

Prof. Dr. Peter Balla (MTh, PhD) – *Curriculum vitae*
Chair of New Testament Studies, Faculty of Theology,
Head of the Doctoral School in the field of Theology,
Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary,
Vice-Rector

(Rector of the university from 1 September, 2011 – until 31 August, 2019)

Revised: 06 July, 2025

Peter Balla was born in Budapest in 1962. He is married: his wife, Dr. Gyöngyi Hegedűs is a medical doctor (dermatologist). They have four children: Zsolt (1991), Gergely (1993), Csanád (1994), and Csenge (1997).

Peter Balla is an ordained pastor of the Reformed Church in Hungary. He graduated in 1985 at the Reformed Theological Academy in Budapest. Assistant pastor in Kecskemét (1985-86) and in Budapest, at the “Szabadság tér Reformed Church” (1986-91, with the interruption of a study leave in Scotland, Oct. 1987 – Sept. 1988).

Postgraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh, with a scholarship of the Church of Scotland, 1987-88 and 1991-94. MTh (1988) and PhD (1994) from the University of Edinburgh. One month research in Edinburgh in the Summer of 2022 with the help of the Church of Scotland. The result of the research is an online commentary on 2Corinthians, freely available at the website of The Gospel Coalition:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/2-corinthians/>

Research leave at the University of Bern with the scholarship of HEKS, January-August 1997; and with the scholarship of the University of Bern, July 1998.

Scholarship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for research at the University of Heidelberg (one year from August 1999 to July 2000, and subsequently short research visits in the Summers of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2016).

Habilitation (Dr. Habil.) from the Evangelical Lutheran Theological University in Budapest (2001).

Member of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (SNTS) since 2003. Participation at the international conferences of SNTS as a guest: in Prague (1995), and in Tel Aviv (2000), and as a member of the society: in Barcelona (2004), in Halle (2005), in Lund (2008), in Szeged (2014), in Amsterdam (2015), in Athens (2018), in Vienna (2023) in person, and online in Leuven (2021).

Peter Balla has been teaching in Budapest at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, at the Faculty of Theology, since October 1994. Head of the New Testament Department since 1996. Full professor since 2002. Deputy Dean between 2002 and 2006.

Peter Balla has won two three-year research scholarships (“Bolyai János Kutatási Ösztöndíj”) from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for writing projects carried out beside his teaching ministry, first for the period 2001-2004 (the result of the research was published in 2005: a book in Hungarian language on the history of the New Testament writings, second edition, 2008; see below), and a second time for the period 2005-2008 (the result of the research was published in 2009: a commentary on Galatians in Hungarian language; see below). Both final reports were accepted by the Board (*Curatorium*) with “outstanding” result. In June 2009 Peter Balla was invited to give a lecture on his results of his second Bolyai scholarship (on Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians) at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, on the Bolyai Day, when Peter Balla was also awarded a Bolyai Plaque.

By invitation, he taught a three-week course at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) in Deerfield, Illinois, in September 2004.

Guest researcher at the North-West University, Faculty of Theology, in Potchefstroom, South Africa, 7-21 April, 2008.

Guest lectures in English or German (one lecture at each occasion, unless stated otherwise): British New Testament Conference (Nottingham, 1994), Society of Biblical Literature (Budapest, 1995; Lausanne, 1997; Helsinki-Lahti, 1999; Rome, 2001), University of Heidelberg (1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, and four lectures in 2004), University of Halle-Wittenberg (Halle, 2000), Stellenbosch (international conference, organised by Princeton Center for Theological Inquiry, 2001), University of South Africa (Pretoria, 2001), University Babes-Bolyai (Kolozsvár, Cluj-Napoca, 2004), University of Deusto (Bilbao, 2005), European Leadership Forum – European Theologians Network (Eger, 2006, 2008, 2012), University of Tartu (2007), University of Thessaloniki (2007), Conference in Corinth, on Paul and Corinth (organised by the Municipality of Corinth, 2007), Potchefstroom in South Africa, and at the conference of NTSSA (in April 2008), Potchefstroom (January 2009), Seoul (conference in November 2010). University Babes-Bolyai (Kolozsvár, Cluj-Napoca, 2011), Hanshin University (Seoul, May 2016), Central and Eastern European fellowship for writing a one-volume commentary on the Bible (Budapest, May 2018), Newbold College (U.K., online in October 2020 and in October 2021).

Peter Balla was invited by the *Forschungszentrum für Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie* (FIIT, University of Heidelberg) to act as an

evaluator at the “John Templeton Award for Theological Promise 2010”, and also to act as an evaluator for the same award in 2011.

