THE CRADLES OF THE REFORMATION IN TRANSYLVANIA

*The Cradles of the Reformation in Transylvania* was the title of the jubilee commemoration organised at Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) and Alvinc (Vințu de Jos) between 11th – 14th May 2017. The theme of the commemoration was *The Transylvanian Reformation in the mirror of its mission and interdenominational relationships. Europe and Transylvania.* Our Presbytery organised the events held on 13th and 14th May 2017, together with the congregations, the Protestant Theological Institute of Kolozsvár (Cluj), the Eszterházi Károly University of Eger, professionals from the Hungarian National Museum and artists. Our guests were the professors of the Orthodox Theology of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), the Greek Catholic Theology of Balázsfalva (Blaj), the Roman Catholic Theological University of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), and foreign lecturers from The Netherlands and Switzerland. In addition, all the members of the Convention of the Ministers of the Presbytery of Nagyenyed (Aiud) were present at the jubilee commemoration. The conference held at Alvinc (Vințu de Jos) on 12 th May was officially opened at 5 pm. *Memories from Alvinc’s Hungarian Past* was the theme of the conference orginised together with the Hungarian National Museum. We commemorated the Transylvanian Reformation and Protestantism impregnating the end of Martinuzzi Fráter György’s bishopric with a trilingual – Hungarian, Romanian and English – exhibition of photos presented on roll-ups. The event was followed by an artistic programme.

On Saturday, 13th May a token was placed near the reformed church in Vajasd (Oiejdea), a reformed settlement neighbouring Gyulafehérvár, followed by a service in the reformed church of Gyulafehérvár at 11 am, officiated by The Rt Rev. Kató Béla. At 1 pm there was a wreathing at the tombs of the princes in the Roman Catholic Cathedral accompanied by the performance of the choirs of the Bethlen Gábor College and the Presbytery. An artistic photo exhibition of the reformed churches was on view on the squares neighbouring the cathedral organised with the help of the Inter Art Foundation. This was followed by an exhibition entitled: *The pietism in Halle and the Reformation* organised together with the County Museum and the support and partnership offered by PhD. Verók Attila, Eszterházy Károly University of Eger. We closed the evening with an artisic performance at the Cultural Centre at 6 pm.

Similar to the events held in spring, further programmes will be held in Nagyenyed (Aiud) commemorating the 500th year of the Reformation between 22th and 24th October, which will include lectures, exhibitions and presentations of books about the centuries of reformed education organised by the Presbitery of Nagyenyed and the Bethlen Gábor College, congregations, educational institutions and Hungarian non-governmental organisations.

On October 22nd at 5 pm the opening service is officiated by Rev. Kántor Csaba, the Deputy Bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District followed by artistic performances of Marosán Csaba: Luther’s tabletalk and the Oláh duó. Rev. Tóth Tibor will present the church of Nagyenyed. The choir of the Bethlen Gábor College performs during the service.

The art exhibition of the 20th century’s protestant artists from Fehér (Alba) county compiled and presented by Rev. Lőrincz Konrád and Rev. Horháth Miklós opens at 7 pm. A photo exhibition will be on view in the college yard followed by a reception at the college canteen at 8 pm.

On Monday, 23th October, after breakfast, prayer is conducted by Rev. Kónya Tibor school minister in the Apafi Room of the college, followed by a series of lectures on *Educational reform, memory and book culture* chaired by Rev. PhD Gudor Botond, Dean of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia). Györfi Dénes, the retired librarian of the Documentary Library of the Bethlen Gábor College will speak about the *Celebrations Commemorating the Reformation at the Bethlen Gábor College (1900 – 1940),* then PhDc Bekker Norbert (ELU Budapest) will present the lecture entitled: *The situation of reformed education in Northern Transylvania (1940 – 1944), or old and new schools ... challenges and hopes.*

After a half-an-hour break, PhDc Simon János (VU, Amsterdam) presents his lecture entitled: *Tolnai Dali János and his educational reforms,* then PhD Hegyi Ádám (University of Szeged) will speak about *Object culture or book culture? Reformed book culture in the south-eastern part of the Hungarian Kingdom.*  After conclusions and questions a coffee break comes followed by the presentations of books moderated by Szőcs Ildikó, the headmistress of the Bethlen Gábor College.  *Áprily Lajos’s* *religious poetry* by Kada Erika will be presented by the author and *It is time for reading*, (Refo 500 publication) the volume of short stories published by the John Calvin Publishing House will be presented by Bölcsföldi András, the spititual professor of the Károli Gáspár University.

At 1.30 pm, the presentation of the Bethlen Gábor College of Nagyenyed can be heard followed by greetings and lunch. After that Szólláth Tibor the mayor of Hajdúnánás (Hajdú-Bihar county, Hungary) will speak about the message of 23rd October 1956 and the school-twinning contract between the Reformed School of Hajdúnánás and the Bethlen Gábor College will be signed.

