The renewed declaration of our unity is a thanksgiving celebration, but also signals great responsibility at the same time: we must support unity to give an example to the whole of the Hungarian nation. Therefore, it is vital for the Hungarian Reformed Church to blossom in its unity and for our cross-border cooperation to strengthen. In this way we bear witness to our hope that God's grace in Christ, which reconciles all and everything, is greater than any unrest and division caused by man. We put our trust in the grace of the Lord who heals every wound.

It is the historic responsibility of today's Reformed Christians to enliven the Hungarian Reformed Church and bring cure, joy and peace instead of pain, sadness and anger within and across the borders of Trianon.

The previously separate Reformed organisations around the world will reunite in Grand Rapids in June 2010. While rejoicing that unity is not exclusively our business, we will participate in the General Council as a member of the worldwide Reformed family and part of the universal church of Jesus Christ. Together we strive to turn our community into a sign of hope in our shattered world.

*"Christ is the future, Him we follow."*

Approved by the General Convent's meeting in Komárom on 27 May 2010.

## Homage to the 85-Year-Old Lajos Gulácsy

Lajos Gulácsy, Reformed Pastor, Bishop Emeritus of the Transcarpathian (Ukraine) Reformed Church, turned 85 on 8 January. It has been written about him that *“his life is a testimony of faithful perseverance in an era of trials and tribulations.”* On the occasion of his birthday and retirement, a worship of praise and thanksgiving was held in the Munkács Reformed church.

## Presidium Meetings of the General Convent

This year's first presidium meeting of the General Convent was held in Budapest, at the Offices of the Danubian Reformed Church District on 13-14 January. Resolutions were adopted on the preparatory work to publish a common Reformed publication as well as on the celebration of the Day of Reformed Unity. On 24-25 February, a presidium meeting was held in the Vajdaság (Vojvodina, Serbia) region for the first time, more specifically in Bácsfeketehegy (Feketič). During this meeting it was decided that the unified church formed in May 2009 would adopt its first common budget. The 6-7 April meeting held in Mályi, was mostly devoted to preparations for the next, May session of the General Convent. The Reformed Bishops and Lay Presidents of the Carpathian Basin assembled in Félixfürdő (Băile Felix, Romania) on 20-21 September. The presidium adopted the regulations of



József Csomós, Tibor Ábrám and Béla Nagy  
at the presidium meeting of the General Convent

the Reformed Public Education Fund of the Carpathian Basin. It was suggested that the struggling Kárpátalja education be the first beneficiary of this initiative. The following meeting, on 15 November, was hosted by Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), where decisions were made regarding budget issues and the publication *Kálvinctsillag* [Calvin Star].



## Publication of Kálvinctsillag

The first issue of the journal of the united Hungarian Reformed Church was published in October. The 136-page journal, printed in 35,000 copies, features each member of the united Reformed church. It also presents articles on education, youth, the legacy of the Reformation, church music as well as mission. The journal is planned to be annual journal, the first one being a test issue. The members of the editorial staff were delegated by the nine member churches of the Carpathian Basin. The online version of the journal is available at [www.kalvinctsillag.majus22.org](http://www.kalvinctsillag.majus22.org) (in Hungarian).

## Reformed Radio Council of the Carpathian Basin

According to the Constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church, the member churches contribute to the drafting of a radio mission strategy as well as the realisation of commonly agreed tasks. To this end, the church district presidia, acting as an executive body, established the Carpathian Basin Reformed Radio Council. The operative body responsible for the preliminary work on resolutions

came to the unanimous decision that “a radio mission network organisation should be created in the Carpathian Basin, in which local radio stations, with their programmes, news and other activities, contribute to the mission service of the districts, according to the needs and means of the church, and providing church districts with a platform to appear in various channels.”

### Election of Officials in Hungarian Reformed Communities

After a shorter term, István Csúry was re-elected by the election assembly for a full term, i.e. six years, as the Bishop of the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District. Attila Varga was elected as the new lay president of Királyhágómellék. In Transcarpathian (Ukraine), the current members of the presidium were nominated for office again, so during the October elections, Sándor Zán Fábián and Béla Nagy were both re-elected as bishop and lay president, respectively. Similarly, at the November elections of the Serbian Reformed Christian Church, the previous leaders were re-elected, István Csete Szemesy as bishop, and Imre Hallgató as lay president. The congregations of the Hungarian Reformed Church of America unanimously re-elected Sándor Szabó, pastor of the Independent Hungarian Reformed Church of Ontario, California, as bishop, so this will be Rev. Szabó's second four-year term as a church leader. The newly-elected lay president of the Church is Frank Király. In late September, Béla Poznan, the new bishop of the Calvin Synod of the United Church of Christ was inaugurated in the Hungarian Reformed church of Fairfield, Connecticut. Rev. Poznan is originally from Slovakia, and served in New York City for a long time. He left the Hungarian congregation of 69<sup>th</sup> Street for Fairfield, where he has served for nearly two decades now.



**István Csete Szemesy**  
Bishop  
of the Serbian Reformed  
Christian Church



**István Csúry**  
Bishop of the  
Királyhágómellék  
Reformed Church  
District



**Béla Poznan**  
Bishop of the Calvin  
Synod of the United  
Church of Christ



**Sándor Szabó**  
Bishop of the  
Hungarian Reformed  
Church of America



**Sándor Zán Fábián**  
Bishop of the Kárpátalja  
Reformed Church  
(Ukraine)



Bishops Gusztáv Bölcskei and Géza Pap are unveiling the commemorative plaque

## Unveiling of the Bethlen Gábor Commemorative Plaque in Gyulafehérvár

On 16 November in Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia, Romania), the commemorative plaque of Gábor Bethlen was unveiled in the St. Anne Chapel of the Metropolitan Cathedral – which was once a Reformed church –, on the 430<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Transylvania. The celebratory worship was led by Géza Pap, Bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District, whose sermon was based on Hebrews 13:7. He said that the command – “Remember your leaders” – carries a secular reference. “We need to remember those who, through the will of God, received the authority to lead this nation in a unique historical and political situation.”

## The Process of Exchanging Ideas on Liturgy Renewal Has Begun

In May 2010, a publication of the General Convent (GC) entitled *Reformátusok a kegyelem trónusánál* [*The Reformed at the Throne of Grace*] was published, discussing the principles of renewing Reformed worship. The principles were drafted by the Liturgy Committee of the GC, and the publication was intended to be a discussion paper, about which the committee expected to receive opinions

and comments. About a hundred of these comments were sent in by classis and congregation members, active and retired pastors, as well as students of theology. The committee, taking into consideration the reactions to the aims of the publication, will continue its work in developing a common Reformed order of church service and the criteria for common worship.



Unidad  
del Espíritu  
en los Lazos  
de la Paz

Unity  
of the Spirit  
in the Bonds  
of Peace

Partner Church  
Relations

## Uniting General Council in Grand Rapids – Unity across Borders



The delegates of the international theology conference in Chicago before the Uniting General Council in Grand Rapids

The Reformed communities of the world had a grand celebration on 18-28 June 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. The thousand participants – delegates, observers, volunteers and organisers, from a hundred and eight countries – came together to unite two previously separate Reformed world organisations: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), including Hungarian Reformed Churches, and the more conservative, originally Dutch Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC). A new organisation was born, representing some eighty million Reformed Christians, named the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). The motto of this historic event was *“Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace”* (Ephesians 4:3), which expressed the central themes: the questions of communion and justice. The Constitution of the WCRC was signed by Gusztáv Bölcskei, President of the WCRC European Area, on behalf of the Hungarian delegation and the European member churches. The global family of Reformed people has been transformed from a loose alliance into a communion of commitment, characterised by the mutual recognition of member churches as “true churches,” pulpit and table fellowship as well as mutual accountability. Through the expression of this fellowship, the WCRC also wishes to represent its Reformed, Presbyterian, Congregationalist and United member churches with greater efficiency in the ecumenical dialogue with Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran and Charismatic churches as well as with their world organisations. The general council is the spiritual and worship communion of local communities, i.e. the delegates of the member churches, both evaluating the service done so far around the world, and establishing the path of the upcoming seven years. During the uniting general council, Rev. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in South Africa, was elected president of WCRC.



## Dynamic Cooperation with the Church of Scotland

In early October 2010, a delegation of the Reformed Church in Hungary travelled to Edinburgh to meet the representatives of the Church of Scotland, including leaders of church areas that are crucial for cooperation. The aim of the visit was to strengthen the historical relationship of the two churches and to reveal the opportunities for cooperation regarding social service. The enhancement of sisterhood agreements between congregations of the two churches was also discussed. The visit, arranged by Sheilagh Kesting, Head of the Ecumenical Office, included programmes such as a consultation with John Chalmers, Pastoral Adviser responsible for the reform process of the Church of Scotland, as well as a meeting with representatives of the church's rural mission and its initiative to end poverty. During the consultation with Rev. Ian Galloway, Convener of the Church and Society Council, issues regarding areas of cooperation were discussed, as well as the support for Hungary's ecology initiatives.

