



Trans-Silvanus Intézet • Trans-Silvanus Institute

RO 400344
Str. Mărginașă Nr. 42
Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár
România

Mob: 0752-246814
Email: trans_silvanus@yahoo.com
transsilvanus@gmail.com
Web: www.transsilvanus.ro

Banki adatok: Asociația Pro Christo et Ecclesia – Pr. TSI
Cod fiscal: 18502964 - Raiffeisen Bank Tg. Mureș
RON – Cod IBAN: RO29 RZBR 0000 0600 1058 4608
EUR – Cod IBAN: RO93 RZBR 0000 0600 1058 4620
Cod BIC/SWIFT: RZBRROBU

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010



Over 200 people gathered together for the Thanksgiving Day celebration in Ozd

Opening Meditation

[Dr. Levente Horváth](#) welcomed everyone to the Thanksgiving Day with an opening meditation from [Judges 7: 15-22](#)

And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshipped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand." Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. And he said to them, "look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the lord and of Gideon!'"

So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers – they held torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing – and they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" And every man stood in his place all around the

camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the Lord set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath. Judges 7:15-22

Let us open our meditation with two observations. First, that it was when Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation that he believed in God and second, that God gave both the vision and its interpretation to Gideon by means of the enemy. This is not the only time that God used the enemy to accomplish His purposes. He also used the enemy to kill one another and thus defeat itself. It is also this way for us. When we are called by God to a special ministry or spiritual battle, God can confirm this call through the enemy or through non-believers just as He did for Gideon.

Gideon needed such a confirmation, not because he was not a good soldier, but because he was not at all brave. He needed the encouragement and strong affirmation that the signs provided. In fact, he needed even the miraculous guidance of the Lord in order to be persuaded to start this fight against the Midianites. The last sign that Gideon received was confirmation of the dream by the enemy.

According to 1 Corinthians 4:22, that which is spoken in tongues is not a sign for believers but rather for unbelievers and it is prophecy which is not spoken for unbelievers but for believers. As an interpreted tongue is a form of prophecy, it is therefore for believers. And indeed, Gideon believed.

Gideon's belief resulted in two actions. First he worshipped the Lord and next, he launched his men in a vigorous attack against the Midianites. He placed empty pitchers each with a torch inside into the hands of his three hundred men and gave them the following commands. "Watch me and follow my lead." His instructions were that after he first blew his trumpet, all his soldiers were to do the same.

1 Corinthians 14:8 asks us the following question: If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? To follow Gideon's lead means to speak the Gospel in intelligible words; our message must be crystal clear. However, Gideon's army not only had to follow his lead in the blowing of the trumpet, but they also had to imitate what he did. Likewise, it is not enough to speak in an intelligible way. We must also demonstrate something in our actions.

According to the account given in the Bible, although the torches inside the pitchers were lit, no one could see their light because it was hidden inside the pitchers.

You cannot serve the Lord without being lit up by his flame and this flame of love has to be demonstrated. Herein lies our problem – something hides the light; something inside of ourselves is a hindrance to the outpouring of this love.

Our unbelief and our inclination towards sin is a serious hindrance in the outpouring of God's love. Even a Christian's heart can grow hard. My hard heart must be broken because the Lord said that a broken and contrite heart is a pleasing sacrifice to the Lord. The need for contrition is an enormous need in any ministry. You cannot fulfil God's calling with human love, but only with divine love which finds its origins in contrition. This is the basis for all of our service to God.

Our story is not without irony. In verse 20, the army shouted the following battle cry: the sword of the Lord and of Gideon! However, there was no sword and no battle. Rather, each man held his position around the camp. This is the secret of spiritual warfare. We do not fight. It is the Lord that is fighting through us; all we need to do is to stand our ground in faith.

Retrospective

January 15-16 We held a weekend seminar for students in all three years. Seminars included the following subjects: The Old Testament, missiology, intercultural youth missions, community development/management, and counseling. The counseling classes included: the basics of self-knowledge, counseling, and pastoral care. Classes were held by: *Dr. Csaba Balogh, Dr. Levente Horváth, Csaba Veres, Gyula Bodó Tóth, Levente Simon* and *Attila Daray*.



February 12-13 Seminars were held for the optional courses. The chosen subjects were: music, English language, biblical languages, and current world views. These were taught by: *Károly Boér* and *Loránt Szántó, Éva Doepp* and *Ilona Veres*, and *Dr. György Papp* respectively.

◆ Éva Doepp teaches beginning English.

Ilona Veres teaches advanced English. ◆

February 26-27 Seminars were held on the following topics: The Old Testament, dogmatics, spirituality, and pastoral care. Subjects for our first and second year students were taught by: *Dr. Csaba Balogh, Dr. György Papp, Márton Fekete*, and *Levente Simon*.



