



acornnews

NEWSLETTER × SPRING 2021

training youth leaders in bible-centred youth work



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editorial

Who stole the flags and the camps?

The two flags have been Acorncamps' symbolic icon illustrating the partnership between Hungary and Britain for over twenty years. Through numerous camps many friendships and partnerships have been formed, and many teenagers changed as we served God together.

Whilst the flags and the word "camps" have gone, our vision and direction hasn't changed. Our passion, clarified two years ago, remains to train Hungarian youth leaders to faithfully, relevantly and clearly teach the Bible to young people.

Now, the rebranding has finally happened, and **Acorn** is officially launched. There's a new [webpage](#), logo, email addresses and even a new name for our CORE Training course: **Acorn Bibliai Képzés (ABK)** (Acorn Bible Training) It's a big change and is still taking time to get used to.

The modified **Acorn Bibliai Képzés (ABK)** is exciting with its own [webpage](#), and resources being developed. We thank God for Mel Lacy helping us revise our course (see p3). Applications open on 1st May and we pray for a full house from September. Read more on pages 4-5.

Losing the British flag isn't to do with Brexit, nor is the partnership with Britain over. Far from it. It simply reflects Acorn's focus on training Hungarians, in Hungarian, even if the idea, and some of our trainers and course materials have come from Britain.

Acorn will still be involved in camps, bringing out UK youth leaders to train and mentor our ABK students on summer placements. We will also facilitate links between Hungarian and UK churches to engage in mission and organise a joint summer camp. And we're so grateful Szilárd is staying with us to run this work (p6).

Check the last page for an exciting event in June to remember the flags, camps and good times over the past 20 years.

Covid continues to bring sadness, and difficulties and we pray that this finds you well, spiritually and physically. Thanks so much for your ongoing prayers and financial support.

Andy & Zsófi Oatridge

Founding Directors



↑ The Acorn team at Christmas!

acorn partnership

Mel Lacy 'training trainers'

The Acorn team have been extremely blessed to have Mel Lacy, Executive Director of Growing Young Disciples, giving mentoring and training throughout the first half of 2021.

It has provided timely support in the process of shaping Acorn's own Bible training course – *Acorn Bibliai Képzés* (ABK). Mel writes:

Well, who knew that 2021 would see me zooming to Hungary every couple of weeks? It has been an unexpected, but welcome joy to spend dedicated time with Andy and the Acorn team month by month.

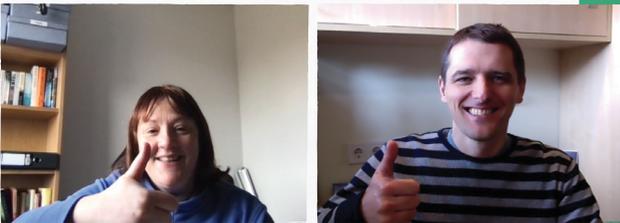
The purpose of my engagement with the team is to strengthen and encourage them as they shape and develop the ABK course; training the trainers if you like! For me there is a beautiful complementarity between what the ABK course aims to achieve and the work of Growing Young Disciples. So, in partnership we are concerned to raise each successive generation to courageously love and follow the Lord

Jesus and our specific commitment is to train those who are teaching the Bible to young people on a regular basis.

The Acorn team are deeply invested in creating a course that is accessible, as well as stretching for the participants. We have been able to think carefully about how to shape the course days, what passages to teach and how best to facilitate the learning process of the attendees. It is honestly a highlight to connect with the team month by month and I hope that before 2021 is out I get a chance to fly, rather than zoom to Hungary and see the work in action.

Anna Poór, one of the Acorn team, reflected on the training:

“ *It's been so valuable hearing Mel's wisdom and experience on specifics relating to Bible training and pedagogy. She's filled gaps and joined dots in my understanding, particularly around how to teach others to help God's Word 'stick' in the hearts of Generation Z's young people. I also feel it's confirmed lots of good practices we've established for our ABK course, and provided a platform for tweaking them to be better. Having space to look at the 'why' of what we do, and being given support on the 'how' has come at just the right time!”*



↑ Mel & Andy 'Zoom-ing'!

acorn training

Spreading The Word

Péter Szücs, member of Kelenföld Reformed church and Communications Manager for the Hungarian Reformed Church Synod, has nearly finished studying on Acorn's Bible Training course – that has so far been known as CORE, and from September will become fully Hungarian with its new name 'Acorn Bibliai Képzés', ABK. We asked him about his experiences so far...