## An Example of Scottish-Hungarian Cooperation: Eco-Congregation Programme

One of the principal programmes of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) is to raise awareness about eco-conscious thinking and leadership in the service of church organisations. Within this framework, the Church of Scotland and the Reformed Church in Hungary signed a co-operation agreement in order to establish an "eco-congregation network" in Hungary, based on the Scottish model. The programme aims to link environmental experts and communities, providing them with a forum and Internet appearance where they can share their ideas, present good examples and enter a competition to win an "eco-congregation prize."

## Reformed European Meeting at Kirchentag in Munich

The German church days *Kirchentag* was held on 12-16 May 2010, and one of its special programmes provided a separate place and time for meeting various European guests both individually and in groups. In the Ecumenical Centre: there were discussions about the Garden of Eden, the theological responsibilities of Reformed people, the intellectual-spiritual investments for the future, as well as the difficulties of church life in big cities. A podium discussion was also held, entitled *Minority Churches in the Ecumene*, led by Barbara Rudolph and Jörg Schmidt, head of the Reformed Alliance in Germany. The event was jointly organised by the Rhine Protestant Church and the Reformed Alliance.



30/31



Rev. Ian Galloway from Scotland, Convener of the Church and Society Council and Rev. Ewan Aitken, Secretary of the Church and Society Council are signing the agreement on behalf of the Church of Scotland

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Calvin Congress

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Calvin Research took place at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa in August 2010. All the well-known and significant Calvin researchers of our age attended the congress and gave presentations. The week-long series of programmes was opened by the main organiser, Prof. Dr. Herman Selderhuis, a Calvin researcher from the Netherlands. The topics included ethics, politics and reconciliation in Calvin's thinking (Prof. Dr. M. Beintker); faith in intellect, intellect in faith concerning Luther, Melancthon and Calvin (G. Frank); and Calvin on Catholicity (T. Lane). Our church was represented by Erzsébet Horváth, Director of the Synod Archives, and Mihály Márkus, Chairman of the Calvin Committee of the RCH.

## Anniversary Synod in Duisburg

The Rhine Church celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Reformed General Synod by holding an extraordinary synod in Duisburg. At this event, our Synod was represented by Pál Huszár, Lay President of the RCH, and other guests included Bishop László Fazekas of the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia. The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Reformed General Synod, which laid down the foundation of the present order of the Rhine Church, was commemorated with a celebratory worship and synod assembly. This joyful celebration provided an opportunity to further strengthen the ties and cooperation between the Reformed Church in Hungary and the Rhine Church, which had been set as an objective in a written agreement signed in November 2009.

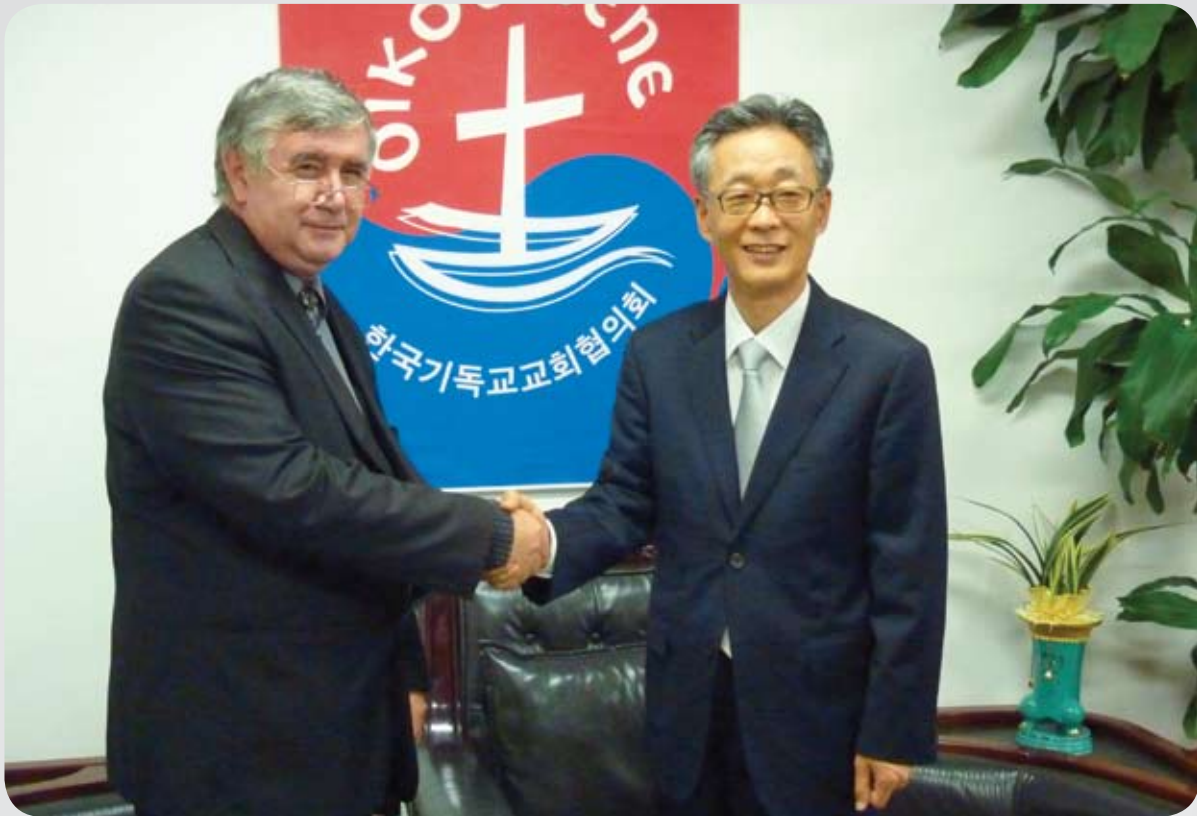
## Thomas Wipf Receives Honorary Doctorate in Debrecen



On 4 November, an Honorary Doctorate of the Debrecen Reformed Theological University was conferred upon Thomas Wipf, Chairman of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland (SEK) and of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE). Wipf is an internationally renowned church leader and Reformed theologian, who has consciously worked on linking his church governing activities with questions of politics and society, economy and social responsibility, church and ecumene, while communicating relevant theological revelations. Thomas Wipf held the position of chairman at the Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland until 8 November 2010.

## Annual Meeting of the Common Global Ministries Board

The annual general meeting of the Common Global Ministries Board was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in early November. Two large North American communities – both members of our Reformed family –, the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Disciples of Christ, established a common office in 1996 after a long preparation process, in order to coordinate the joint “foreign mission” services of the two churches. The board, which has forty-six members, provides assistance to its forty-four mission workers and several short and long term volunteers. Among other issues it resolved to extend the Hungarian mission of Zoltán Szűcs, former Hungarian Bishop in America. Balázs Ódor, Head of the Foreign Office was present at the meeting, as he is one of the six global partners representing Europe until 2013. Our church leaders initiated a similar dialogue in 2010 with the Presbyterian Church in America and the Reformed Church in America, in order to strengthen cooperation.



Gusztáv Bölcskei is greeted by Kwon Oh Sung, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea

## Our Church Representatives Attend the Korean Synod

Both Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei, Ministerial President of the Reformed Church in Hungary, and Balázs Ódor, Head of the Synod's Foreign Office were invited to attend the 95<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Korea. The event took place at the Yanggok Temple in the city of Changwon (Gyeongsangnam-do Province, South Korea) at the beginning of September. The main themes of the Synod included the involvement of the next generation in religious education, as well as the future of the Church of Korea. A special programme of the five-day event was the ecumenical worship, led by Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei. The ecumenical and international partners of the Church of Korea were also invited to this worship, and all participants of the 95<sup>th</sup> Synod could meet here. On Sunday, Bishop Bölcskei delivered another sermon, which was followed by an introduction to the activities of the Reformed Church in Hungary and a discussion on the opportunities of church cooperation. The collaboration of the Reformed Church in Hungary and the Presbyterian Church of Korea, set forth in a cooperation agreement in 2006, has a long history, including theology training, as well as church mission and diaconal services.

32/33

## Tomas Šernas, New Superintendent of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania celebrated the inauguration of its new superintendent, Tomas Šernas, in Birzai in 2010. Our church was represented at this event by Mihály Márkus, Bishop Emeritus and Chairman of the RCH's Calvin Committee. In 2004, at the inauguration of General Superintendent Rimas Mikalauskas, it was Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei who represented our church, thus expressing his respect for the work and service of Rimas Mikalauskas, who had made great efforts to build a Reformed Church and preserve Reformed faith during the political and church transitions.



