

CHRISTMAS NEWS

December 2025



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Immanuel – God is with us

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). (Matthew 1:23)

Dear Friends!

Despite the constant online presence that defines our era, it can often feel like all of it is just an illusion. We may have hundreds of contacts and the ability to chat with anyone around the world, yet we still find ourselves sitting alone at home — or living next to our family members without truly sharing life as a community.

Loneliness can feel even more overwhelming when we get sick, when we fail an important exam, or when we suddenly find ourselves without work.

The message of the first Christmas becomes even more important: we are not alone. Even in the midst of difficulties and the daily grind, when it can feel as though God is watching our struggles from a distance, this truly stands.

The Christmas gospel can be summed up in a single word — the name of God’s Son: Immanuel, which means “God with us.” This name doesn’t just identify the child; it expresses the way God relates to us.

God’s closeness is real.

In the Old Testament, God’s glory was unapproachable: for example, when He spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai, He remained at a distance — far beyond the people’s reach, and awe-inspiring in His holiness. At Christmas, God reverses this. He doesn’t call us up to a mountaintop; instead, He comes down to us, entering our world as a human being.

God’s closeness is most clearly revealed in the deepest and toughest moments of our lives.

The manger in Bethlehem isn’t a scene from a storybook — it’s a place of poverty and vulnerability. This is how God shows that there is no depth, no situation of need, where He wouldn’t come for us. He isn’t above us, but with us — in our everyday lives, in our struggles, in our joys and our losses.

God’s nearness reshapes our lives.

The name Immanuel brings comfort, a new beginning, and a renewed heart to us, because God’s Son came to save us: “because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). God is with us even in our sins; He doesn’t turn away but draws near to restore our lives. He is not only with us but for us, bringing life, peace and a fresh start.

This is the true gift of Christmas. When we call God’s Son Immanuel, we aren’t just remembering an old story — we are declaring that He is here with us today.

That’s why we can give thanks and celebrate even this Christmas 2025: God has not left us on our own. God is with us!

*Eszter Győrffy
National leader*

NEXTGEN HUNGARY 2025

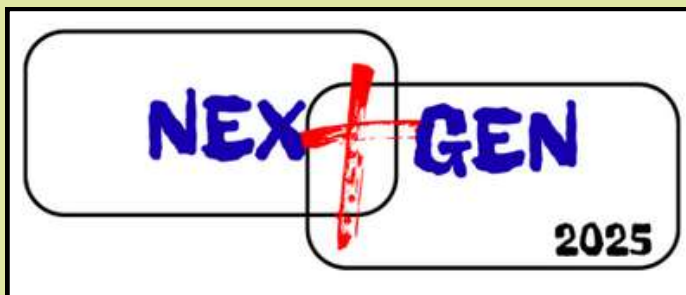
DECIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION: Z & ALPHA

On September 22, Scripture Union Hungary had the special privilege of co-hosting a mini-conference in Budapest with the Christian organization OneHope, inviting leaders of Hungarian children's and youth ministries.

The morning program focused on reaching the Alpha generation (children), while the afternoon centered on generation Z (youth), drawing on the latest research findings. Through group discussions, we explored together how we can more effectively proclaim the gospel and disciple the next generations in Hungary.

Our speakers were Jo Haaijer from the Netherlands, the European Director of OneHope, and Anna Gnatyshyna from Ukraine, the organization's Eurasian Mission and Operations Coordinator. OneHope is a global mission organization that reaches millions of children and young people worldwide with God's Word.

Eszter Ágoston-Palkó



YOUTH CONFERENCES

This autumn, we also had the opportunity to take part in two special events that enriched our ministry not only professionally, but spiritually as well. During the **youth morning program of the Ráday Days**, we led an interactive station for elementary and secondary school students, while at the **IKON community event** we organized the Bible quiz and the seminar. Both occasions aimed to engage young people in interactive and innovative ways, helping them discover the message of biblical stories and encouraging them to reflect on their personal decisions in the light of their faith. A key objective at both events was to extend our presence on social media, thereby raising awareness of the ministry of Scripture Union and Út-on app.

RÁDAY DAYS - 3RD OCTOBER 2025.