Peti, how have you found being a student on the Acorn training course?

I have met true brothers and sisters among the members of the Acorn team. They want to help us understand the Bible better and teach us how to pass it on more faithfully to future generations. They are an intelligent, exciting team who took on a big challenge.

Sometimes we ask odd questions (I think!), we don't always do our homework on time and we occasionally focus on the trivial... Nevertheless, they always respond to us in a truly professional manner and answer our questions in a loving and helpful way. It is great to learn from them.

What have you personally found the most useful?

In my opinion the greatest element of the course is its multifaceted nature. It not only helps us get to know the Bible better, but it also introduces us to many tools to understand it, and ways to pass on its truths in an enjoyable, genuine and faithful way. The varied content of the course, together with the radiating faith of the teachers, is what makes the CORE Training so awesome.

What is it like getting ready for the summer talk series?

I'd summarise it in one word: experience. I am not afraid of preparing to teach the Bible anymore. I now have the tools to understand its meaning, I have the nerve to dig deeper and I have the memories of Andy encouraging me to keep on going. With God's help, I'm growing in my confidence and ability to talk about Him to 12 year olds!



The new 'face' of Acorn is becoming more widely known in Hungary, as opportunities have arisen to market Acorn's Bible Training course – *Acorn Bibliai Képzés (ABK)* in a variety of contexts. 'Béla', who you'll have seen on the front page here and who is the main character in [ABK's promotional video](#), has become famous! He represents pastors and youth leaders who struggle with various aspects of communicating God's word to teenagers, and the prayer is that many might recognise themselves in him and investigate the course to help in their labours.

Read on to hear how word about the course is spreading...

February 2021 saw Andy Oatridge from Acorn giving the training for pastors and Bible-teachers attending the [Langham Hungary conference](#). Over 3 days, an interactive online programme enabled over 80 participants to prepare 3 passages in groups, listen to how Andy and other teachers prepare a Bible talk, hear the complete sermon and finally take part in a Q&A about the whole process. As well as an excellent training opportunity, it also provided a superb platform to promote ABK to those present who want to train up their own church's youth ministers and helpers.

Andy is also on the board for Langham Hungary. The shared values of both Acorn and Langham makes their partnership a mutual blessing, as each seeks to equip Bible teachers throughout Hungary and helps the other to spread the word further afield.

Hundreds of youth leaders gathered virtually at Hungary's [national youth leaders conference](#) – *Ifi Vezető Képzés (IVK)* – this March. Its theme: *Are you ready for joy?* was the perfect springboard for Andy Oatridge's keynote talk from Philippians, spurring participants on to joyful service of the Lord Jesus amongst young people. He and Szilárd Tam from Acorn also served in 'table talk' events and mentoring opportunities. Naturally 'Béla' made his appearance to advertise the ABK course.

The prayer is that many would investigate the course on the acornbibliaikepzes.hu website, and that the Holy Spirit would nudge the right people to apply for the course. For those wanting a closer look before applying, Acorn are running two '[ABK Taster' events](#) – *ABK Bemutató* – on 20/21 April 2021. Following on from these events and promotion in the Hungarian newsletter, we pray many would hear about the ABK course, be inspired to apply and would be trained in spreading the good news in God's Word to their young people.



← Andy teaching on IVK

acorn team

Szilárd staying on!

The heart of Acorn is training up Hungarian youth leaders to teach the Bible more faithfully, relevantly and clearly. Therefore our greatest need and biggest prayer is that God would send people who can train others.

We have been so encouraged by Szilárd Tam joining the Acorn team. Maybe it's similar to Paul being "encouraged by the coming of Titus" (2 Cor. 7:6) God knows what we need, and who we need, and when we find just the right person for the job it's a huge blessing.

