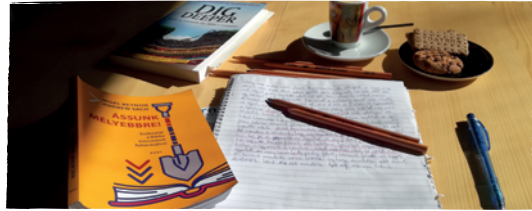




acornnews

NEWSLETTER × AUTUMN 2022

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editorial

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

MATTHEW 11:28



It is difficult to put into words how blessed we were to have a Sabbatical.

After twenty years of heading up the work, and almost ten years full-time in Hungary we were ready for a break. We reflected and read about: rest, saying "no", and how to enjoy God's sabbath. I think for both of us the highlight was seeing the spark relight in our own personal walks with the Lord. Spending time in the word without having to think about prepping the next sermon, or youth talk was truly refreshing. We pray that the renewed energy will be well used in continuing to drive the work of Acorn forward.

The **ABK** finished well without us, and the team did a great job in recruiting new students for our current course. See pages 4-5 for more about the course and the new 15 students.

This summer **Krisztián Tóth** took a post as full-time pastor near the eastern border of Hungary. We are delighted that God led him and his family there, but are sorry that this means Krisztián's time working for Acorn in an official capacity has come to an end. We are so grateful for our partnership in the

gospel over the past fifteen years. Hear more from Krisztián on page 3.

We are delighted that **English youth camps** are back. Hear more from Sam and Tirca about the Oakes team going to Tahi Baptist Church on page 6.

András has been working hard to set up Acorn as a **Hungarian Foundation**. We are delighted that the process has all been submitted to the authorities, and we are just waiting for the paperwork to be finalised. Praise God for this significant step in embedding the work of Acorn more deeply into Hungary and under Hungarians.

In January we are excited to return again to the **GYD (Growing Young Disciples) conference** with a group of 8 youth leaders. Finally, we hope to see you at the January online prayer meeting (see pg 8).

Thank you for all your prayers and support.

Andy & Zsófi Oatridge
Founding Directors

acorn camps

Krisztián heading East

Krisztián Tóth and his family were led by God to a far corner of Hungary. We asked Krisztián to tell us about his time at Acorn and update us on his work.

'It was more than 10 years ago that we first served together with Acorn at a summer camp at my home baptist church in Vác. Andy, Zsófi, Anna, Szilárd and the English teams who came every year always inspired our church and me personally.

In 2017, I felt God calling me to become a pastor. I applied to theological college, and we were looking to see how God would also provide us with work. I remember the phone call from Andy, when he asked if I would be open to work with Acorn. I was just looking for a part-time job alongside my studies and they were looking for a part-time person as well. We spent a few weeks praying about it, and in spring 2018 we embarked on our adventure together.

Looking back I can see that I not only gained a job, but also gospel partners in Christ. Through them, God has shaped me considerably and made me who I am today. I am so thankful for the amazing fellowship we had at Acorn.

Back in the "old" *Acorn* camps days our main tasks were organising summer and winter camps. I'm thankful for visiting and experiencing many different camps throughout the country. The Winter

camp in Cegléd and The Big Meet were truly great experiences.



We then experienced God's leading as a team and formed new plans and goals to "*train leaders in Bible-centred youth work*". I don't know if I will ever forget (and I hope won't) our three key words: *faithfully, relevantly* and *clearly* teaching the Word of God. These values continue to shape my ministry now as a pastor.

On 1st October, I was ordained in the far East of Hungary as pastor to the Baptist churches in the Tuzsér-Kisvárdá region. For a while there haven't been any pastors here, so this is almost a new start breaking new barren grounds. However, we know that God's Spirit has led us to a field he has been preparing for some time.