Participants of the conference at the headquarters of the ECCH (Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary)

### *Poverty, Welfare and Ecology in Europe – CEC-WCC Conference in Budapest*

On 8-12 November, the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CSC/CEC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC), in cooperation with member churches in Hungary, held a conference entitled *Poverty, Welfare and Ecology in Europe*, with over eighty participants from thirty-two countries. The series was initiated in 2006 (Porto Alegre), the idea being that each continent organises a conference, focusing on the context of the given continent. The first venue was Africa (2007), followed by South America and the Caribbean (2008), and after that Asia (2009). Next year it will be North America's turn. The 2010 European conference was held in Budapest, where participants had the chance to learn about the Hungarian social situation through various programmes and study trips. Representatives of Protestant and Orthodox churches, as well as several church-affiliated charities

and humanitarian and environmental organisations were present, including Eurodiaconia, the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) and APRODEV. Further participants of the consultation were representatives of youth organisations such as the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE). The conference, attended by the CEC member churches and partner organisations from all over the world, provided an opportunity to clarify how the creation of welfare, the increase of poverty and environmental consciousness are interrelated, and to discuss how to react to these issues efficiently. One of the achievements of the conference was the signing of a common document on globalisation, drafted in cooperation with Latin-American (CLAI) and European churches (CEC). This document outlines a common basis and objectives, as well as differences.



**Mission  
Activities**

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## World Mission

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Inspired by the anniversary of the World Mission Conference in Edinburgh, the Synod adopted a resolution on 19 November 2009 to make the year 2010 the Year of World Mission in the life of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

### 2010, Year of World Mission

2010 is the centenary of the Edinburgh Conference, which renewed mission thinking, and this anniversary reminds us how relevant the question of world mission is today. To commemorate the 1910 event, another conference was held in Edinburgh, with the aim of summarising the last hundred years and determining new targets, challenges, and methods. The Reformed Church in Hungary was represented by László Gonda of the Debrecen Reformed Theological University. Sev-

eral related events were organised in Hungary as well: in Pécs a commemoration was held at the Downtown Reformed Church, as part of a series of programmes called *October, the Month of Reformation*; and the conference of the Doctors College in Pápa featured a presentation by the Swiss Jacques Matthey of the World Council of Churches on the results of both the 1910 and the 2010 world mission conferences.

### Cooperation with Interserve

The Reformed Church in Hungary signed an agreement with the organisation Interserve, with the aim of assisting foreign mission and the organisational activities of mission workers. The RCH and Interserve wish to cooperate in order to become more effective in the whole mission process: finding potential mission workers who are suitable and have received the calling, training them, determining where they should work, sending them, monitoring their work and then bringing them

back home. Interserve, together with national churches, has been sending out missionaries for over one and a half centuries, especially experts who can be the ambassadors of Christ through their work in the community of other cultures in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Apart from locating and training potential candidates, the partners cooperate in disseminating the importance and opportunities of intercultural mission in the congregations of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

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### Sower – World Mission Board Game

This board game was brought out for the Year of World Mission, with the aim of explaining terms like mission, world mission, local and foreign mission, and bringing these ideas closer to young people. The game was created by Parakletos Könyvesház [Parakletos Book House] with the support of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The game is a brand-new method for illustrating abstract concepts for youngsters in a clear and enjoyable way. The game has already reached the majority of our congregations, and it is expected to contribute to community building.



## Foreign Mission Workers in India



From October 2009, Júlia Németh and Tamás Pálúr spent nine months in a Christian hospital in Fatehpur, Northern India, working as missionary doctors and community builders, sent out by the Reformed Church in Hungary. The Fatehpur hospital belongs to the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA). Their six-month mission was extended for another three months, which enabled them to deepen the results of their work. An exhibition from their photos taken during the trip was opened during the November session of the Synod.

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## Local Mission

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### Hungarian Prison Pastoral Care Re-Launched Ten Years Ago

The tenth anniversary of the re-launch of Hungarian prison pastoral care was celebrated in 2010. To mark this date, a festive conference was held on 13 October in Pilisszentkereszt, at the Training and Rehabilitation Centre of the Hungarian Prison Service. The conference was attended by pastors and mission leaders active in prison service. An agreement of the four historical churches of Hungary – Catholic, Reformed, Evangelical-Lutheran, Jewish – states that there are thirty-three prison pastors serving in prisons (seventeen Catholic – two of which are Greek Catholic –, eleven Reformed, four Lutheran and one Jewish). The work of prison pastors, apart from traditional pastor roles, includes devoting time and energy to organise church and charity work within the institutions or prison system in cooperation with prison leaders and staff. Prior to a prisoner's release, the pastor should get in touch with family members, and prepare prisoners for leaving prison and re-integrating into society.

36/37

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### 5<sup>th</sup> Prisoner Camp in Velece for Strengthening Family Ties

One of the principal tasks of prison pastoral care is to enhance the preservation of family ties. For years, the prisoners who used to have a normal family life outside have had the opportunity to participate in a family camp with their family members and prison pastors. Prisoners from the Mid-Danubian National Prison Institute (Baracska), the Budapest Prison, and the Vác Prison had the chance to be with their relatives.

### Book on Microdistrict Mission

There are over two million people in Hungary living in blocks of flats, in so-called microdistricts. For decades, these people were difficult to reach with the Gospel message, but there have been major changes in this respect over the last twenty years, owing to pastors and congregations. The book entitled *Describe what you Have Seen*, edited by Tamás Czövek, features the testimonies of pastors and congregational members, describing this positive process, and the joys and struggles they experienced. The readers can discover the story and mission strategies of seven congregations (four in Budapest, and three in other cities).

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## Serving among the Roma

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Mural in Bódvalenke (detail) – the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid is the originator and supporter of the project Bódvalenke Mural Village

### Roma College for Advanced Studie

Since the autumn of 2010, our church – working with representatives of the Jesuit, Greek Catholic and Lutheran communities – has been actively engaged in establishing a Christian Roma “special college” network (this Hungarian institution type aims to support talented students in higher education). The State Secretariat for Social Inclusion of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice also contributed to the cooperation. As part of this process, the preliminary work for the establishment of a Reformed Roma special college has also begun.

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### *Good News Also for the Roma*

In December 2010, *Örömhír cigányoknak is [Good News Also for the Roma]* was published by The Ecumenical Study Centre, edited by Károly Tóth. The book features texts on the Roma and the relationship of the Roma and the church, written by authors of various denominations. The most positive aspect of this much-needed publication is the fact that it shows the way forward to a specific community: those who consider themselves Christian.

### Reformed Roma Mission Council

The first meeting of the Reformed Roma Mission Council was held on 29 September 2010. The council was established by the Synod in its November 2009 session, with the aim of providing assistance and coordination for the service of the RCH among the Roma. The council was set up following a long preparatory process, and initially it undertook the harmonisation of the diverse views of its members (who have a variety of backgrounds and experiences) and the formation of the working method. Finally, the council submitted its proposed activity plan at the 17-18 November 2010 session of the Synod, which was adopted.



Roma Mission Council at work



## Marriage and Family Counseling Ministry



In 2010, the married couple of the Week of Marriage: Gergő Süveges, presenter of Hungarian Television and his wife, Margit Rudan, special needs teacher

The Marriage and Family Aid Service aims to provide pastoral care and counselling – with the benefit of strict confidentiality – for those who are experiencing a marital crisis. In 2010, 1860 people turned to the Service to participate in preventative or therapeutic sessions. The Marriage and Family Aid Service received invitations to 63 places both inside and outside Hungary, as a result of which experts visited schools, institutions, camps and other events to give presentations on various topics.

A significant event of the year was the series of programmes named the *Week of Marriage*. In 2010, the married couple of the *Week of Marriage* was Gergő Süveges, presenter of Hungarian Television and his wife, Margit Rudan, special needs teacher.

Staff members of the Service contributed to an ongoing training event, organised by the Family Protection Service for maternal and child care district nurses, as well as trainings held by the Reformed Diaconal Adult Training Institution (Youth Leader, "Family Circle" Leader, Husband and Wife Training).

## Homeless Mission

The aim of the Homeless Mission is to show what the healing power of love can do in a Christian community to those who are currently not surrounded by healthy family and congregational communities. The Homeless Mission, in cooperation with Tiszta Forrás Alapítvány [Pure Spring Foundation], provides complex services: day-time and night-time shelters and homeless care in the streets. In 2010, they have been able to help 1582 people in the day-time shelter, 330 people in the night-time shelter, and 107 people received homeless care in the street.

