



acornnews

NEWSLETTER × SPRING 2022

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editorial

*War next door,
God on the Throne,
our work continues*

“When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.” LUKE 21,9

Two years ago Covid arrived. Two months ago war arrived on our doorstep. Like many of our students, friends, partner organisations and churches we are involved with housing and looking after refugees. It's a whole new world.

As the world seems to crash around us, where do we turn? In February we studied Revelation at the Langham Preaching conference which was such good timing! There we see the powerful, ascended Jesus ruling from heaven. Many of our questions are surely the same as those of the 1st Century Christians in John's day: Why is God allowing this? Why hasn't Jesus come back?

God promises that one day Jesus will return to bring justice, peace, and joy to his people. We know God keeps his promises. So in the difficult times our job is to keep believing and keep telling people the good news. God is a God who has suffered in our place

so that we could enjoy the blessing of becoming his people.

And so, in spite of the sadness of war, there is much to give thanks to God for. We are excited to announce that the flags are back! Sam and Tirca Bronsdon have agreed to restart, revitalise and run Acorn Camps. Hear more on [page 3](#). The National Youth leaders conference was packed and provided great opportunities to be involved and also advertise our Acorn Bible Training course. ([page 6](#))

We are currently praying that God will provide twice as many students in September as we open our doors for students to apply for the Acorn Bible Training course. Hear about an interview on national radio ([pages 4-5](#)) and plenty of open days which we have run to advertise the course.

We remain very grateful for your support, both prayerfully and financially. We say it often, but it's true. Without you we would not be able to complete this work. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this work.

Andy & Zsófi Oatridge
Founding Directors



acorn camps

Acorn Camps is back!

Sam & Tirca ↓



Yes, that's right – we're excited to announce that camps are back! After an unexpected pause, God has opened an opportunity for us to step in and kick things off again.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him." (Ecclesiastes 3:1,14)

If you went to **The Big Meet** camp in 2019, you would have met us. We were dating at the time, but got married last year and moved to Budapest. Andy and Zsófi sat down with us a few months ago to ask whether we would think about taking on the role of overseeing Acorn Camps. We're similar to Andy and Zsófi in that we are an English-Hungarian couple, just a couple years younger! After talking and lots of prayer, we said yes! Currently we're volunteering in this role with a plan for this to soon grow into a supported work.

Acorn Camps has encouraged so many Hungarian teenagers to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done. We've both experienced this first-hand as team members, and Tirca as a camper also! So whilst there will be some change, the heart of Acorn will remain the same. We'll be supported by the wisdom and experience of the Acorn team, and

BigMeet →



we're praying that these camps will continue to help teenagers come to know Jesus, and be a fun setting where quality bible teaching is modelled.

One change is that we are *facilitating* camps, instead of *running* camps. This means we'll be looking to partner UK churches and organisations with Hungarian churches, supporting them with resources and advice, and with occasional hands-on help.

We're very excited for our first camp with the Baptist church in Tahi. (June 27-July 1) We have a UK team from the Oakes being put together as we write, and they'll be bringing the talks and part of the programme for the week. Please be praying for the camp as we prepare and finalise the details.

Sadly, we don't have the capacity for more camps this summer, but we'd love to do more next year! So what are you doing next summer? If you think your church or organisation could bring out a team, please get in touch at camps@acorn.hu.

We're so thankful for your support of Acorn. Please pray for this new chapter and praise God for all the work he has done through the team in the last 20 years.

acorn training

Open days, free national advertising, doubling the course size, and praying for students.



Having a great course with no students is like cooking a fine meal for no guests.

Great fun prepping, but ultimately pointless. We have doubled the ABK course size and are praying that at least 26 suitable, eager students will apply. We have created promotional videos, advertised at conferences, and organised open days. We are optimistic but realise we really need God's help, and so are prayerful that the places will fill. Please pray with us!



A surprise for Zsófi

In February we had an “in-house” open day for our students to invite their pastors, friends, or fellow youth leaders. 11 guests joined us that day. One of those was Zsúzsza Fekete, a friend of a student but also the communication director for the Reformed Church. Zsúzsza was an active participant, enjoyed the day and asked Zsófi if she would be happy to do a short interview. Zsófi nervously agreed, assuming it would be for the Reformed magazine. However, to our delight and surprise it appeared that week on National Radio at prime time (think Radio 4 at 08:00!) It was cleverly merged with another interview with prior student Peti Szucs. That week a lady from eastern Hungary rang Andy asking for more information on the course after hearing the interview. Praise God!

What wasn't a surprise that day was that we shot a promotional video to give interested students a feel for our training. Click on the photo or scan the QR code to have a look.



Hearing from the students

We thought you'd like to hear from two students on the course, **Bence** and **Anna**:

How does the ABK course help in your preparation?



“ It really helps because Saturday by Saturday we work right through the Bible passages so I can understand them much better. As a group around my table and with the leaders, we can really understand specifically what the message of the passage is. So when I prepare for the Friday night youth group it's much easier to take this out, look at it again and prepare.”

