

LOUIS DRESCHER

1922 - 2009



Louis Drescher was born on January 6, 1922 in Sopron, Hungary, to German-speaking Baptist parents. Lou was an intelligent young man who knew what he wanted. Early on he understood the importance of education and pursuing goals in life. He studied with a private tutor to prepare for high school graduation exams.

In 1944 at the age of 22 Lou married his sweetheart, Friderika, who also attended the Baptist church. Soon thereafter, he was drafted into the Hungarian Army and went to war. In World War II his family fled the approaching Russian army and went to Germany. There, Lou eventually was reunited with his wife and family.

In Germany Mr. Drescher soon established himself and became an executive in a German firm. When the family needed to make a new start in life, they sought immigration to the United States, settling in Cleveland, where they knew other Hungarian Baptists had come. Difficult years followed, but Louis was tough. Lou became a bricklayer to earn a livelihood for his family while he learned English. After work he attended classes at Cleveland State University at night to study accounting. He was successful enough to gain a position with the Van Darn Corporation in Cleveland. After some years he became Chief Accountant there.

A significant phase of Mr. Drescher's life was when he became involved with the Hungarian Baptist Convention. He was a board member of the Bethesda Baptist Retirement Home in Palm Bay, Florida for 35 years. Mr. Drescher also became the treasurer of the Hungarian Baptist Convention. To quote his friend and colleague Dr. Joseph Debreczeni, a CPA, Lou's work was superior in quality and exemplary. There was never any problem in filing the necessary government reports for the convention or home, according to the auditor. Years later when the Baptist home was sold, Mr. Drescher effectively invested the funds received from the sale of the home. Louis manifested his devotion to the ministry to the elderly and Hungarian Baptist causes. This became the culmination of his Christian service and devotion to helping others.

In addition to doing Hungarian Baptist work in the United States, Lou advised the Convention regarding Transylvanian, Hungarian, and Canadian issues. He traveled countless times to visit churches to

assess needs and to help them. The Hungarian Convention was blessed to have had the services of Brother Drescher. He will be sorely missed as a pillar of support for Hungarian Baptist causes. May his memory be blessed.

(Taken from the program sheet of the memorial service.)

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

As I reflect on the last 20 and some years of our brother Drescher's life I want to make two statements regarding him. First: I am thinking of him as a man of the future, and secondly as a faithful treasurer.

We called him 20 years ago *Mr. Drescher, the Treasurer*. But for the last 10 years he was simply *Lajos bácsi* to all of us at the Hungarian Convention or during the committee meetings.

In the beginning we were a little afraid of him but later as we got to know him better and better we started to love and appreciate him. He had a warm heart and a sharp mind. *It took years for us younger folks to realize that we have a good friend in him.*

Everybody who knows a little bit of the American Hungarian Baptist mission knows that *a major shift happened around 20 years ago*. Instead of ceasing to function, instead of merging with English speaking congregations, or instead of giving up the Hungarian tradition and language most of our churches became more active and progressive in pursuing a Hungarian mission here in America. *Mr. Drescher, that is Lajos bácsi, was the most understanding and helpful of all the people of the older generation.*

He was instrumental when, after the sale of the Home, we created a new bylaw for the Convention. He really loved these churches and its people. *You don't know how happy he was during most of our recent meetings even if it took a lot of energy from him. He was young at heart and had a vision for the Hungarian mission.*

By the way – he loved his old country and his people there too, actually he wanted to go back again to see *dr. Laszlo Gerzsenyi, and dr. Varga or Andras Mikes* but he arrived to an even better place.

And secondly: *He was the treasurer for the Hungarian Baptist Convention for 30 years. During the last few years I had the impression that he considers that his life's main mission.* It was very hard for him to leave that responsibility to anybody else. A few weeks ago he returned my call on his cell phone (that was the last conversation I had with Lajos bácsi) and he asked me among others things about how the new treasurer is handling the financial tasks. He wanted to know

whether there is a quarterly statement and he wanted to see that. He was relieved only when I told him that *Zsigmond* kept the structure he used to have even though he is using a different accounting program. Why is that important for us? Because God is looking for men who are faithful in whatever they are doing. Let us be faithful to our calling not just for a short or long period of time but until the very end as *Lajos bácsi* has.

Dear *Friderika and family*: all the members of our Hungarian Churches – including my church in Detroit – share your pain and loss. May God comfort you and give you peace. How fortunate we are, we who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we can hope that we shall meet again in the presence of our blessed Savior.

Dr. A. Geza Herjeczki
 President of the Convention

Communion at Brother Louis Drescher's Bedside during his illness

We arrived at Brother Louis Drescher's house on October 4, 2009, bringing him the Word of God and communion with a heavy heart and realizing the gravity of our responsibility. *Dr. Rev. Zoltan Pinter* served the communion and elders *Sandor Kiss, Lajos Imre* and retired minister *Dr. Rev. Laszlo Fazekas* were also present.

To our joy and surprise, Brother Louis welcomed us with a fresh and uplifting spirit. He gave us a detailed summary of his health status and no words of complaint left his lips.

After a prayer, Isaiah 54:10 was quoted *"yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you."* After a short meditation on the scriptures, we shared communion along with his beloved wife, *Friderika Drescher*. We prayed again and Brother Louis was the last one to address our Heavenly Father: *"My Father, forgive my sins. In front of you is your tired servant, who is asking for permission to enter his everlasting home."*

During those few minutes of prayer, we were lifted out of earthly reality and we experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was an unforgettable few minutes for us. We witnessed our brother's spiritual reunion with his merciful and gracious Father in Heaven.