The Tiszta Forrás Alapítvány – within the activities of the Homeless Mission of the Reformed Church in Hungary – maintains both a day-time and a night-time shelter in Pestszentlőrinc, and provides care for the homeless. With the support of an EU subsidy, it will build a new day-time shelter, which will hold three hundred homeless people. This will be the country's most modern shelter, but at the same time, a simple shelter, with a cost of 50 million HUF. This sum is sufficient for building the basement and the rooms on the ground floor. Food, donated clothes and blankets will be kept in the storage section. The ground floor will be 180 sq . metres, consisting of a community hall and other rooms required in a day-time shelter, where various activities will be held, and a kitchen, where the homeless can have a simple breakfast. Homeless will have the opportunity to take a shower and be disinfected in the new shelter, to wash their clothes, and receive mail. Spiritual care will not be neglected, either: evangelical events will also be organised.



Foundation stone-laying ceremony of the new day-time homeless shelter in Pestszentlőrinc

## Hospital Chaplaincy

In 2010, thirty-one part- or full-time hospital pastors were involved in Hospital Mission. A significant event of the year was the consecration of the Chapel of the Hospital in Gyula on 23 September. Furthermore, work has started on a network of people visiting the sick both in and out of hospitals. In addition, a travelling exhibition was organised by the Hungarian Bible Society with the title *"Blessed Doctor" – Disease and Healing in the Bible*, which was launched on 30 March. The primary aim of the exhibition was to bring the message of the Bible to those who come to church or non-church health care institutions either as patients or visitors.

## Refugee Mission

The refugees supported by the Refugee Mission come from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and countries of the former Yugoslavia, which means they have different languages and cultures from our own. However, several of them have a Christian background. Hungarian society, which is said to be homogeneous, is characterised by a marked fear of "otherness" and by a lack of mobility. The state is largely unprepared to solve the refugee question, and both infrastructure and refugee, labour, legal background, etc., are insufficient. The aim of the Refugee Mission is to support refugees

in a way that they are able to begin an independent life. To achieve this, several issues need to be addressed: learning Hungarian, finding independent accommodation, seeking employment, or being integrated into the school system (in the case of underage refugees).

The housing programme of the Refugee Mission was implemented with the subsidy of the EU's European Refugee Fund. The programme included a selection of families – based on an interview – who have a refugee or asylum seeker status. For two years, the programme covered the costs of their



Young refugees during ice skating at Nyugati square

housing and provided them with basic household appliances. The programme was launched five years ago with the participation of three families, and currently six families are supported. The combined number of adults and children is thirty-two, coming from Iraq, Kosovo, Congo, Guinea, Somalia and Georgia. In 2010, the families' integration into Hungarian society was assisted by two social workers and ten volunteers. The Refugee Mission will be able to continue its work, since it has won a subsidy of 19 million HUF from the European Refugee Fund, to be spent on the housing of the families.

Another programme financed by the European Refugee Fund is the school integration programme. Young refugees typically arrive in Hungary on their own, without a family, suffering from multiple disadvantages, including language and cultural barriers. The programme provides them with tuition

for language and other school subjects, as well as cultural programmes; and to make learning not only hard work, but also a cultural and community experience. The programme has been running for five years, at first assisting eight youth, and currently working with thirty young refugees. In June, one of them took a successful school-leaving exam in Hungarian, and entered college, while another refugee completed a nursing assistant course and found employment in this area. The programme involves three schools at the moment; one is Reformed and the other two are state-run. The staff of the programme consists of a full-time and a part-time social worker, two full-time teachers of Hungarian as a foreign language, and another full-time teacher. The programme has not received support from the European Refugee Fund for the next year, therefore its existence is uncertain, but they would like to continue the work they have started.

## Hearing Impaired and Deaf Mission

The aim of the Reformed Deaf Mission, following the command of Jesus Christ, is to bring the good news of the Bible to our hearing impaired brothers and sisters, providing every means possible (sign language interpretation, induction loop, etc.) to enable them to practise their faith, and to become involved in the faith communities of congregations. The Deaf Mission takes an active part in the life of congregations: there are regular worship events for the hearing impaired in Budapest and Debrecen, and the workers of the mission organise congregational visits, during which they not only provide religious services but also discuss the activities of the mission. As part of its youth work, the Deaf Mission runs twelve Bible study groups with ninety-four participants in Budapest, Eger, Debrecen, Vác and Szeged. Apart from such Bible study groups they also organise preparatory courses for confirmation. In the No. 2 Institute of the Hearing Impaired in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) – which is the only Hungarian-language institution for disabled children in the Carpathian Basin –, the mission runs a programme for the whole school (113 children). There were more than a hundred and fifty participants present at the hearing impaired children's day programmes. Over the summer, four Bible camps were organised, which were attended by seventy-four people.

Their programme for hearing impaired children in state care involves thirty-four children. The Deaf Mission wishes to implement a programme called *Accessibility of our Church*, which would change pastors' and congregation members' attitude towards their disabled brothers and sisters, increasing the feeling of responsibility. Their sign language interpretation courses have been running since 2007 at the Theology Faculty of the Debrecen Reformed Theological University. The staff of the mission developed and implemented two educational programmes for introducing the world of disabled people: *Learn it!* – for young people, and *PARDON?!* for the general population. In 2010, over 1800 people participated in these educational programmes.

40/41



Deaf Bible study students' asphalt drawing about Noah

## Mission to Save Alcoholics

The Reformed Mission to Save Alcoholics, together with the Hungarian Blue Cross Association, is engaged in helping people who suffer from addiction. Over the past decades, the scope of the mission has extended, and now they receive people seeking help from all over the country. The twelve-day healing conferences are held in the hospital of Dömös, where patients receive medical and spiritual treatment at the same time. The aftercare treatment is done in a so-called “blue cross” group, present in nearly fifty towns, mainly in communities with Reformed congregations. In 2010, altogether 3200 people participated in the healing and aftercare services.

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## Telephone-Counselling

Telephone-Counselling is a preventive service, which aims to prevent suicide attempts, intervene during crises, and deal with other mental hygiene issues. The service wishes to prevent events of crisis, and help those in difficult situations to find solutions. The service is available every day between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the number (+36 1) 201 0011 for those who are experiencing an emotional crisis, or would like to discuss personal questions of family, conscience, or faith. The Telephone-Counselling received 523 phone calls in 2010, which means 10746 minutes spent talking. A major event was the launch of Skype-counselling, which is available every Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., calling the Skype account: lelkigondozas1.

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### *See by Touching!* – Programme Series Launched to Support the Visually Impaired and the Blind

Every year, approximately five thousand people lose their eyesight in Hungary. The Mission Centre of the Reformed Church in Hungary launched its *See by Touching!* series of programmes in 2010, which primarily aims to bring closer together the blind and the seeing within Reformed communities, and to serve among blind or visually impaired people. The idea behind *See by Touching!* dates back to 2008, when the Hungarian Bible Society informed the Reformed Mission Centre (RMC) that an international society was going to bring Bible Books printed in Braille to Hungary over the next few years. Then two years ago, the RMC received the first books for the blind: twenty-five copies from each of the sixty-six Books of the Bible. This is where *See by Touching!* originated, and the mission programme lasted for a full year. The programmes started on 15 October – the White Cane Safety Day – in Budapest, followed by the opening worship of *See by Touching!* also held in the other Reformed church districts (in Nagykanizsa, Debrecen and Miskolc).

### *Journey to Save Lives 2*

The *Journey to Save Lives* mission programme was organised for the second time by the Reformed Mission Centre, with the aim of visiting disadvantaged areas and conduct free-of-charge health screening tests. Between 16 September and 16 October, fourteen locations were visited by expert doctors and assistants, as well as mission centre staff members and volunteers. The *Journey to Save Lives* is not only a series of screening tests, but also a programme for building relationships, and its main aim is to preserve people's physical and mental health. The medical tests included the examination of blood pressure, blood sugar and blood cholesterol levels, and breathing capacity. The participants also received a package of food and hygiene products. Apart from doctors and nurses, members of the local congregation and mission centre staff were also available to talk to those who attended the tests. The required expert medical assistance was provided by György Velkey, General Director of the Reformed Church in Hungary's Bethesda Children's Hospital, while the doctors were provided by the above-mentioned Bethesda Hospital and the Hospital of Mosdós.



Our Church Aid

## Institutional Changes

Last year our church received a request from the institutional alliance of Nagyszekeres-Kisszekeres-Zsarolyán-Nemesborzova, which provides nursing and care services. They asked the church to take over their home for the elderly in Zsarolyán. As of 1 January 2010, the home, with its twenty-three residents belongs to the Reformed Church in Hungary.

In December, the supporting service of the Blind Mission was renamed Tábita Reformed Supporting Service, and taken over by the church.

In 2010, there were 126 children and 80 foster parents in the Foster Parent Network of the Reformed Child Protective Service.

