

Helen Petre Schoper

October 23,
1923 -
December 12,
2009



Our beautiful sister and youngest daughter of the late Reverend Gabriel and Julia Petre passed away peacefully on December 12, 2009. She was a devoted mother of four children, Lorraine, Russell, Susan and Nancy. She was also very devoted to her 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She is also survived by three sisters, Esther Plyler, Ethel Kish, and Isabel Sada, and by two brothers, Gabriel Petre and Eugene Petre.

Helen Schoper was an active and longtime member of The Huntsville First Baptist Church in Alabama, where a beautiful memorial service was held in her honor and memory on December 16, 2009.

Among her many activities, she retired as executive assistant after many years at the Boeing Corporation, Computer Sciences Corporation, and Sperry Rand.

In her community, she was an active volunteer member of the Lifetime Learning Institute at the University of Alabama, which presented her with several awards for her outstanding contributions. She will be sorely missed by her family and many friends, who are content that she is now with the Lord, whom she loved.

Her favorite scripture verse was "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Dear sister, may you rest in peace with the Lord.

Esther Petre Plyler

FASTING

Many people fast! Particularly in this season. In my judgment, very few people really fast. Simply to eliminate meat from a day's menu, or entire meals, is not true fasting. True fasting involves a twofold process: a decrease or reduction of ordinary physical functions, and an increase, an intensification of spiritual functions. In this process, the role of abstaining from eating is to lead to a deepened spiritual state of being. When this

is not achieved, then fasting is meaningless. A higher form of fasting results when spiritual contemplation, meditation, and communion with God becomes both cause and effect. This happens when our minds and hearts are so absorbed in spiritual pursuits that we completely ignore or forget to eat. This is the type of fasting we see exemplified by Jesus when, in the Wilderness, He fasted forty days. There is not the slightest indication that Jesus planned to fast at all. Communion with His heavenly Father was what He sought. In this He became so absorbed that the thought of food did not enter His mind at all.

When finally His body did assert itself with great force, it came to light that Jesus had ignored food for forty days. This kind of fasting is true fasting that has value. This is desirable, not just in certain seasons, but year around. However, such fasting cannot be artificially aroused. Fasting cannot be a "COMMAND PERFORMANCE."

Dr. Ladislau Biro (1987)



Sierra Leone

Makeni, February 16, 2010

"As we gathered at the river"

Six o'clock in the morning I was already on the road to pick up those brothers and sisters who waited for their baptism. We don't have baptismal pool at our temporary worship place and the streams around the town already dried up. There was no rain for more than a month, it was the second Sunday of the New Year. The early morning baptismal service was held in a river about 5 km from Makeni.

The leaders of the church followed my car by motorbikes because they also wanted to be present at the very special event. The first beams of the rising sun shined marvelously on the 7 new believers who put the seal to their faith with the baptism. Hearing our singing many people stopped at the bridge that crossed the river. Believers from the neighborhood joyfully joined to the congregation that gathered at the river; Muslims watched the occasion with great interest.

Praise the Lord, we are preparing already for an other baptism. Yusuph, the Fulah man gave his heart to the Lord. A Fulah woman, Aisa also would like to be baptized. She is from Fintonia and received Christ when we went there in the last year. Her husband is Susu but also speaks a little Fulah. Presently they are in Makeni. Please, continue to pray for

Yusuph, Aisha and her husband. They belong to tribes that earlier refused the Gospel.

The leaders and the pastor of the Prince of Peace Baptist Church have a great desire to reach the Fulah people. Just a few weeks ago we visited a town, Kabala where there were many Fulah people. Mr. Barrie, the leader of the mosque of my next door also came with us, because he was born in that area. He is an open minded person, have seen already several times the Fulah version of the Jesus film. Please, pray for him and for his family as well.

"The harvest is plentiful but the harvesters are few." With the help of our Lord the Prince of Peace church would like to plant two or three new churches in areas that were unreached earlier. We made some definite plans to reach this goal. There is a section of eight villages for about one hour drive from Makeni where there is no any kind of church or school. We visited this area already at Christmas. Later we called together the leaders of the section; they welcomed us with great joy.

