

Our Christmas gift to refugees: hope



Ágoston Dobos is a Reformed pastor serving among refugees in Hungary. He regularly reports to the Hungarian Bible Society how Bibles from the Hungarian Bible Society and the wider fellowship of the UBS are being used in his daily work. This is his most recent report.

Photo: Pastor Ágoston Dobos took his violin and a party of young people from a local church to the Refugee Centre for a time of fellowship with the refugees.

On December 14 we went on a special missionary visit to the Refugee Centre in Békéscsaba, in south east Hungary, which is -- temporarily -- 'home' to refugees mainly from wars in Asian and African countries. The visitors included members of local churches and representatives of Gideon's International, and for the first time I also took along a group of young people from a church not far from the Centre. They performed a piece of Christian drama for the refugees that was very original and seasoned with good humour, illustrating the subject of God's grace.

After sharing supper together, we sang hymns, choruses and Christmas carols -- in Hungarian and in English -- to the guitar and violin. We also shared our testimonies about the love of God revealed to all men in his Son.



Christ was a refugee

We reminded them Christ himself was a refugee. That should encourage us to call upon him in our lives as refugees. The Bibles we had brought from the Hungarian Bible Society, too, found a heartfelt welcome from their new owners.

A few months ago I met an asylum-seeker whose situation was about to be resolved. Nowadays he is getting more settled in Hungary; he speaks the language reasonably well, has a good job and all his papers are in order.

"What is the best thing you have received from the churches while you have been at a refugee centre?" I asked him.

After thinking for a moment he replied, "They gave me hope."

In this New Year -- a time of hope -- we should all remember all these refugees who, though they are in a very dire situation, can receive hope from us. Through our ministry we can bring the Word of God to them.