## Grants and Developments

Physical accessibility facilities were installed in several of the institutions maintained by the Synod of the RCH – at the Juhász Zsófia Nursing Home, at the Cédrus elderly club and psychiatry in Baja, at Szivárvány-ház Reformed Nursing-Caring Home of the Disabled, and the Reformed Nursing Home in Dunaalmás. These physical accessibility facilities were installed with an overall cost of 94 million HUF, partly covered by grants and partly by own funds. Work has begun on the construction of the Sylvester-House Budapest Reformed Complex Rehabilitation Centre, on the physical accessibility of the Albert Schweitzer Reformed Nursing Home and at the Reformed Nursing Home in Dunaalmás.

## Adult Education

In Hungary, there are five types of adult training: state-accredited, church, OKJ [National Training Registry of Hungary] vocational, social, and professional training. In 2010, the Reformed Diaconal Adult Training Institution launched twenty-four different training courses in social field, and awarded 150 certificates (and the relevant credit points). A distance-learning network within the Carpathian Basin is in the process of being established, with the IT background already completed, and distance-learning courses will be available from 2011.

## Dizseri Tamás Charity Award Ceremony in Budapest



In 2010, Ildikó Bereczky Reformed pastor received the Dizseri Tamas award during a ceremony held in the Hold St. church of the German-Speaking Reformed Congregation in Budapest. Rev. Bereczky is originally from Transylvania, and she undertook her work as a pastor in Baranya in the 1980s, which was considered something of an exile at the time. *“Her life is the embodiment of the determination and perseverance portrayed on this medal,”* said Gusztáv Bölcskei, Ministerial President of the RCH Synod. During the ceremony, a short worship was led by István Szabó, Bishop of the Danubian Reformed Church District. The Dizseri Tamás Charity Award was established in memory of the former general director of the Bethesda Children’s Hospital, who passed away in 2003. The commemorative medal is awarded on the anniversary of his death to those with outstanding achievements in the physical and mental healing of people.

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## Hungarian Reformed Church Aid (HRCA)

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With gratitude in our hearts towards God as well as our supporters, we can report that in the year 2010, the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid received 45.5 million HUF in donations. The value of in-kind donations amounted to 180 million HUF in 2010.



2010 was the year of disasters for the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. Following the earthquake that shook Haiti, our medical team arrived on site within 36 hours, and they were able to complete three successful medical missions with the help of supporters. The HRCA, in addition to providing medical aid, distributed nearly 18 million HUF worth of aid in Haiti.



With the arrival of spring, there were minor floods in several areas, but the real disaster struck with the flooding of the rivers in Borsod county. The aid provided families affected by the flood not only with regular aid packages, but also 30 million HUF worth of construction material and furniture specially manufactured for them, according to their needs. Over the summer, a programme called *Help a Flood Victim Family* was organised, in which participating families received a monthly aid for six months.

In August-September, continuing the development and aid work started in Afghanistan in 2009, the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid sent medical and hospital equipment as well as aid to Baghlan Province, which is part of a war zone. The aid action was realised in a unique cooperation with the Provincial Reconstruction Team of the Hungarian Army.

The ten ongoing programmes launched in 2008 were continued in 2010. As a result, even more families, elderly people and orphaned children received food, clothes, furniture, school supplies and other forms of aid from the HRCA. Thanks to the supporters of the *Nyilas Misi Scholarship Programme* (named after a fictional character of Hungarian literature), more young students from Kárpátalja (Ukraine) and Transylvania could participate in Hungarian-language education.

Under the Christmas gift-collecting initiative named *Parcel for Nyilas Misi*, eight thousand Christmas presents were sent to children in Hungary, Felvidék (Slovakia), Kárpátalja and Transylvania.

In 2010, the focus of the international activities of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid was on Kosovo, Haiti and Afghanistan. There were three aid actions in Haiti, and one each in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Also, the health development programme launched years ago was continued in the war-stricken Afghanistan.



## Bridge of Love Programme – Awareness Raising Campaign to Spread Volunteering



Initiated by the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the Bridge of Love programme organises groups to carry out voluntary work all over the Carpathian Basin. In 2010, this volunteer programme was held on 21-22 May, for the second time. The choice of this date was based on the recommendation of

the Synod Council of the RCH, thus making the Bridge of Love one of the official programmes of the anniversary events of the Constitutional Synod. The church patron of the Bridge of Love was Lajos Csúry, Bishop of the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District, and its lay patron was Márta Sebestyén folk singer. During the two days of the event, altogether 250 groups offered their voluntary services not only to church-related locations but also to public places, kindergartens and schools maintained by local councils. The programme provided opportunities for volunteers to experience some of the activities that go on in nursing homes for the elderly or the disabled, to see what happens in children's homes, and to offer their physical work or just a smile to cheer up those in care. The number of volunteers participating in the campaign was 9200.

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## Ecumenical Diaconal Year (EDY)

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### Sending and Hosting Volunteers

In 2010, the programme office sent out seventy-five volunteers to various, mainly foreign partner organisations and churches for a year's voluntary work. In Hungary, there are also a growing number of institutions that host long-term and full-time volunteers. In 2010, the number of volunteers serving was as follows: Germany: six; USA: three; France: two; Kárpátalja (Ukraine): nine. Over the year, several trainings and seminars were held to enable volunteers to discuss their experiences, and this way their volunteer service became a community experience as well. The motivation and expectations of volunteers have changed greatly over the years. There is a tendency for Western volunteers to be interested in specifically Eastern-European issues, to deal with challenges that are not present in their own country. A good example for this is the great interest in serving among the Roma, and volunteers are keen to learn about the situation of the Roma community in Hungary.

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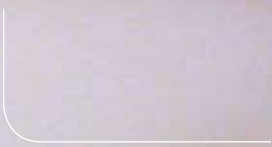
### Cooperation within the Youth in Action Programme

The programme office went through several processes of accreditation, as this is a requirement for hosting institutions within the European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme, in order to comply with the required conditions. The Ecumenical Diaconal Year Programme office is in close cooperation with the Mobility National Youth Service, regarding the grant system of the EVS. In three instances, the office successfully applied for the support of Mobility for the volunteers hosted.





**Health Care  
Services**



## Developments

In order to further develop the info-communication system of Bethesda Hospital in Budapest, a so-called PACS system was installed at the Department of Radiology, with the financial help of the foundation. The new system decreases the number of repeat images, thus reducing the extent of radiation exposure. The reconstructions in connection with the Norwegian tender have begun. The goal of the investment, financed by the Norwegian Fund and the Bethesda Foundation, is the modernisation of the hospital's energy supply.

An in-house ceremony was held to open the brand new physical therapy room of Bethesda. The design and construction is the work and donation of Zoltán Paczolay and his sub-contractors.

The ceremonial opening of the Bethesda Pharmacy was held on 7 December. The construction took two months to complete, and the overall cost of the investment was 25 million HUF. Of this cost, 10 million HUF was covered by the local council of Zugló, in recognition of the fact that the hospital significantly contributes to the health care treatment of the children living in this district. In 2010, the development of Bethesda's info-communication systems was once more supported by T-systems – Deutsche Telecom. The 5 million HUF worth of development resulted in an enhanced bit rate.

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## Treatment

In 2010, 7890 children received inpatient care in our hospital, while nearly 120 thousand of them benefited from our outpatient services.

In September and October, several staff members of Bethesda volunteered their services in the *Journey to Save Lives* programme organised by the Mission Centre of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

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## Awards and Recognitions

In January, the Ministry of Health held a competition for the *Hospital of the Year 2009* title, and it was Bethesda that won first place. In a similar competition on the Internet, in which patients had the chance to vote for the *Hospital of the Year 2009*, our institution came second.



**Andrea Kónya, the institutional PR consultant at K&H Group Hungary, and György Velkey, General Director of Bethesda Children's Hospital**

## Donations

Thanks to the donation of K&H Group Hungary, Bethesda was able to buy equipment that contributes to the outpatient care of 170 children at the Department of Rehabilitation. The Foundation of United Way Magyarország Kft. – which had earlier donated equipment to the hospital – offered a significant sum, which was used for the renovation of the corridor at the Department of Surgery.

The proceeds from a charity bake sale by the staff of Genpact Hungary Kft. were also offered to the Foundation of Bethesda Children's Hospital. At the charity auction of Suzuki Ház, works of art were sold to the highest bidders. The money raised this way was submitted to Bethesda's Burn Centre. The patron of the event in 2010 was Pál Szekeres, Olympic bronze medallist and Paralympic gold medallist fencer, Deputy State Secretary for Sport of the Ministry of National Resources. A painting was jointly created by several professional athletes, Olympic medallists and famous sports personalities, also offered for auction. A new publication by Vox Nova Produkció, entitled *Tales of Leonardo da Vinci*, appeared in the Hungarian book market for the first time, translated into Hungarian by the József Attila Award-winning young poet, Balázs Szálinger. What makes this publication truly remarkable is the fact that the twenty-eight tales featured in this book are accompanied by an illustration of each tale, by the most outstanding representatives of contemporary Hungarian graphic art. The originals of these graphic illustrations also formed part of the auction, and the proceeds were offered to Bethesda by all of the artists.