We are certain that we were joined, not just in communion, but also in the opportunity to stand before the throne of grace with our tired brother who had endured much. *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."* John 12:26.

Rev. Dr. Laszlo Fazekas

Death: Because of Christ, You Can Face It

by Max Lucado

As heart surgeries go, mine was far from the riskiest. But any procedure that requires four hours of probes inside your heart is enough to warrant an added prayer. So on the eve of my surgery, Denalyn, I, and some kind friends offered our share. We were staying at a hotel adjacent to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. We asked God to bless the doctors and watch over the nurses. After we chatted a few minutes, they wished me well and said good-bye. I needed to go to bed early. But before I could sleep, I wanted to offer one more prayer ... alone.

I took the elevator down to the lobby and found a quiet corner and began to think. *What if the surgery goes awry? What if this is my final night on earth? Is there anyone with whom I should make my peace? Do I need to phone any person and make amends?* I couldn't think of anyone. (So if you are thinking I should have called you, sorry. Perhaps we should talk.)

Next I wrote letters to my wife and daughters, each beginning with the sentence "If you are reading this, something went wrong in the surgery."

Then God and I had the most honest of talks. We began with a good review of my first half century. The details would bore you, but they entertained us. I thanked him for grace beyond measure and for a wife who descended from the angels. My tabulation of blessings could have gone on all night and threatened to do just that. So I stopped and offered this prayer: *I'm in good hands, Lord. The doctors are prepared; the staff is experienced. But even with the best of care, things happen. This could be my final night in this version of life, and I'd like you to know, if that's the case, I'm okay.*

And I went to bed. And slept like a baby. As things turned out, I recovered from the surgery, and here I am, strong as ever, still pounding away at the computer keyboard. One thing is different, though. This matter of dying bravely?

I think I will. May you do the same.

(From Fearless, Nelson, 2009)

Making a will? Don't forget about the Convention, our Hungarian mission.

Végrendeletet készít?

Ne feledkezzen el

Szövetségünkről, az amerikai
magyar baptista misszióról.

ALHAMBRA

Bemerítés Alhambrában

December huszadikán, Advent negyedik vasárnapján hitvalló bemelegítéssel tett vallást az Úr Jézusban nyert üdvösségről **Kenessey Rudolf** testvérünk.



**Novák József lelkipásztor bemelegíti
Kenessey Rudolfot**

Már egy éve látogatja a gyülekezetünket a feleségével, Katalinnal. Megtérése történetében meghatározó eseményeként említette azokat, amelyekben Isten oltalmazó közbeavatkozásait ismerte fel. Az első ilyen fájdó emlékként viselte; négyéves kisfiú volt, amikor a kistarcsai internáló táborból a haláltáborba szállítottak sokszáz zsidót, köztük az ő közvetlen hozzátartozóit is. Őt nem vitték el, de a fájdó és félelmetes megtapasztalást bélyegként viselte egész életében.

Az evangéliumot hallva értette meg, hogy Isten szereti, és terve van az ő életével is. A bemelegítésnél Novák testvér az Ároni áldást idézte. A következő úrvacsorai alkalmon Bibliával ajándékoztuk meg Kenessey testvért. **NJ**

SANTA MONICA

Szeretettel köszöntjük olvasóinkat Santa Monicából. A fénykép a *Magyar*



TORONTO, folytatás a 6. oldalról

Végezetül, hálásak vagyunk Istennek az elmúlt időszakért, és szeretnénk, hogy a nyári jubileumon felújított imaházban, megújult szívvel tudjunk ünnepelni mindazokkal, akik mellénk szeretnének társulni e rendkívüli alkalomból.

Püsök Dániel

Pátkai Imre szolgálata Torontóban

Két hetet töltött Torontóban **Pátkai Imre**, magyarországi baptista zongoraművész októberben. Ez idő alatt nemcsak a mi gyülekezetünkben, de a város több magyar és angol nyelvű templomban is hallhattuk kiváló, művészi zongorajátékát. A hallgatók közül néhányan már találkozhattak vele a Központi Énekkar ittléte alkalmával.

Pátkai Imre személyisége és művészi zongorajátéka egyaránt megragadta hallgatóit. A nehéz klasszikus művek magas szintű előadása bemutatta a többszörös díjnyertes művész tudását, a magyar szerzők művei a szülőföld iránti szeretetét, énekefeldolgozásai pedig mint zeneszerzőt, alázatosan megélt hívő meggyőződésével. Énekefeldolgozásait tartalmazza a CD, amelyen néhány énekből más szólóhangszer játsza a dallamot: fuvola, fagott, hegedű és cselló.

Énekefeldolgozásából adott elő néhányat imaházunkban is, jól ismert, kedves énekeink művészi változatait. A végén testvéreink kértek énekeket, ezeket Pátkai testvér rögtönzött változatban, egy füzérbe fonva adta elő, mindnyájunk örömére.

Örülünk annak, hogy köztünk lehetett, hogy szavaival és muzsikájával bizonyítást tett Jézus Krisztusba vetett hitéről.

Oláh Gabriella

Bibliai Gyülekezetben (Hungarian Bible Church) készült néhány hete, karácsonykor.

Magasztaljuk az Urat, hogy lehetővé teszi, hogy továbbra is össze jöjjünk minden vasárnap, hogy evangéliumot halljunk magyar nyelven. *Rev. Vadász János* újévi igehirdetésének pl. ez volt a címe: *Mit tennél, ha ez lenne az utolsó napod?*

Rádiós szolgálat időpontjai: vasárnap d.u. 4:00 a KTYM 1460 állomáson. Rádiós információ: www.kty.com

Helen Oláh