Just a few weeks ago the church had received a letter from an other area, from a village about 60 km from Makeni. They asked to visit them because in the end of the last year they started a church and a primary school there and they would like to join to the Baptists. We went there together with the pastor and found out that there was already a congregation there, more than one hundred believers who were waiting for the baptism. In both areas we found that there were only a very few people who were able to read or write. Now we try to find out how we could train successfully the oral learners there.

I am very thankful to the Lord that after two BBI graduations in Freetown we already reached to the graduation in Makeni and Lunsar as well. On the second Saturday of February 21 BBI students received their certificates and diplomas from the hands of the president of the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone. Please pray for enough wisdom and strength as I prepare to put together the course for the next group of students in Makeni.

The Baptist Convention had its annual convention recently. I became the member of several committees in this year that means that I have to travel more to Freetown than I did in the past. Please continue for pray for traveling mercy.

Please send your donation to the new Treasurer, see address on 2nd page.

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you..."

Yours in Christ,
Gabriella Kamilla Furedi

1960. május 1.

EVANGELIUMI HIRNÖK

Our Old People's Home

The Hungarian Baptist Old People's Home was organized in Bridgeport, Conn. in 1924. It was a local institution under the supervision of the Hungarian Baptist Church in that City. The Home was dedicated to care for the aged of the Church and other Hungarian communities of the vicinity.

The first building used for the Home was the original church building, remodeled for this particular purpose. It soon became an institution well loved by all of the Hungarian Baptists in the Eastern states, from which it received some financial support.

As the Institution grew, the burden became too great for the Church in Bridgeport. They requested that the Hungarian Baptist Union of America and Canada take over the responsibility for the Institution. This was done, and in 1929 the Home was moved from Bridgeport, Connecticut, to the shores of beautiful Paw-Paw Lake in Watervliet, Michigan. One of the cottages on the property was rebuilt and enlarged to meet the needs of the Home.

The next important expansion came in 1945 when the Union was able to secure a piece of adjoining property and a large house. This house was put in first class condition and the old folks were moved into their new quarters.

As time went on important changes were happening in the field of taking care of the aged. Social Security and other pensions made it possible for many more people to retire with a limited income. Still there are many who find it necessary to seek institutional care. The Hungarian Baptist Union was also considering enlarging its ministry to the Aged for the existing buildings were no longer acceptable to the authorities. The old buildings were outmoded as a Home for the Aged and it would have been too expensive to remodel them to meet the health and safety conditions set by the State. Consequently a Committee was formed to study the possibilities for new buildings or re-location either in Ohio or in Florida. After years of study and several recommendations the Convention voted to move the Home to Florida.

The Lord led us to Palm Bay, Florida where a 41 acre orange grove was located and selected and accepted by the Convention in 1956. The deal was closed on April 15, 1957 and the price was \$42,000.00. There were several buildings, artesian wells, and

several hundreds of orange and other citrus trees on the property together with other tropical trees. A warm spring, giving out 50,000 gallons of sulphur water is the main feature of this property. Some day a swimming pool and a spa will be built here, with the help of the Lord.

The existing buildings were temporarily repaired and the Home, under our present director, Rev. T. Attila, was moved from Watervliet, Michigan to Palm Bay, Florida, in March of 1958. The Convention has changed the name of the Home for the Aged to "Bethesda Baptist Home". The name of the surrounding subdivision also received a biblical name, "Fairhaven" on the basis of Acts 28:8. In 1959 the Convention Churches voted to build a 42 unit new building which will cost around \$125,000.00 with furnishing and other necessary expenditures.

A Campaign to raise \$100,000 for this purpose is in progress and our churches, individuals, and all friends are asked to contribute. All gifts are subject for Income Tax exemption as the Bethesda Baptist Home is a non-profit institution.

Dedication of the "Bethesda Baptist Home" took place on March 27, 1960.

Please make your checks payable to

The Treasurer

BETHESDA BAPTIST HOME

"THE GOOD THAT GOD REQUIRES" Mic.6:8.

A portion of the address of Rev. Wm. MoInar at the dedication service in Palm Bay Florida, March 27, 1960.

