



# acornnews

NEWSLETTER × SPRING 2023

*training youth leaders in Bible-centred youth work*



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## editorial

**T**he past few months have certainly been exciting.

On 30th Nov we received a letter from the Hungarian authorities to declare that Acorn Alapítvány (Charity) has been officially recognised. (Read more on p.3)

The new year began with our usual Acorn Training (ABK) on Saturday 6th Jan and then we quickly packed up to fly to the UK on Sunday with a group of nine of us to attend the Growing Young Disciples (GYD) conference. Singing God's praises with over 300 youth and childrens' leaders was inspirational. The topic of the week was 'Set Eternity in Their Hearts'. The teaching we heard was a huge blessing and challenge to us all.

March 17-19 was the national youth leaders training conference (IVK). Around 400 youth leaders from across

Hungary came to learn and grow in their relationship with God. (Read more on p.7 about how it went.)

The ABK course continues to be a huge blessing as we see students engaging with the Bible text, asking hard questions, and working hard to make their teaching as good as it can be. Hear from Szilárd on page 4 about how the feedback teachers are inspiring students to make their good talks even better. We are currently planning a 2nd year course where we focus on how to teach the Old Testament to young people. This is certainly a significant prayer point: Wisdom for Andy in writing the curriculum, for the open day in May and that enough students will sign up for both years of the course.

Last but not least we praise God for the growing interest in Acorn Camps – Sam and Tirca are doing a great job and are planning four camps in the summer (p.6)

**Thanks so much** for your continued interest, encouragement, prayers and support. It is greatly appreciated. We hope reading this newsletter encourages you and spurs you on to keep supporting the work prayerfully and financially.

When we are together as a team we have a prayer and bible time and would love to know how we could be praying for you too.

*Andy & Zsófi Oatridge*  
Founding Directors





## acornalapítvány

# *The work of Acorn: In Hungary, for Hungarians, and under Hungarian leadership*

**O**ne small decision from the Judge. One huge step in the life of Acorn.

In 2007 **Acorn Hungary Trust** was established as a registered Charitable Company in the UK. The camp and training work had grown over the years, and becoming a charity brought transparency, greater governance and accountability to the work. The trustees over the years have prayerfully and wisely guided the work and always desired that the work of Acorn in Hungary would one day be led by Hungarians.

Fifteen years later on 30th November 2022 **Acorn Alapítvány** ("Foundation") was established as a legal entity in Hungary.

God has provided a Hungarian founder and a board of three Hungarian trustees who come with passion for the work and a wealth of management, financial, and legal experience together with Christian maturity. We have begun the legal work of transferring the work from the UK to Hungary which is more complicated than we thought.

Keep an eye out for a Launch date for



The new Hungarian Board ↑

Acorn Alapítvány – when we can praise God for his faithfulness in the past and recommit the work into his hands as it begins a new chapter.

### **PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- Szabó András and all his hard work researching and setting up the charity.
- Providing a competent and mature set of trustees to oversee the work.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Wisdom as we transition the work legally from the UK to Hungary.
- Planning a launch event for summer 2023.
- Financial supporters in the UK and Hungary to be inspired by the work and to give generously as we launch a fund-raising campaign to help start the Hungarian Charity.

## acorntraining

*One-to-One feedback and training*

**O**n top of the students spending a Saturday each month doing talk prep together, they also continue the process individually with the help of their feedback teachers.

This crucial element of ABK means our course is especially practical and immediately useful in real life.

This academic year Szilárd was placed in charge of the feedback system, and together we made some significant changes. The students now receive feedback throughout the writing of each talk, rather than after delivery. This is because it's essentially too late to put feedback into practice after the talk and also because it's easier for students to listen to constructive criticism when they still have time to correct it. This is especially helpful for those who grew up with the Hungarian education system, where lots of students come to fear oral tests, because of how easily their

mistakes can earn them worse grades. We've seen it work better this way, and our feedback teachers have also commented that they enjoy the new way of helping the students prepare talks.

Over the academic year Szilárd is in touch with the feedback teachers to see how their work with the students is going. This has helped us in at least 3 ways.

- It helps us support the feedback givers,
- It gives the teaching team feedback on how the students are improving, and
- It allows us to focus our teaching during the ABK Saturdays on what the students find the most challenging.

We've been told and have seen ourselves that the students improved in coming up with an easy-to-follow



*See More...*





structure, one clear and faithful main idea, and relevant application and illustrations.

Hear Noémi, Gábor, Sam and Rachael sharing their thoughts on what they like about the current ABK course and why it is useful and needed in Hungary.

**Click on the photo or scan the QR code to watch the video.**

We're grateful for the 10 feedback teachers (7 of whom volunteer and 3 Acorn staff) who meet once a month with their students. We really couldn't run this course without them and see the individual feedback as one of the most helpful aspects of the course.

#### **PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- The idea to expand, and the help of Mel Lacy in forming the course.
- Our 10 feedback teachers and their willingness to help us in this work.