For our third year students specialized courses were given on the topics of *partner relationships and marriage counseling*. The lecturers were: *Csongor Berei, Emese Berei*, and *Zoltán István Imre*.

March 12-13 Together, our institute, the Reformed Salvation Mission, and the Bonus Pastor Foundation organized the Jubilee Thanksgiving Day in Ozd. On Friday, courses were held for TSI students in addictology by *János Boros* and *Mária Horváth*, associates of the Drug Therapy Center in Ozd. On Saturday, the TSI students participated in the common Thanksgiving Day celebration and conference. The Drug Therapy Center and the Trans-Silvanus Institute joined together to celebrate their respective fifth and third year anniversary so that together they could offer their thanksgiving for what could only have been accomplished by God's grace. These two sister-organizations invited both their internal and foreign supporters who have so lovingly given us their prayers, donations, and many other gifts over the years so that together they could give praise and glory to God.

April 16-17 Seminars were held for optional courses. The chosen subjects were: music, English language, biblical languages, and current world views. These courses were taught by: *Károly Boér, Tibor Orbán and Loránt Szántó, Éva Doepp, Ilona Veres, and Dr. György Papp* respectively.

My First Experience in Ózd on the Thanksgiving Day Celebration

By Csaba Puskás

When I first received my invitation to the Thanksgiving Day Celebration, I really felt that that it was the right place for me to be. Because I have been closely watching the work of the Bonus Pastor Foundation and I have a long-term personal friendship with its leaders, I decided to join them in giving praise during this time of celebration.

I went in a group of four and surprisingly we arrived in Ózd on time. This was our first time there and we didn't know the way. We saw a young gentleman standing on the middle of the road who kindly gave us directions. Afterwards we guessed that he was "undercover" but still we were left with a good feeling that this celebration was not restricted to a few people, but was a celebration intended for the whole village.

The festivities were held in the local culture center where a lot of local and foreign guests had already gathered. Everywhere we looked we saw kindness and smiling faces.

The celebration started on time according to the local version of "on time", but about a quarter of an hour late according to the western time. First, we listened to the opening remarks given by Horváth Levente. He underlined the importance that we should allow God to fight instead of us. The key to our victory is our standing firm in the midst of God's battle.

This was followed by a great and authentic lecture in Dutch about the life of Vincent Van Gogh who was a painter and an addict. He warned us that not only are we unable to conquer ourselves by our own strength, but that we are capable of sinking to ever lower depths.

Following a short break, in which we could meet new people and chat a little, we were introduced to some people who represent the friends and supporters of the Bonus Pastor Foundation. They explained their personal experience with the foundation and guaranteed their on-going support.

We ate lunch in the freshly converted conference center. It wasn't just our hunger which was satisfied by something good to eat, but the food was also cooked with love, which was not a miraculous occurrence, because the cooks were the inhabitants of the Drug Therapy Center. There was no lack of baked goods either at the celebration table either – to our great joy, there was also an abundance of these.

Looking Ahead

May 7-8 On Friday, a presentation by I. Máté and J. Márton will be given on their experiences in Cameroon in the context of missiology for all of our students. The next day, courses in missiology, spirituality, and addictology will be held for our first and second year students. These classes will be taught by *Foka van de Beek, Márton Fekete, and János*

Boros, Foka van de Beek, Levente Simon and Csaba Veres will hold courses in missiology and spiritual counseling for our third year students.

News

TRANSIT TRANSCULTURAL association will be the name which will offer legal form to our institute. It's founding process is going on right now.

Based on the latest vision from this summer we would like to start a so called 0 year, in which we would offer intensive English classes and optional subjects. This way starting in the fall 2010 in the 3 years of studies there only will be space and time for the mandatory subjects, but any body who is not experienced in English, will have the opportunity to attend the 0 year in parallel.

The constant location of our courses is the Koinónia House. Any different location will be underlined in our newsletters.

Praise Points

We are grateful for our volunteers: *János Székely* took executive duties in our institute, his wife, *Sarah* offers excellent help in the keeping in touch with our English speaking supporters, *Áron Székely* fulfils diversified tasks occasionally.

We are grateful to God for the blessings we experienced at the Jubilee Thanksgiving Day.

We are also grateful for anonymous givers who supported with their offerings our socially underprivileged students.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for that we can start from next year the addictology courses and conferences as BP-TSI common project, that we can naturalize the training in addictology, which already operates in the West, in our college system.

Please pray also for the smooth registration process of our association (TRANSIT TRANSCULTURAL).

Please pray for the correct development of our three year training schedule and for the optional year starting process.

We are asking for God's help in the connecting process with the Highland Theological College and the Free Church College both from Scotland.

Please pray for those who are already support us from Finland, Switzerland, the UK and US and for the upcoming trip designed to nurture the already existing relationships and establish new ones.

Our ongoing prayer request that our attic could be built in as soon as possible, where we could offer housing for our lecturers and students.