I stand before you on this tremendously significant occasion, not because of any particular merit of my own, but because I follow in the footsteps of humble but great men and women who possessed an unusual amount of vision, courage and faith. Some of these men and women are here with us today. Others are, almost anywhere in the country, and some have gone "to be with the Lord". I speak of men and women, who at the very threshold of this century migrated from Europe, particularly from Hungary, into this great country of ours.

For over half a century the Hungarian Baptist Union of America, has been expecting great things from God and attempting great things for God. This was

50 years ago - as recorded in the Gospel Messenger

true not only of the Union as a whole, but each individual member church. That is how the first Home for the Aged was established in 1924, in Bridgeport, Conn. by the Church I am privileged to serve at present. A few years later the Home became an institution of the Union and moved to larger sights in Watervliet, Mich.

Because we cannot stand still and remain alive, we wanted to attempt even a greater thing for God, so here we are, in beautiful sunny Florida, dedicating a new edifice to the glory of God and the service of our fellow-men. I am sure we all agree that this property is ideal for the location of such an institution, and the building is worthy of the area. Those of us who have been able to go through the building and witness the adequacy of its facilities, the accuracy of the workmanship must say that this new Home, in every respect, reaches beyond our fondest hopes. And when we consider the fact that the building has in it, not only the cold, hard, mortar and stone and lifeless wood and metal, but the love, care, concern, prayers, sweat and blood of our builder, our own honorary president and his gracious wife, our gratitude to God is multiplied.

This great institution was not built with any selfish motives. We are not trying to make a name for ourselves. Nor was it built because we can afford it. God knows how dependent we are upon Him for our financial obligations. We are building this Home, because we believe that our faith in and our devotion to Christ, if it is to mean anything must be put into practice. Christianity is not a religion, it is a way of life, and unless we live that WAY, we are not following our Lord.

James, the brother of Jesus, put it well when he said: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widow - could we add, and the aged - in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. We could very well use that for our text. But let us think of another verse from Scripture, equally revealing, stated by an Old Testament prophet Micah. "He hath shewed thee o man wath is good and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God". Mic. 6:8.

(Request a copy of the whole article from the Editor.)

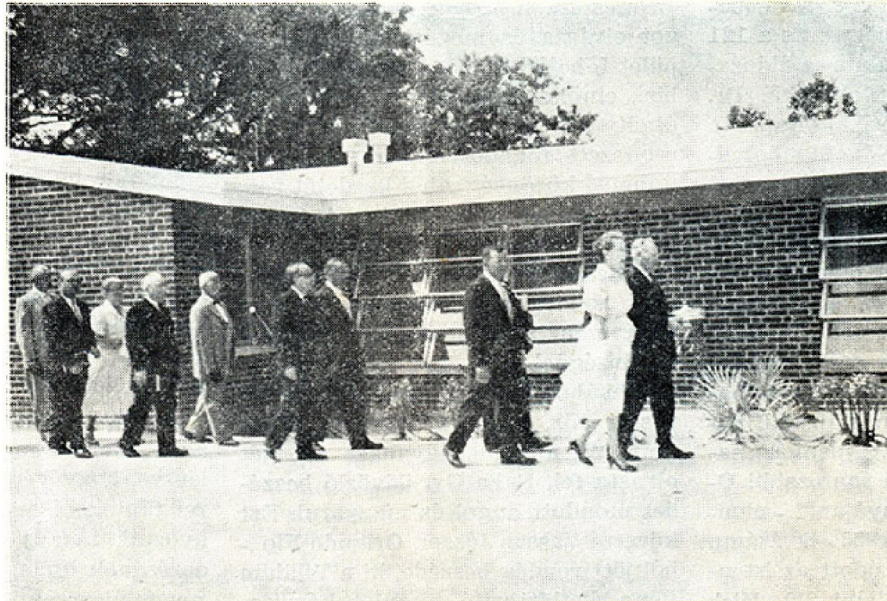
BETHESDA MAGYAR BAPTISTA AGGMEHÁZ ÜNNEPÉLYES MEGNYITÁSA MÁRCIUS 27.-ÉN

NAGY HÁLÁVAL tartozunk a mi mennyei jó Atyánk-nak Aggmenházunkért és az ott nyert lelki áldásokért. Vágyunk, reményünk felett teljesült s látjuk intézetünknek beláthatatlan jövőjét. Az Urtól kértünk egy 60-65 ezer dolláros megfelelő épületet az elaggott testvéreink részére és az Ur, Vér, Schaffer és más jószívű testvéreink közreműködésével adott egy 125 ezer dolláros, minden tekintetben megfelelő modern épületet, amit a fenti na-

rendkívüli alkalommal a jó Isten dicsőséget szerez szent nevének, Szövetségünk ezen teljesítményén keresztül.