Bence Kerekes

“ On ABK we have received a model on the basis of which I can much better understand what the original message of a passage was so now I can give this to the young people much more faithfully. I aimed to do this previously but this course with the many different aspects to it makes this whole process much easier and for me makes it much clearer what really is the message that God is giving through this passage to the young people. And what is really good, is that every question, game, illustration is to help the message come through really clearly in a more relevant contemporary way.”



Anna Csósz-Páni

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Many and varied opportunities to advertise the course: planned and unplanned!
- The enthusiastic 12 students, who make setting the alarm early on Saturday much easier.
- Providing more people to help with the feedback and teaching side of the work from next year

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The final two sessions (May 7 and June 8) and for Bori, Krisztián and Szilárd teaching.
- More suitable mature Christians who can help us with giving feedback to students
- 24 students to apply who will benefit greatly from the course.

acornpartnership

Youth Leaders Training (IVK) National Conference

18–19 March 2022, Budapest

Partnership with other like-minded youth organisations is at the heart of Acorn's DNA. Our partnership with Ifjúságépítők and the youth conference is one of our favourites.

250 youth leaders gathered from all over Hungary for a Friday evening and full Saturday packed with: TED talks, workshops, 3 main preaching sessions, table-talk panel discussions, storytelling sessions, mentor opportunities and a well-resourced exhibition centre.

On Friday Andy gave a [story telling session](#) on *How and when to bring a hot-life topic into the youth work* before being MC for the evening meeting. On Saturday Szilárd gave a TED talk on *How to enthuse youth to read the Bible*.

Andy and Zsófi lead a workshop on *How to study and teach the Bible to youth*. Then Andy had a mentor session before joining a panel discussion on *how to talk about a topic biblically*. For the whole conference Zsófi and other ABK students manned the Acorn stand at the exhibition hall.

Giving out 250 books for youth leaders ↓



It was a busy weekend, and a highlight was definitely the opportunity to speak on stage about how exciting it is to study and teach the Bible, but also how difficult it is. We then gave out 250 copies of the book *Dig Deeper* as one of the conference gifts. The book also contains details of how people can receive the second and third books in the series as a gift subject to answering a few questions about what they enjoyed and learnt from the first book. We are grateful to a generous donation from St. Nicholas church in Sevenoaks which made this gift possible.

Another gift given at the conference was a resource for youth leaders that Acorn helped write. It is an outline of eleven youth group meetings to teach the 10 Commandments. We pray it will be a valuable used resource and helpful in deepening the bible content in many youth groups. We hope this will be the first of many of such books.

So **praise God** for the event, the opportunity to help run the event and our close partnership with *YouthBuilders*.



↑ Lilla (Student) advertising the Acorn Training Course

acorn supporters

Three items for prayer

Sabbatical for Andy & Zsófi

Praise God for sustaining the Oatridges and their leadership of the work of Acorn over the past twenty years. The pioneering work has involved many people, and has grown more quickly over the past nine years since they moved out to Hungary to run the work full time. The three month sabbatical from May to July will give them time away from the organisation allowing them to read, reflect and rest. They will reflect on the topic of *The Sabbath and Rest* trusting the Lord to be helpful for themselves and later for others.

THANK GOD FOR

- 20 years of faithful service in the pioneering work of Acorn
- People who have offered to take on extra tasks to allow this to happen

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- A real time to rest and reflect and put into practice what they learn
- An encouraging family time particularly for the kids

Wisdom for András as a Hungarian Foundation is born

Acorn arrived at a new milestone recently in setting up a new Hungarian entity for Acorn, following months of research and conversations with similar organizations and leaders. We have begun the legal work to set up Acorn as a Hungarian foundation. We praise God for three mature, experienced trustees who will ensure the work stays on the

Energy for Anna on Maternity leave

Anna writes: "In one sense it's a long-awaited change, and I'm really enjoying getting to know little Ellie and her ways. Whilst of course there is lack of sleep, there are now morning smiles, and it is a huge blessing that my husband, Sanyi, can work from home. We experience the privilege of being a parent, for which we're really thankful to our Heavenly Father.

It's certainly odd not being a part of all that's going on. However, I do enjoy writing the daily prayer updates on Prayermate. Being one step removed has helped me to care and pray in a new way, as I see the great opportunities Acorn has, but also know the hard work on the ground that's involved."

PRAISE GOD FOR

- Safe arrival of baby Ellie
- Anna's ongoing work keeping people prayerfully informed



right track. Our first meeting on 22nd February 2022 was a great opportunity to get to know each other and to discuss future plans.

The Hungarian foundation will allow us to embed the work in Hungary, employ Hungarians and provide a legal base for training and fundraising. **Please pray for** wisdom as we finalise the setup.

acorn opportunities

acorn camps

Summer 2023 If you are interested in bringing a team out from your church next year to partner with a Hungarian church and run a youth camp please get in touch with Sam & Tirca (camps@acorn.hu).



You can receive CURRENT, SPECIFIC and DAILY prayer items from Acorn. Simply download the PrayerMate app at praynow4.org/acorncamps. Or to receive **prayer items in a weekly email**, Register for updates at www.acorn.hu.

Could you support the work of Acorn financially?

Please visit our website at www.acorn.hu/support/give

amazonsmile

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