After coffee break, more lectures and presentations follow chaired by PhD Kolumbán Vilmos József (Kolozsvár/ Cluj). First, PhD Monok István (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest) speaks about: *The thematic changes in the composition of the protestant school libraries in the first century of the Reformation.* Next, PhD Buzogány Dezső, the professor of the Church History Department at the Protestant Theological Institute, BBU Kolozsvár (Cluj), presents his lecture entitled: *Lessons learned from the 16th century protestant schools’ Latin regulations.* Then, PhD Monok István (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) presents the book entitled: *Pápai Páriz Ferenc’s school history of Enyed*, edited by Rácz Emese.

This is followed by the exhibition opening at the Bethlen Gábor Documentary Library, where the librarian, PhDc Gordán Edina presents the lecture: *School books, lectures and curricula. The Bethlen College library in the service of the teaching of the Reformation.* Then a folk show can be watched in the college yard about the relationship between the folk arts of the Transylvanian Foothills and Protestantism entitled: *Church, school and folk arts,* presented the Fügevirág Assembly, the Ficfa Orchestra and Kónya Tibor school minister. This is followed by dinner.

On 23rd October, after breakfast, the events begin with prayers conducted by Rev. Kónya Tibor. This is followed by lectures on the theme: *Education and book culture in schools in the period of the Reformation and Enlightenment* chaired by PhD Monok István, Budapest.

First, PhD Sípos Gábor (BBU, Kolozsvár/ Cluj) will give a lecture entitled: *School Rules in Reformed Colleges,* then Rácz Emese (University Library, Kolozsvár/ Cluj) will present: *School books in the College of Nagyenyed in the middle of the 18th century* and *Teleki József’s (1675–1732) book donation’s school publication.* PhD Gudor Kund Botond (Gyulafehérvár, Dean of the Presbytary of Nagyenyed) will deliver the lecture: *Bod Péter and education in Nagyenyed in the first half of the 18th century,* Phd Kolumbán Vilmos József (Protestant Theological Institute of Kolozsvár) will present the lecture entitled: *Enlightenment in the colleges of Kolozsvár and Marosvásárhely.* PhD Jan Andrea Bernhard (Swiss Reformation Studies Institute, Zürich) will give a lecture with the title: *The Alphabet and school fables – from Humanism to the Reformation. The significance of the alphabet in the spreading of reformed thinking in 16th century Europe.* Questions and comments are followed by a break.

After the break, PhD Jan Andrea Bernhard (Zürich) will chair the conference entitled *The tradition of peregrination in protestant education.* PhD Verók Attila (Eszterházy Károly University of Eger) will give a lecture on the *Saxon peregrines of Burzenland in European universities,* then PhDc. Ősz Sándor Előd (EREK Archive, Kolozsvár/ Cluj) will speak about: *The teaching of a peregrine’s album* followed by discussions, questions and lunch break.

The third topic of the conference is entitled: *The impact of protestant education in the 19th – 21st centuries* chaired by PhD Sípos Gábor (Kolozsvár/ Cluj). First PhD Kovács Kálmán Árpád (VERITAS Research Institute for History, the research group for Dualism) will lecture about *The challenges of internal mission for worshipping and education in Transylvania (1896-1907)* then PhD Tódor Imre (Sapientia HUT Teacher Training Institute of Csíkszereda/ Miercurea Ciuc) will hold a lecture on *The choice patterns of secondary schools among denominational-school students of Hargita county.* After discussions and question a break follows.

The fourth topic of the conference is entitled *Book, sermon, teaching,* chaired by PhDc Ősz Előd. The lectures will start with PhDc Barta Aladár (BBU of Cluj) who will speak about: *Bod Péter’s funeral sermons as teaching tools* and PhDc Gordán Edina (Documentary Library, Nagyenyed/ Aiud) will close the conference with *The unknown books of* *Teleki Miklós (1705-1746) and Teleki László (1710-1778*

At the same time with the above mentioned lectures, the County’s Pedagogical Conference entitled: *Reformation, education, diaspora, national identity* will be held in the assembly hall of the college. Aproximately one hundred teachers working in thirty settlements of the county will elaborate on the experience of denominational education in their respective settlements in the 500 years after the Reformation.

The joint conclusion of the two section is held at 8 pm followed by a festive dinner.

The Church History Department of the Protestant Theological Institute of Kolozsvár/ Cluj supports the publishing of the lectures of the two sections in a book.

The events are sponsored by the Reformation Committee of the Hungarian Human Resource Ministry, the Bethlen Foundation of Budapest, the Transylvanian Reformed Church District, the reformed congregations of Gyulafehérvár and Nagyenyed, the Presbytery of Nagyenyed, the Bethlen Gábor College and Foundation, the Teacher Training Institute of Fehér (Alba) county, Convention of Ministers, Women and Youth of the Presbytery of Nagyenyed (Aiud), the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania from Fehér (Alba) county, dr. Brendus Gyula and dr. Szász Pál Assosiations, the Bod Péter Foundation, the city of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) and the Inspectorate of Fehér (Alba) county.