During the youth morning program of the **Ráday Days**, our station was titled “Esther’s Journey”. This was an interactive, drama-based live game designed for 11–16-year-olds, exploring the main themes of the Book of Esther. The game guided participants through four stations: the “Gate of Decision” examined courage and standing up for what is right, “Behind the Mask” explored identity and honesty, “Entering the King’s Presence” encouraged action motivated by reverence for God, “Celebration Island” highlighted gratitude and the joy of deliverance. At each station, participants encountered real-life situations, made decisions, and experienced how the stories of the Bible still speak to them today. Throughout the day, we saw that this type of playful learning is not only enjoyable but deeply formative: young people engaged in honest conversations about their choices, fears, and questions of faith. The aim of our ministry was to create space for these conversations and help young people recognize that God still calls everyone today to make responsible decisions rooted in faith.



IKON - 24-25 OCTOBER 2025.

The highlight of October was the IKON event, where we participated in several ways: leading the IKON quiz and the IKON seminar, as well as hosting a booth where we sold and promoted our publications.

The quiz was also based on questions from the **Út-on Bible-reading app**, playfully testing the participants' biblical knowledge. Topics included stories from Moses, Jonah, and Daniel, as well as the teachings of Jesus. The group game encouraged not only friendly competition but also learning: participants reflected together, shared their experiences, and gained many new insights into the message of Scripture.

The IKON seminar focused on the theme **"Daniel's Journey"**, highlighting questions of purity, faithfulness, and perseverance. Throughout the labyrinth, young people explored Daniel's example through individual and group activities: how to remain faithful to their beliefs in an unfamiliar environment, how to resist temptation, and how a consistent prayer life provides strength in everyday challenges.



We are grateful to have been part of these ministries! Both the Ráday Days and IKON events reinforced for us that in our mission to young people, personal encounters, playful and experiential learning, and open conversation are particularly valuable tools. We believe that these occasions were not just programs, but genuine spiritual encounters where God reached out to the participants.

Mátyás Turczi

THANKSGIVING DAY WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS

On October 12, we gathered with the Hungarian volunteers who served in our summer camps to give thanks together for the English camps, for our teams, for one another, for our international volunteers, for the churches, and for the children who received the message of the Gospel through our ministry this year!

Shared games, singing, prayer, reflections, and conversations strengthened the sense of unity and ministry that God has called us to, preparing us to serve together again in next year's camps. We are truly grateful for these moments!



SU GLOBAL PRAYER WEEK - 2025

In November, SU Scotland organised various prayer events as part of a global week of prayer. One of these events was an online prayer meeting where SU Scotland invited SU Hungary to share prayer requests. There were two SU Hungary prayer sessions, one focusing on our online ministry, publications, conferences and fundraising needs (led by Anna Becsei, CEO) and another prayer session focusing on our summer camp ministry and the need for volunteers to serve in the camps. We are thankful for our relationship with SU Scotland and for everyone who was able to participate in this online prayer meeting.

We are thrilled that this year the Scottish organisation chose us, the Hungarian team, as the focus of their fundraising campaign. From spring to autumn, around 150 camps participated, with Scottish children donating from their own pocket money to support our organisation, helping to advance our work and mission! We give thanks for them!

Steven Jemmett curator

VADÓC - COMPETITIONS



We are delighted that this autumn the final book in our Christian youth novel series **VADÓC** was released, titled **Vadóc és az utolsó titok (Vadóc and the Final Secret)**, and that our **first interactive activity workbook** has also been completed! Each book in the series is known for making its readers cry at least twice: once from laughter and once from being deeply moved. This is especially true for the final volume, where every secret is finally revealed. Amid exciting twists, we finally learn who Vadóc really is and where he came from within the Schmidtsteiner family. But that's not the only secret unveiled in the series' concluding novel — it also reveals the greatest mystery of the Christian faith: the redemptive death of Jesus Christ!



Building on the success of last year's Vadóc competitions, we announced new contests for the 2025–2026 school year. In collaboration with the Reformed Pedagogical Institute, we organized a new online, two-round reading competition, which has now reached its second round. The results of the contest are expected next spring.