**The Church  
of Young People**

In most of our 1200 congregations there are various programmes for children and youth: Sunday schools, confirmation courses, Bible study groups, camps during the school year and in the summer, as well as cultural events. From now on, there will be several national and regional youth organisations operating in the country, all affiliated to with the Reformed Church in Hungary. These communities undertake the religious education of youth, preparing them for a potential roles in public life, organising camps year round, as well as conferences, leadership trainings, language courses, and sports competitions. Currently there are university congregations in six university cities (Budapest, Debrecen, Győr-Sopron, Miskolc, Pécs, Szeged). They are primarily engaged in the pastoral care and training of undergraduates, involving them in church life.

## 72 Hours without Compromises

On 15-17 October 2010, the ecumenical youth, social, and charity event named “72 Hours without Compromises” was held again all over the country. The three-day series of social actions was coordinated by the Ecumenical Youth Office, with the partnership of the youth and diaconal representatives (Caritas, Hungarian Ecumenical Charity, Church Aid) of three historical churches. At the Budapest opening of the voluntary programme, István Szabó, Bishop of the Danubian Reformed Church District, said the following to youngsters: *“Notice and follow the right order: we always start from the last and keep working backwards until we reach the first one, in a world in which everything has been turned upside down.”* Bishop Szabó encouraged young people to attempt to reach those



who are considered to be the last, of the least importance in the world: with the hope that in the end they will reach and help others to reach, the first one, God Himself. On both sides of the border, both within and without the church, this calling to become closer to God was the most important message of the youth mission.

## Cooperation in the Carpathian Basin

On 22 May 2009, the Reformed churches of the Carpathian Basin adopted a common constitution, thus expressing their unity in an institutional form. Since then, there have been talks in various areas on how to experience this communion on a daily basis. In terms of youth, a consultation forum was set up, with the participation of church district representatives and youth organisation leaders. After a six-year break, they held a meeting in Bu-

dapest, coinciding with the presidential assembly of the General Convent, on 13-14 January 2010, and their work was continued on 25-26 October in Solyomkővárálja (Királyhágómellék, Romania). With around twenty participants, they discussed the formation of sister congregations, the organisation of a common prayer night, and joint participation in professional forums.

## Konfi+ Conference



On 22-25 August in Berekfürdő, a youth conference called Konfi+ was held for the first time. The aim of the event was to introduce – with the help of experienced youth leaders and experts – as many good models of youth work as possible, and to enable participants to gain useful knowledge on how to address youngsters. The conference also provided opportunities to build new relationships, as over a hundred and fifty people attended it from all over the Carpathian Basin.

50/51

## Mentor Programme Launched in Youth Work

The Danubian and Trans-Danubian Reformed Church Districts, together with the Synod's Youth Office, involved youth workers, youth pastors and experienced youth leaders in a joint project, the result of which was a small Reformed youth network, providing mutual help. Within this network, a mentor-mentee relationship is formed for a one-year period, during which the mentor establishes a relationship of trust with the mentee, enabling them to develop, learn, and gain more experience and confidence in their field of work.

## Contrasts Exhibition – the Police and the Reformed Church for Youth



The Contrasts Exhibition is an exhibition for youth and family protection, jointly organised by the police and the Reformed Church, featuring youth problems, such as drugs, abortion, domestic violence, suicide, divorce and the global power of money.

In the exhibition – which made use of various multimedia devices – visitors had the chance to sit in a car simulator, wearing glasses that cause double vision, to experience how they would react if they were drunk, or they could “go to the disco,” where the destructive effects of alcohol and drugs were presented.

It was not the aim of the exhibition to shock visitors, but to introduce traditional moral values, and to prove that society cannot stay inactive when it comes to the problems of young people and families. The exhibition was so successful that in September 2010 two more exhibitions were opened in Nyíregyháza and Debrecen.

## 10 Years of KözösPont Mission

This year was just like any other: a series of summer music festivals awaited visitors with colourful programmes. Apart from national and international stars, and fantastic street performers, another compulsory element was also present: the tent of KözösPont [Common Ground] stood out from the faceless crowd of festival-goers. The joint mission the Reformed, Catholic and Lutheran Churches deems it important to be accessible in the world of festivals as well, presenting a unity of the historical denominations of Hungary. Today, KözösPont is a common service of nearly a hundred people, and it appeared in all the major Hungarian festivals, even across the border. Having been three of the largest Hungarian music festivals, we can proudly state that people are getting more and more open by the year, and KözösPont is able to get in touch with an increasing number of youngsters.





Education

## Public Education

It was twenty years ago that the school system of the Reformed Church was revived. Our church serves in the field of education for the public good, using public funds, and based on public agreement in terms of content and structure. The situation is the same outside Hungary – it is only the extent of the public funds provided that could be different. There is a strong network of relationships connecting the Reformed schools in Hungary and the institutions across the border, in Felvidék (Slovakia), Kárpátalja (Ukraine), Transylvania and Partium (Romania) – and hopefully Délvidék (Serbia) will soon join this list.

In 1990, the Reformed Secondary Grammar School of Budapest (today called Baár-Madas), as well as the Secondary Grammar Schools of Kecskemét and Sáropatak Reformed Colleges were opened, so altogether there were four active institutions, including that of Debrecen. Ten years later, our system consisted of 70 public education institutions, and the twentieth school year saw the operation of 119 of them. In 2000, this meant 105 educational services and in the academic year 2009/2010, 180. The number of our kindergartens reached 16 in the first decade, and 36 in the second. The number of our elementary schools in the same two periods was 36 and 66 respectively, the number of secondary grammar schools 19 and 27, the number of secondary vocational schools 2 and 5 (and since the new academic year, 6), the number of vocational schools 2 and 3, and the number of art schools 4 and 12. The only figure that shows decrease is regarding dormitories, in the second decade their number was reduced by two.

All in all, in the year 2010/2011, Reformed public education is responsible for 181 educational services within its 117 institutions in Hungary. These public duties are fulfilled by 36 kindergartens, 67 elementary schools, 27 secondary grammar schools, 6 secondary vocational schools, 3 vocational schools, 12 art schools, 6 special needs institutions, 21 dormitories, 2 pedagogy specialised services, and one pedagogy service-provider institution. The number of multi-purpose institutions is 38. The number of holders decreased from 80 to 77.

Outside the borders of Hungary, the institutions maintained by the Reformed Church are: 2 secondary grammar schools and 5 elementary schools in Felvidék (Slovakia), 6 secondary grammar schools, 1 elementary school and 2 kindergartens in Transylvania, 3 secondary grammar schools and a kindergarten in Partium (Romania), and 4 so-called lyceums in Kárpátalja (Ukraine).

### Reformed Public Education in 2010 – in Numbers

	15 Sept 2009	15 Sept 2010
Early development	23	24
Kindergarten education	3 012	3 237
Elementary education (Years 1-8)	17 854	18 427
Secondary education (Years 9-12)	8 848	8 745
Vocational training (theory)	480	454
Dormitory education	1 649	1 548
Elementary art education	2 135	2 109
Special development education (special needs care)	176	137
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34 177</b>	<b>34 681</b>



The cooperation of Reformed education institutions within the Carpathian Basin has improved further. In October 2010, Reformed public education institutions were able to raise 8,795,330 HUF to support the Reformed lyceums in Kárpátalja. A significant event of the year was the 15<sup>th</sup> Rally of Hungarian Reformed Secondary Schools, held in Miskolc on 7-10 July 2010. The 44 participating institutions agreed to make all necessary efforts in order to express the unity declared on 22 May 2009 in the everyday lives of Reformed educational institutions all over the Carpathian Basin.

Similarly to previous years, 47 students – representing nearly all reformed secondary schools of Hungary and Kárpátalja, and one school of Felvidék – had the opportunity to attend Talentum Camp, the talent cultivation camp for Reformed secondary school students, thanks to the financial support of the Reformed Talent Foundation. The central theme of the camp was the idea of world mission.

The opening ceremony of the 2010/2011 academic year for the Reformed educational institutions of the Carpathian Basin took place in Miskolc, on 28 August 2010. It was at this event that the Makkai Sándor Award was presented, honouring individuals who have been outstanding teachers and professionals, and have led exemplary lives, namely: Gyuláné Hagymási (Berettyóújfalu), Béláné P. Tóth (Szentendre) and Zsolt Tótkés (Székelyudvarhely – Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania). The Synod conferred the Imre Sándor Award upon Headmaster Péter Hoppál from Pécs, at its 19 November session.