What will the future hold? Will the partnership with Acorn continue? Whether or not we will work together again with Acorn is a good question. In one way it will never stop because our shared experiences will continue to shape my ministry. Practically speaking, though, I hope that if it's God's will we will again experience God's blessing of working together. Thank you dear readers of the newsletter for your prayers for me.



acorntraining

András Szabó

Acorn Operations manager – becomes a student



A “WOW” moment

“Last year as a new Acorn team member I was invited to the staff training with Mel Lacy. I remember to this day that the stories in the Bible I heard before many-many times sounded brand new. I was amazed. I was pretty sure I knew all the layers of the parable of the prodigal son. During all those years I heard it dozens of times, from the father’s perspective, the brother’s perspective, and if I am not mistaken even from the pig’s perspective. I thought I had heard and understood it all. But when we opened up the story again on the training, taking in consideration who Luke was and for whom he wrote the gospel, I had a real “WOW” moment. The whole story unfolded once again but on a deeper level. This was my first contact with the ABK (Acorn Bibliai Képzés or Acorn Bible Course) model we teach in Acorn.

Promoting and joining the course

As the promotion for the next year’s course began I was appointed the

contact person with prospective students. This involved setting up meetings or a call with each one to understand what their expectations were, what we require, etc. During each interview I mentioned my first experience above. As a matter of fact each time I repeated the story I genuinely started to be more and more curious about the rest of the course. Were there more Bible passages that could unfold further to me? In the end I signed up myself.

Andy then suggested asking my wife, Rita, if she wanted to join as well as he mentioned the blessings of growing together as a couple. Rita showed interest and signed up. Sam, our colleague, also signed up, resulting in an “English speaking student group” being formed. We posted about the English speaking group on our social media page and another two people signed up. This has given a very exciting atmosphere to the course.

What does a Saturday look like?

The staff arrive early to set up, pray and prepare everything for the day. The students are welcomed with coffee at 8:30 a.m. After a prayer we dig into the passage of the Bible for the day. Then with the guidance and instructions of the teachers we take the passage apart collecting all the information

ABK 2022-23



15 students

(4 studying in English)



5 Counties



5 dominations

(Reformed, Evangelical, Anglican, Baptist, Non-denominational)



4 Nationalities

Hungarian, English, American, Portuguese

we can around it. What came before? What follows? What was the historical background, and how did that fit into the local culture at the time.

It's so interesting to learn about the Bible writers, and about the timeline when those books were written. These things we seldom hear on Sunday as there is no time for such details. During the day there are some breaks when the students have time to talk, digest what they have learned and enjoy a coffee and eat together.

The ABK is designed primarily for youth leaders and youth pastors who want to understand and teach the Bible better. However we have opened our doors a little bit wider to people who are eager to learn and teach the Bible in some context. As I remember last year also, one of the students was leading a group in a prison (I think it's pretty cool, it reminds me of the apostle Paul). This year some students will teach in a young adults home group, an elderly home and Mums and babies group. It's amazing how universal the gospel is.

The ABK course book is called *Dig Deeper* from Nigel Beynon and

Andrew Sach. Every student receives a Hungarian/English copy thanks to a donor's generosity. Packed with 17 practical tools the book explains much of the theory of the ABK model. It doesn't give much practical advice for the practice of giving a talk – which is why this book and the ABK course complement each other beautifully. I love the book, and often wonder how come I did not hear about this book earlier. I would definitely recommend it to everyone – not just youth workers. It's a big help to understand the Bible better.

I mentioned in the beginning that Andy suggested doing the course with my wife. After a couple of Saturdays I can tell he was right. The Holy Spirit has been positively changing our relationship using the ABK to direct us as we participate in the class.



PRAISE GOD FOR:

- 15 enthusiastic students, who make setting the alarm early on Saturday much easier.
- A simplified course which works better and a feedback system which is more effective.
- Technology to make synchronised translation work well

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The 15 students to understand and teach the Bible even better, but at the same time to be formed into the likeness of Christ as they do the course.
- Andy and Bori to spend a good amount of time preparing to teach each month.
- Wisdom as we plan to launch a second year for the course from September 2023.

acorn camps

37 Campers, 37°c

Acorn Camps return to Tahitófalú Baptist Church!