↑ Team photo for Reformed Church Website interview

#### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Wisdom for Andy as he plans the course.
- For 12-15 students to apply for both 1st – 2nd year courses.

## *2nd year course to begin in September*

It has been clear for a while that the one-year ABK course is great, but merely a start in helping youth leaders to better understand and teach the Bible faithfully, relevantly and clearly to young people. We streamlined the current course to focus only on teaching from the New Testament. In Autumn we will launch a 2nd year course which will focus on how to teach from the Old Testament.

We hope the second year course will give students a further chance to develop their skills in understanding and teaching the Bible and to dig deeper into the different genres of the Old Testament. A particular highlight of the course will be giving students tools to understand the big picture of the Bible and help them teach about Christ from the Old Testament.

We are excited about the course and hope that many of our previous students are inspired and apply. Please pray for us as we put together a curriculum.

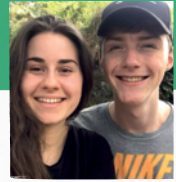


↑ Áron (feedback teacher) doing the Model youth group

# acorn camps

## *Multiplying camps*

↓ Sam and Tirca



**L**ast year, Acorn ran one camp which was an exciting restart to camp ministry. This summer we aim to multiply that by 3.

We are in contact with 3 Hungarian and UK youth leaders, past and new, discussing dates and details. A key part of facilitating camps is pairing Hungarian and UK believers together to create and reunite gospel partnerships that last for years to come as they share the gospel in the same place. Please pray that dates and travel plans line up smoothly and quickly.

So what does it look like to run a camp? For those in the UK, we ask that you come as a team, work on a programme of fun activities, book flights, and if possible, provide a speaker. As facilitators, we will support you along the way, providing help and resources (online webpage soon to come!) Combined with the hospitality of Hungarians and God's sovereignty, we trust that the gospel will be shared in a fun way, and that you will grow in your faith too.

Here's what team members from last



Tahi camp 2022 ↑

year, Kayla and Luke, had to say:

*"Being my first Acorn camp, I was excited to meet the people and share Jesus. Staying with a host family that spoke no English was hilariously entertaining, but God's love was so evident in their home and Tahi church made us feel so welcome. The young people were engaged in the good news – what it means to know, love, and follow Jesus."*

*"I was excited to be able to come to a different country and share the good news of Jesus with many young people. We didn't speak the same language, but we could still connect over sports, games, and hearing the word. I would highly recommend participating in an Acorn camp!"*

After the Growing Young Disciples conference, the team reflected on what it means to reach the hearts of the young people we minister to. We thought about the importance of walking alongside the young people to understand where their heart is. This is harder to do in a camp setting than in a youth group, and so one of our new goals is to work out how we support and follow up with churches post-camp.

Please continue to pray for Acorn camps: for this summer and the future. If possible, we'd love to see you on a camp in 2024!

**Sam and Tirca Bronsdon**



## acornpartnership

# 400 youth leaders united together

**O**n Friday 17th Mar around 400 youth leaders gathered from across Hungary in a secondary school in Budapest for an inspirational weekend of quality training, bible teaching, inspirational worship, all of which provides great networking possibilities with like-minded people.

The topic this year was **unity** and the aim was to encourage Hungarian youth workers to unite across the denominations and particularly within their localities. The speakers reminded us of how Jesus prayed for unity (John 17), Paul commanded it (1 Cor. 1) but also warned that the true gospel alone is the only base for unity (Gal. 1). The final session showed the importance of each church member playing their valuable part in the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12**).

Acorn along with other youth organisations helps IfjúságÉpítők "Youthbuilders" to run the conference. Andy serves on the main leadership team and is responsible for choosing the topic and speakers. Andy & Zsófi gave a TED talk on *"The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry"*. Szilárd was involved in logistics and led the ABK workshop and gave a TED talk *"How to help young people fall in love with the Bible"*. András manned the EXPO stand advertising the Acorn Bible Training (ABK) and we pray that much fruit will come from the weekend, and also provide students for our 2023-24 ABK.

**"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." 1 COR 12:12**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Students who attended the ABK workshop to apply for the ABK course.
- The leadership team as they consider how to develop and expand this conference.

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Great unity around the gospel within the leadership team which spans the denominations.
- Helping the whole conference happen without serious problems or issues.



## acorn opportunities

# acorn camps

Summer 2024 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](mailto:camps@acorn.hu)).



ABK Training day

save the  
date!

## Acorn Zoom Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 13th June 2023  
20:00–21:00



You can receive CURRENT, SPECIFIC and DAILY **prayer items from Acorn**. Simply download the PrayerMate app at [praynow4.org/acorncamps](http://praynow4.org/acorncamps). Or to receive **prayer items in a weekly email**, please contact us at [www.acorn.hu](http://www.acorn.hu).

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Zsigmond Király utca 17, Biatorbágy, 2051, Hungary  
[www.acorn.hu](http://www.acorn.hu)

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