Reformed higher education is represented by the four faculties of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary (Law, Humanities, Theology, Teacher Training), three institutions of theology (Debrecen Reformed Theological University, Pápa Reformed Theological Academy and Sárospatak Reformed Theological Academy), as well as the Kölcsey Ferenc Reformed Teacher Training College in Debrecen. The number of students in 2010 was as follows:

**Participants of the 15th Rally of Reformed Secondary Schools of the Carpathian Basin. At the middle József Csomós Bishop, at right of him Tibor Ábrám, headmaster**

Type of education	2009	2010
Full-time	3 965	3 662
Correspondence/Evening	1 435	1 509
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5 400</b>	<b>5 171</b>

Type of financing	2009	2010
State-financed	3 105	2 911
Fee-paying	2 295	2 260
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5 400</b>	<b>5 171</b>

## 15<sup>th</sup> Rally of Reformed Secondary Schools of the Carpathian Basin

It was for the 15th time that representatives from the Reformed Secondary Schools of the Carpathian Basin assembled in Miskolc, at the Lévy József Reformed Secondary Grammar School and Dormitory, on 7-10 July. Representatives came from forty-one institutions. The rally was a preliminary event of the series of celebrations commemorating the 450th anniversary of Lévy's foundation. The opening worship was led by József Csomós, Bishop of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District. The attending teachers and students were greeted by Tibor Ábrám, Headmaster of Lévy Secondary Grammar School, Cistibiscan lay president, and Mária Pető handed over the wooden stick carved by the organisers of the previous rally to the representatives of Lévy.



## Reformed School Year Opening Held in Miskolc

The common opening ceremony of the 2010/2011 academic year for the Reformed educational institutions of the Carpathian Basin took place in the Kossuth St. Reformed Church in Miskolc, on 28 August 2010. Representatives of institutions in Hungary, Transylvania, Kárpátalja (Ukraine) and Felvidék (Slovakia) attended the event, which was hosted by Lévy József Reformed Secondary Grammar School and Dormitory, with an opening sermon by József Csomós, Bishop of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District. During the celebration, a greeting address was given by László Szászfalvi, Minister of State for Church, Civil Society and Nationality.



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## Higher Education

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### Unique Course Launched at Sárospatak Theology

From September 2010, a new BA course was launched by the Sárospatak Reformed Theological Academy, called Reformed Community Manager, which is unique in the Protestant higher education of the Carpathian Basin. The level of the course is basic (BA), and its duration is 6 semesters. There is an opportunity to supplement this training with an MA at the University of Miskolc, either within the Faculty of Humanities (Sociology MA), or within the Faculty of Economics (Master of Business Administration and Marketing MA). The aim of the Sárospatak Reformed Theological Academy with this new course is to train individuals who will be able to manage and organise the life of a community, with the help of their theological and cultural knowledge, as well as their acquired managerial and organisational skills. Those who choose this training course are primarily prepared for community management within congregational and church institutions, but they will also be able to carry out community organisation in other areas.

## Reformed-Baptist Cooperation in Theology Training

A cooperation agreement was signed by the Debrecen Reformed Theological University and the Baptist Theological University in Budapest. They both aim to utilise their common intellectual, material and institutional resources. The two institutions will cooperate in the fields of education, research, as well as scientific and other specialised areas, and they will create opportunities to share experiences regarding trainings, new courses and adult education. The two universities mutually recognise credit points gained at the other institution.

### Regional Centre for the Continuing Education of Teachers

A consortium – consisting of the University of Debrecen, the College of Nyíregyháza, and Kölcsey Ferenc Reformed Teacher Training College in Debrecen – won 186 million HUF in EU subsidy for the improvement of teacher training in the Northern Great Plain Region. The subsidy was allocated proportionally,; therefore the Kölcsey Ferenc Reformed Teacher Training College received 19 million HUF. 15% of this sum is to be spent on equipment, and the remaining 85% is for professional activities. Among other improvements, the development of teaching materials and databases will be carried out, and there will also be a review and possible extension of the scope of institutions where trainee teachers can complete their teaching practice.



The building of the Kölcsey Ferenc  
Reformed Teacher Training College in Debrecen

56/57

### The 2010/2011 Academic Year for Károli Gáspár University

A great and, in many respects, formidable challenge in the year 2010 was the institutional accreditation inspection. The first half of the year was spent in preparation for this inspection, as well as the implementation of significant internal transformations, while the second half was devoted to the preliminary work on making operations more regulated and balanced, considering the results and criticisms of the inspection.

The **Faculty of Law and Political Sciences** was accredited by the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee (HHEAC) until September 2013, with a September 2011 visit. The faculty made a concerted effort in 2010/2011 to meet the committee's requirements, including appointed faculty leaders, sufficient teacher numbers, and quality assurance tasks. The standard of education was further raised, through the merging of smaller departments and the employment of teachers who hold a PhD degree.

Memorable events of the year include conferences that were well-attended and which received favourable media coverage, such as the one entitled *Current Issues of Involuntary Treatment*, and the *Iustitia* moot court competition held for secondary schools.

The **Faculty of Humanities** was also accredited until 2013. Accordingly, a major task to be completed this year was to comply with the accreditation requirements. A new dean, Enikő Sepsi, was appointed from 1 October 2010, and the transformation and improvement of the whole faculty began under her supervision. Preliminary steps were taken regarding plans to launch new courses and a new doctoral school.

The **Faculty of Theology** was accredited until 31 December 2015. Education is underway in the following courses: pastor, evening Protestant theology, correspondence teacher of religion, and doctoral training.

On 26 November 2010, the *Edinburgh 2010* conference was hosted by the Faculty of Theology, with the participation of Reformed, Lutheran, Baptist, Orthodox and Byzantine theologians and pastors. A small group of the faculty's students had the opportunity to walk *In the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul*, visiting areas of Asia Minor and Greece.

The **Faculty of Teacher Training** hosted various scientific conferences as part of the anniversary celebration that began in November 2010. Meetings of the Pedagogy Section of the Doctors College as well as the Association of Kindergarten and Elementary School Teacher Trainers were held at the faculty. In the autumn, the SDG Psalm and Folk Singing Competition was organised here. Faculty members gave presentations at scientific conferences in Debrecen, Kaposvár, Pécs and Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

## French Award to Károli's Dean



Enikő Sepsi, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Károli Gáspár University, was awarded the *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* (Order of Academic Palms) in the Budapest French Institute on 19 October 2010. Based on the recommendation of the French Education Minister, Prime Minister François Fillon issued a decree on 11 January 2010, in which he conferred the award upon Enikő Sepsi for her outstanding achievements in education, science, scientific management and the

building of French-Hungarian relations. The award, which depicts a laurel wreath, had been founded by former Minister Jules Ferry, and was presented to Enikő Sepsi by Cultural Attaché François Laquieze, Director of the French Institute. Enikő Sepsi is the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Károli Gáspár University, President of the Association of Former Scholarship Students of the French Government, a member of the strategic council of the French Institute, and for years she was the leader, vice-director and executive director of the Eötvös Collegium French Workshop. It is thanks to her activities that contemporary French poetry became a part of the higher education curriculum.

## Among the Top Ten Universities

Based on the achievements of students and teachers, the best higher education institutions in 2010 are as follows: Eötvös Loránd University, University of Szeged, Corvinus University of Budapest, University of Debrecen. This year, for the first time, the National Higher Education Information Centre set up a list of absolute ranking of the universities and colleges in Hungary. Two church higher education institutions made it to the top ten: the results of teachers and students at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary meant 7th place, while those of Pázmány Péter Catholic University ranked it as 9th.

# Life of the Reformed Church in Hungary in Numbers\*

## Demographic data 2010

	Presbytery	Christenings	Confirmations	Marriages			Funerals
		total	total	same-faith	interfaith	total	total
Danubian	Baranya	283	141	9	42	51	392
	Bács-Kiskunság	603	423	28	93	121	878
	Budapest-South	711	366	66	157	223	959
	Budapest-North	832	432	70	143	213	1 100
	Southern Pest	983	643	86	129	215	1 235
	Northern Pest	867	504	70	146	216	1 031
	Tolna	190	125	12	25	37	268
	Vértesszajka	328	219	27	40	67	455
	<i>Total:</i>	<b>4 797</b>	<b>2 853</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>1 143</b>	<b>6 318</b>
Trans-Danubian	Mezőföld	233	137	20	62	82	344
	Őrség	90	106	7	34	41	178
	Pápa	336	200	18	85	103	402
	Somogy	195	145	22	37	59	318
	Tata	433	235	29	69	98	536
	Veszprém	237	119	21	30	51	297
	<i>Total:</i>	<b>1 524</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>2 075</b>
Cisibiscan	Abaúj	254	196	21	36	57	467
	Borsod-Gömör	950	587	123	121	244	1549
	Egervölgy	171	134	21	37	58	287
	Zemplén	380	287	40	52	92	680
	<i>Total:</i>	<b>1 755</b>	<b>1 204</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2 983</b>
Transtibiscan	Békés	404	249	42	22	64	869
	Bihar	279	128	25	4	29	492
	Csongrád	409	151	19	49	68	312
	Debrecen	1 077	582	136	91	227	1 106
	Hajdúvidék	797	463	78	38	116	949
	Nagykunság	699	308	32	18	50	721
	Nyírség	1 286	714	104	124	228	1 342
	Szabolcs-Bereg	598	749	101	55	156	861
	Szatmár	546	590	76	22	98	874
<i>Total:</i>	<b>6 095</b>	<b>3 934</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1 036</b>	<b>7 526</b>	
<b>Overall:</b>	<b>14 171</b>	<b>8 933</b>	<b>1 303</b>	<b>1 338</b>	<b>3 064</b>	<b>18 902</b>	