VADÓC 7. BOOK LAUNCH AND AWARD CEREMONY

On December 6, 2025, we hosted, for the third time, the **award ceremony for the drawing contest** based on Vadóc volumes 1, 2, and 3, alongside the **launch of the final, 7. book** of the series at the **Christian Christmas Book Fair**.

Once again, the event took place at the Lónyay Reformed High School, and was opened by Dr. Kornél Herjeczki, Director of Harmat Publishing.

Eszter Győrffy spoke with Dr. Zoltán Pompör (President of the Hungarian Reading Association) and Krisztina Csőri-Czinkos (Reformed catechist and teacher) about the newest book and the activity workbook created for the first Vadóc volume.

Excerpts from the final book were read by our colleague, theology student Mátyás Turczi.

We warmly congratulate all the children who participated in the contest, as well as the prize winners!



OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

ESZTER ÁGOSTON-PALKÓ



Eszti is one of the newest members of the foundation and has been working with us as an office manager since October 2025. Her responsibilities include managing finances and fulfilling orders, as well as handling English communication, translation and interpretation.

She was born in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and moved to Budapest with her family ten years ago.

She is an active member of the Fasori Reformed Church community: she takes part in the children's services and serves as a group leader in the Christianity Explored series.

She is currently completing her studies at Károli Gáspár Reformed University, majoring in liberal arts with a specialization in religious studies and a minor in English.

Orsi is a university student who has been working as a Community Relations Coordinator at Scripture Union since October 2025.

She loves that her work is both creative and community-building: her tasks include preparing themes for summer camps, developing social media strategies, designing volunteer training programs, and coordinating several areas that support community building.

She was born in Miskolc and has been living in Budapest since 2019. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with people who are important to her, reading, going to concerts and the theater, and staying active. In addition, she has long felt at home in the Szentjánosbogár community, where she also volunteers.

ORSOLYA DEMJÉN



MÁTVÁS ÁRPÁD TURCZI



Matyi joined the team also in October, and his aim is to create clear, engaging content on social media (Instagram, Facebook), that resonates with young people and connects them with our message.

He is currently studying theology at the Faculty of Theology at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, and he aims to apply this knowledge in his day-to-day tasks. In his free time, he enjoys sports, literature and theology, as well as learning languages. He also served as a volunteer in our English bible camps.



SUMMER ENGLISH CAMPS



This summer, we were able to organize a total of six camps in our usual Reformed church locations. Once again, it was a blessing to serve alongside our Hungarian, British and American colleagues, as well as the Scripture Union Scotland team. The theme of this year's camp program was Time Travellers. During this "time-travel" adventure, we explored a different New Testament story each day.

REPORT - ÉRD

In July 2025, 28 children took part in the English Bible camp at the **Érd Reformed Church**. Led by four Scottish and four Hungarian volunteers, along with numerous local helpers, the children learned about stories from Matthew, the tax collector; the boy who brought his fish and bread to Jesus; blind Bartimaeus; Mary Magdalene and Thomas, the disciple who wanted to see the risen Jesus with his own eyes. Despite the rainy weather, the camp atmosphere was joyful and uplifting. We were all impressed by the hospitality of the pastor's family, the youth pastor, the elders, and church members, while the children's openness and attentiveness were unforgettable. We believe that many seeds were planted in their hearts! We pray that these seeds will grow, mature and bear fruit in the Érd congregation, in the children's families, schools and other settings.

Anna Kaszásné Becsei



It was amazing to be on the team at the camp in Erd. We were made to feel so welcome and enjoyed teaching the kids English, while they taught us some Hungarian! Participating in the dramas was also a highlight as we were able to make the Bible come alive for the young people.

John Pizzuto-Pomaco from Scotland

REPORT - BUDAPEST-SZEMERETELEP

In Szemeretelep, 40 children participated in this year's summer camp. Our volunteer team, made up mostly of local youth group members, was joined by two international helpers, Beth and David. It was no small challenge for our two native English-speaking teammates to teach two language sessions per day.