A team from The Oakes Holiday Centre in Sheffield came to Tahitófalú at the end of a sunny June to share the good news of Jesus and encourage believers.

We spent 5 days with the 11–18 year-olds playing croquet, throwing water balloons, dancing a ceilidh, and everything in between. One particular programme highlight was a day trip to Budapest to go bouldering or to do an escape room; or for the more creatively-minded, a painting class on-site with a professional artist. We're grateful for Tahitófalú's organisation and warm hospitality to make all this happen. Praise God especially for Ági, Tomi and Anti, who generously gave their time and energy into organising the program and looking after the UK team.

Each morning, Dan Thaw taught through the book of Mark, asking Jesus's question: 'Who do you say that I am?'

We ran discussion groups with the young people, praying that they would think for themselves who Jesus is, and come to the same conclusion as Peter, that Jesus is 'the Messiah' (Mark 8:29). At the end of the week, we invited them to come back on Sunday to attend the church service and it was wonderful to see 6 campers there. 3 campers came to volunteer at the following week's children's camp too! We continue to pray that the youth group would grow and thrive in Tahitófalú.

For us personally, it was a challenging, but enriching first experience of facilitating a camp. To see teenagers engaging with the gospel was a great reminder of the reason for what we're doing, and it was a privilege to work alongside fellow Christians from both the UK and Hungary. Praise God for The Oakes team whose experience and energy made the camp run so well. Ultimately all our praise goes to God who gave us the opportunity and provided all we needed, so that even in our weakness, He may be glorified.

We are planning to run at least 3 camps next summer, and we are looking for more UK churches to send out teams. If you are interested, then please email us at camps@acorn.hu and buy some sun cream!. Thank you for all your support and see you next year!

Sam and Tirca



acorn supporters

Become a "cheerful giver" even in tough times

Acorn seldom writes about financial support in the newsletter. We want readers to enjoy *cheerfully* reading about the work of Acorn without continually hearing about the need for more money.

God has truly blessed us over the years through people's generosity and provided for our every need. However as the work expands so too do the financial costs. Helping youth leaders understand and teach the bible better – and seeing young people come to faith in Jesus at summer camps is surely worth investing in. "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7) and we wanted to give you the opportunity to cheerfully give, even when we know that for all of us money is tight. Here are a couple of examples of how money generously given is used in the work.

Sponsor an ABK Student

The cost per student of running the ABK course is £450. We ask each student for a donation of £125.

→ A **cheerful giver** donating **£25/month** would cover most of the excess costs.

Send a Hungarian youth leader to a conference

We love the Growing Young Disciples youth conference. Learning, and being refreshed with 350 other youth leaders. There is no such conference (yet) in

Hungary. The conference costs £300 but Hungarians need another £200 for flights.

→ Three **cheerful givers** giving **£100 each year** would go a long way to help.

Supply youth leaders with great books.

Most British-based youth leaders/pastors have shelves stacked with quality books and commentaries. Not in Hungary. Last year through the gift from one church we translated, printed and distributed 500 copies of the Dig Deeper Book.

→ One **cheerful church** giving **£1,000** would help us resource more youth leaders.

Support a summer camp

Acorn Camps are back! Sam and Tirca are raising money to cover Sam's part-time work with Acorn and to finance the work of running camps in Hungary. **One-off gifts / regular donations** from **cheerful givers** could support Sam, and cover admin and insurance costs and offset some of the costs for the English teams coming out.

Please consider becoming a "cheerful giver" or cheerfully increasing your current gift.

Contact jane@acorncamps.co.uk for bank details and gift-aid possibilities.

With cheerful thanks.

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).



save the
date!

Acorn Prayer Meeting 2023
Tuesday 24th January 2023
19:00–20:00

Join online to pray for the work of Acorn together with brothers and sisters from the UK and Hungary! Zoom details to follow.



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?*

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