58/59

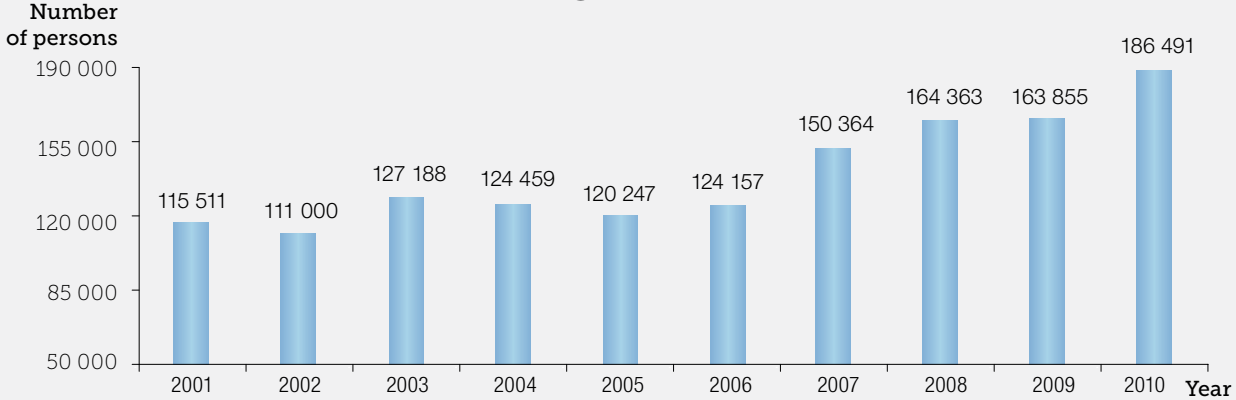
## Employment Data of RCH, 2010

Number of persons in full-time employment:	7 594
Number of persons with a contract of services:	1 180

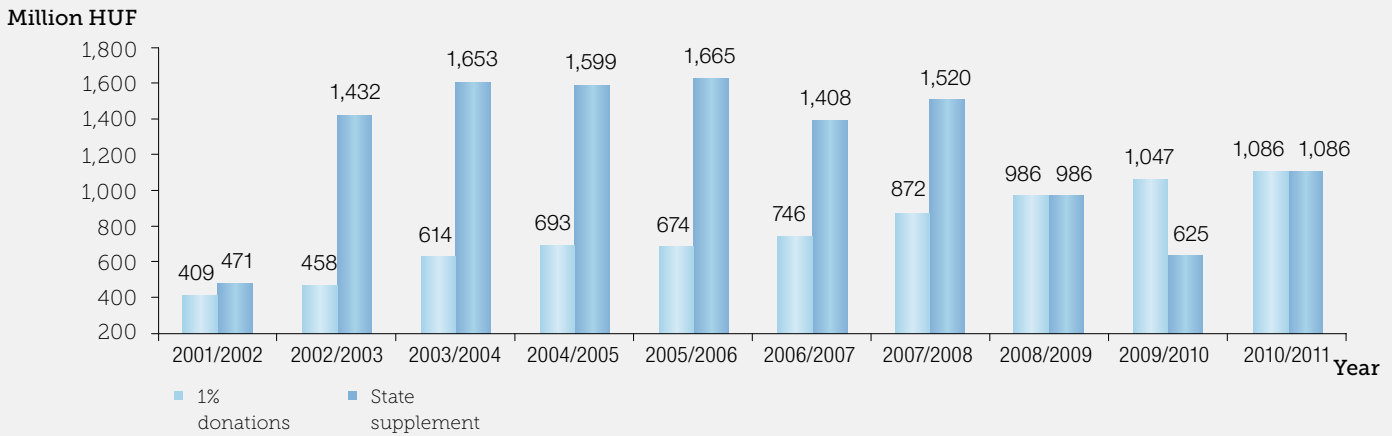
REFORMED CHURCH IN HUNGARY, 2010

Life of the Reformed Church in Hungary  
in Numbers

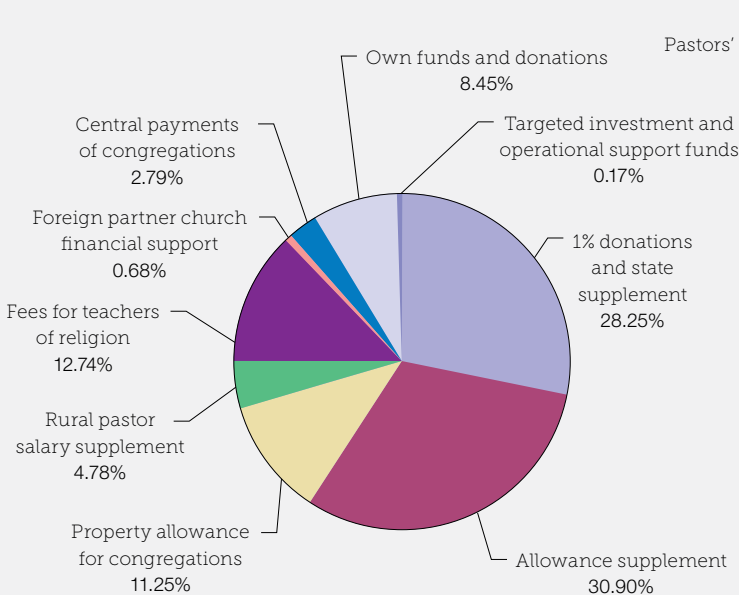
Number of Persons Donating their Individual Income Tax 1% to RCH



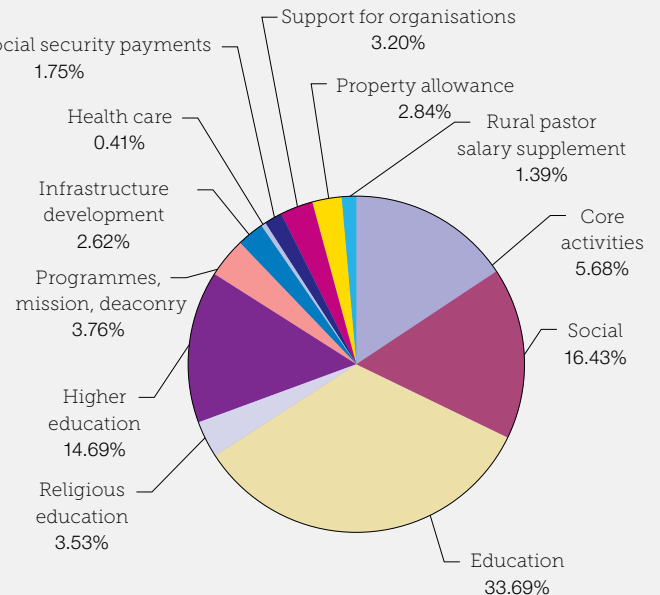
Individual Income Tax 1% donated to RCH and state supplement funds  
in the budget years 2002-2011



RCH Central Funds in 2010



RCH Expenses in 2010



\* The data are indicative

**Front cover**

András Lovas, Reformed pastor at Gazdagrét is talking to a Kenyan man

**Back cover**

Viktor Katona, a seminarian from Pápa, is playing football with a Kenyan young man

**Photo**

*Tamás Füle*

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Chapter Division Photos

**The Synod's Activities in 2010**

Synod Members seen from the balcony of the assembly hall

**Main Events in 2010**

Young folk dancers at the Reformed Church Days

**The Relationship of State and Church**

The building of Parliament, with the Szilágyi Dezső Sq. Reformed church in the foreground

**Relations Within and Without the Carpathian Basin**

The entrance of the Reformed church of Magyarvalkó – Transylvania, Kalotaszeg

**Partner Church Relations**

Children at the Uniting General Council in Grand Rapids, holding the logo of WCRC

**Mission Activities**

Refugee youths and their hosts at Lake Balaton

**Our Church Aid**

Volunteers of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid helping to the red sludge victims in Devecser

**Health Care Services**

A healthy infant was left at the stairs of Bethesda Children's Hospital in January 2010

**The Church of Young People**

Participants of the Reformed congregation camp in Nagybörzsöny

**Education**

Snapshot of life at Károli Gáspár University

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