It was a great help that, in addition to our hospitable hosts, eight local youths (four girls and four boys) assisted us every day! Among the children, there were experienced campers, but also newcomers who participated in every activity and quickly felt at home in the large church and garden.

We believe and hope that seeds were planted during the week, and that one day these children will be the ones to carry on this mission here at Scripture Union!

Zsófi Mihalkovics



A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE CHILDREN

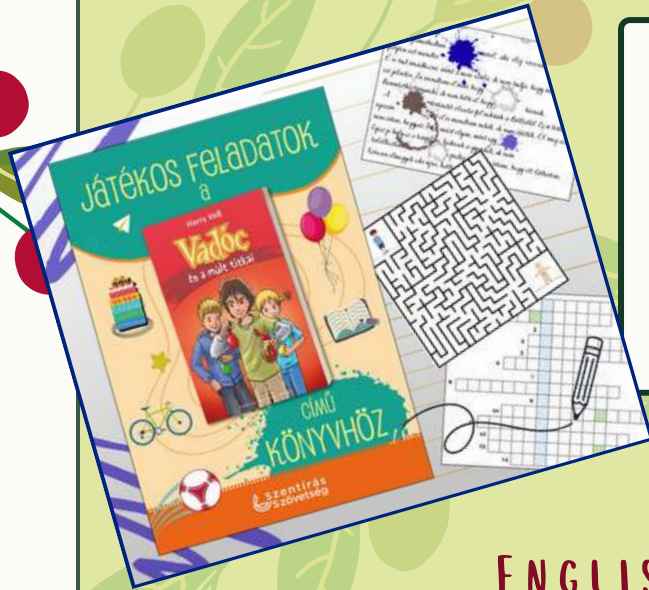
"I love the English camp because we get to meet people from other countries. This year, they were very kind. We learned a lot from them about Bible stories, and we laughed a lot and enjoyed good food together. I also listened attentively to the testimonies this year. Thank you for coming and spending these five days with us. I think of everyone with love." **Regina - Érd**

"I came to the camp from Transylvania, and I had been looking forward to it for a long time. I really love English, and here at the camp I could learn and practice with real English speakers, while also learning about God in a fun way. I really enjoyed the daily football games. The other children and helpers were very kind, and they prepared delicious food for us." **Flórián - Szada**

Be a volunteer next year in Hungary! Sign up at: taborok@gmail.com

OUR NEW PUBLICATION

GAME-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR THE BOOK VADÓC ÉS A MÚLT TITKAI



Our first Vadóc activity workbook has arrived!

With its playful and thought-provoking exercises, this workbook helps children explore the secrets of the Vadóc family and biblical language.

Like the book itself, the workbook is recommended for children aged 7–12, but it's also a great resource for parents, pastors and teachers!



ENGLISH BIBLE CAMPS IN 2026

6–10 July
13–17 July
(20–24 July)

We invite you to join us in serving among children and young people next summer at our English Bible camps! Be part of an interdenominational and international team! **More information: taborok@gmail.com**

FINAL THOUGHTS

"HE SAID TO THEM, "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION." (MARK 16:15)

Perhaps you often wonder how the Good News can be shared today. The Úton Bible Reading app, Christian books and Bible camps all exist to help God's Word reach as many people as possible. By supporting this ministry — even with just the cost of your favorite coffee each month — you can take part in Jesus' mission and help bring the Good News to places we couldn't reach on our own!

We are truly grateful if you join us as a regular supporter of Úton app, so that together we can continue carrying the light of the Gospel forward!



GIVING THANKS FOR:

- Summer camps and volunteers
- New team members
- New connections in Scotland
- SU Scotland and the children's fundraising
- All support and donations
- The release of the Vadóc activity workbook

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:

- New financial resources and supporters
- The development of new plans and trainings
- Next year's camp organization
- God's guidance and direction



CONTACT & SUPPORT

Scripture Union Hungary
1091 Budapest, Kálvin square 8. Hungary
00-36-1-216-5115
www.suhungary.net
info@szentirasszovetseg.net
facebook.com/szentirasszovetseg

Bank account:
HU58 1174 2001 2005 8328 0000 0000
SWIFT Code: OTPVHUHB
Szentiras Szovetseg Alapitvany

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