Szilárd joined as a short-term mission partner with Crosslinks and settled quickly into the team, the office and life in Hungary. He loves attending both the Sonship Academy Theological Course and our own CORE training. Alongside other general work in the office he now runs the summer placement mentor scheme and is responsible for the Hungarian newsletter. His enthusiasm and energy are relentless, his taste in music eclectic and we've realised it's not worth trying to beat him in a running race – or any fitness activity. Szilárd is also concise and well organised and I think this was shown most clearly in a

planned 30 minute meeting lasting only 3 mins, including two prayers. A real gift.

We are therefore delighted to extend his short-term mission agreement with Crosslinks until August 2022. Szilárd has been well trained in the UK and has a real gift in youth work, understanding the Bible and teaching it clearly. As a result he will join the teaching team on the ABK course from September, help with regional training days and continue to study on the Sonship course and serve as a youth worker in his church.

We continue to pray that God would guide Szilárd's future steps and pray that God would send more "Szilárds" to help grow the work.

Szilárd writes... I have enjoyed studying and growing together with the other students on the CORE course in both character and bible/handling. I've had a little taste of being on the teacher's side and look forward to passing on the experience I have gained in the UK and while attending the CORE Training. I am sometimes surprised how much the Acorn team members trust me with various responsibilities. I am very thankful to God that I can work with a team like them.

acorn supporters

How you can pray

acorn partnership

THANK GOD FOR team training opportunities with Mel Lacy, and her help in shaping the ABK course

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- The ABK teaching material preparation taking place in May–July with Mel
- God to equip more Hungarian pastors and youth leaders to raise a generation that courageously loves and follows the Lord Jesus

acorn team

THANK GOD THAT Szilárd is able to stay on with Acorn and has the financial and prayer support until August 2022

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- God to guide Szilárd's future plans and steps
- God to send more 'Szilárds' to help the work grow

acorn training

THANK GOD FOR

- Recent opportunities to spread the word about the ABK course across Hungary
- The 'Béla' promotional video which has struck a chord with many who've seen it
- Peti and the other 8 students this year who have grown in confidence and ability in teaching God's Word to young people

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Many to be inspired to sign up for the ABK course
- The Bemutató 'ABK Taster' events to be helpful for possible applicants and many to sign up
- Expertise in marketing the course throughout Hungary
- Students giving talks from Mark's gospel on camps this summer in Hungary, and for their mentors to effectively support them
- Szilárd coordinating the 2021 summer mentor programme

acorn support & opportunities

- **OPERATIONS MANAGER:** We are looking for a Hungarian to work as an operations manager role for Acorn. Pray God would bring the right person soon.
- Pray for wisdom in how to **market** our training effectively and efficiently so that the right pastors and youth leaders have a clear understanding of what we do and why
- **FINANCE:** Pray more people would be inspired to give regularly and also through Amazon Smile to help the work grow.
- **GOVERNANCE:** Trustee vacancy: Pray God would provide new trustees who can bring wisdom and experience to the board.
- **COVID:** Pray for the team to stay well and fresh(ish) during this trying and tiring time. Pray we could make use of the summer if restrictions are lifted.

acornopportunities

"Summer Celebration"

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us to remember 20 years of Acorncamps!

For all those who've attended, prayed for or supported Acorncamps, from both UK, Hungary and beyond.

Register [here](#) to come (or email news@acorn.hu to register) then join us online via Zoom!

TUESDAY 8TH JUNE 2021 • 19:00-20:15 (UK TIME)



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**, update your Mailchimp preferences via the email containing this newsletter, or the Subscribe option at www.acorn.hu.

Köszönjük Szépen! Thank You! ...for supporting us, praying for us, and being a part of this work!

Could you support the work of Acorn financially?

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Just select 'Acorn Hungary Trust' when you shop on Amazon. Support Acorn for free!

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Zsigmond Király utca 17 Biatorbágy, 2051, Hungary
www.acorn.hu