Az idő nagyon szép és alkalmas volt ezen a napon. A zsoltáriró szavai jutottak eszembe: "Ez az a nap, melyet az Ur rendelt". (Zsolt. 118:24). Hálát adtunk Istennek a napért és készítettük magunkat Isten áldásainak befogadására.

Vasárnap reggel megtartottuk a rendes istentisztele-



AZ ÚJ ÉPÜLET MELLETTI FELVONULÁS

pon d.u. 2:00 órakor ünnepélyesen átadtunk rendeltetésének.

Testvéreink, közlőrl és távolról már egy héttel előbb autóval, vonattal és repülőgéppel gyülekeztek az Aggmenház területén. Kedden, március 22.-én este az építkezési biz., vagyoniügyi és az intézet bizottsága kevés kivétellel mind jelen voltak és megtartották értekezleteiket. Mindenki nemcsak sejtette, hanem érezte is, hogy e

teinket. Vasárnapi iskolánkat angol és magyar nyelven. Az új otthon nagytermébe vezettük be a szépszámú csoportot az oldajatókon. Két csoportra oszlott a nép és magyarul a leckét, Gazsi István nyugalmazott lelkipásztor tanította, az angol osztályt pedig, Molnár Balázs szövetségi elnök vezette. A közös énekeket, Orosz Attila választotta és vezette, imát pedig, Révy Illés prédikátor mondott. Mind a két osztály áldásokban részesült. Az is-

tentisztelet 10 órakor vette kezdetét, Attila testvér igazgató vezetésével. Vér F. tv., imát mondott és az igazgató a Szentírást olvasta Aggeus próféta könyvének 1:1-5 verseit. ... Istennek üzenetét a felolvasott igék alapján Major Mihály, campbelli lelkipásztor hozta magyar nyelven. ...

A megnyitó ünnepély d.u. 2 órakor vette kezdetét a régi főépületben... Pont két órakor Attila testvéreink vezetése mellett kettésével elindult a kis csoport, az építész, a biz. Elnöke, a bizottsági tagok és az öreg testvéreink az új épület főbejárata felé. Az épület előtt Balla

György prédikátor vezetett imában, majd Mr. Harry Pollak, Palm Bay városának a polgármestere a magyar nemzeti szalagot elvágta és megérkeztünk az épület főbejratához. Itt az építkezési biz. Elnöke, Schaffer F. testvérünk átadta a kulcsot és a már előre berendezett fogadóterembe vonult az ünneplő közönség, ahol kezdetét vette az ünnepi istentisztelet.

(Szerk: a szolgálatot végzők nevei: Szász János, Bikacsán W., Balla György, Vassas József, Major Mihály, Schaffer Ferenc, Vér Ferenc, Attila igazgató, Dr. Parter, Dr. McDounald.)

Az ünnep szónoka Molnár Balázs szövetségi elnök volt, aki angol nyelven hozta mélyen járó gondolatait, mit e lapszámban részben olvashatunk.

Az épület ünnepélyes felavatását Petre G. titkár végezte és a felavató imát Orosz E. Attila, clevelandi prédikátor mondotta. Helen B. Gressamerné szóló éneket énekelt, "Bless this Hous."

Üdvözletek magyar nyelven: (felsorolás) Özv. Stumph A.-né, Kurcz L.-né, Szabó I.-né, Szász János, Bacsó Péter, Bene János, Petre G., Révész L., Révi Illés.)

"Áldott legyen a frigy" című énekkel és Vér testvér imájával ért véget az ünnepély.

Petre Gábor

Másolat az Evangeliumi Hírnök 1960. május 1-i számának első oldaláról, valamint részletek a 2-3-ik oldalon folytatott cikkből.