Peter Balla was appointed as a Research Fellow at Stellenbosch University, in the Discipline Group Old and New Testament, Faculty of Theology, for the period 1 February 2011 to 31 January 2014. Peter Balla was appointed as a Research Associate at Stellenbosch University, in the Discipline Group Old and New Testament, Faculty of Theology, for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2019.

From 2011, Peter Balla served on the “Editorial Board” of the then new journal: *Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters* (JSPL) <http://www.eisenbrauns.com/pages/JSPL>. The production and publication of this journal has come to an end in November 2022.

On 29 April, 2009, the Senate has elected Peter Balla to be the Acting Rector of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, as from 1 May, 2009. This appointment has been confirmed by the General Assembly (“Synod”) of the Reformed Church in Hungary, on 20 November, 2009.

On 14 July, 2011, the President of Hungary, Dr. Pál Schmitt appointed Peter Balla as the rector of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary for the period 1 September, 2011 – 31 August, 2014. The official document was handed over to Peter Balla on 30 August, 2011, in the Presidential Palace, “Sándor-palota” in Budapest.

The President of Hungary, Dr. János Áder appointed Peter Balla as the rector of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary for the period 1 September, 2014 – 31 August, 2019. The official document was handed over to Peter Balla on 3 September, 2014.

On 29 September, 2021, the Senate elected Peter Balla to be one of the Vice-Rectors of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, as from 1 October, 2021. After the new Rector of the University, Prof. Dr. László Trócsányi has begun his office as rector on 1 February, 2022, the Senate has elected Peter Balla to be one of the Vice-Rectors for the five-year-term of the new rector (Vice-Rector for Spirituality, as from 24 February, 2022). As from 1 September, 2024, Peter Balla serves as Vice-Rector for International Relations.

Peter Balla acted as supervisor for the PhD research of Ottó Pecsuk (PhD degree obtained in 2007), of László Gallusz (PhD degree obtained in 2011), of Erik Kormos (PhD degree obtained in 2018), and as co-supervisor of Ádám Szabados (PhD degree obtained in 2019). He is currently the supervisor of two PhD research students who have already reached the *absolutorium*: László Páll jr. and András Dávid Pataki. His other former PhD research student, Dr. Balázs Németh (who already has a PhD degree in engineering), defended his thesis in June 2025. Peter

Balla was the supervisor of Márk Fazakas from September 2016 to August 2018.

Peter Balla acted as external examiner of a PhD thesis for UNISA, South Africa (2005), for the University of Western Sydney, Australia (2007), for the University of Newcastle, Australia (2017), twice for the Evangelical Lutheran Theological University, Budapest, Hungary (2006 and 2009), twice for the Reformed Theological University in Debrecen, Hungary (2019, 2025), and for Károli Gáspár University (2020).

Peter Balla was an elected member of the Synod (General Assembly) of the Reformed Church in Hungary, and of the Assembly of the Danube District of the Reformed Church in Hungary during three terms, between 2003-2008, between 2009-2014, and then between 2015-2020, and he is elected in the latter institution for a fourth term between 2021-2026.

Peter Balla is an elected member of the Directorial Council of the Szabó Imre Reformed College in Budapest, in the present term until 2026.

Peter Balla was invited to attend a festive occasion at the University of Heidelberg on 26 April, 2013, in connection with the 70th birthday of Prof. Dr. Gerd Theissen, and to contribute with an essay to a *Festschrift* published for the same occasion.

Peter Balla was invited to attend a festive occasion at the University of Heidelberg on 12 December, 2019, in connection with the farewell lecture of Prof. Dr. Peter Lampe, and to contribute with an essay to a *Festschrift* published in connection with the same occasion.

Peter Balla was invited to attend a festive occasion at the University of Heidelberg on 29 April, 2023, in connection with the 80th birthday of Prof. Dr. Gerd Theissen, and to contribute with an essay to a *Festschrift* published for the same occasion.

Peter Balla has been elected to be a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE, since January 2019 under a new name: INCHE), for a three-year period between December 2014 and December 2017, and he has been re-elected for a second term, lasting until December 2020.

Peter Balla has been asked to serve on the Advisory Council of the De Vries Institute for Global Faculty Development at Calvin University (Grand Rapids, USA), as from September, 2021.

Books:

The Melchizedekian Priesthood. Budapest: Károli Gáspár Reformed University, Faculty of Theology, 1995 (ISBN 963 8392 13 4, revision of 1988 Edinburgh MTh dissertation, 85 pp.)

Doctoral thesis:

Challenges to New Testament Theology: An Attempt to Justify the Enterprise. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, WUNT 2/95, 1997 (279 pp.);

Paperback reprint edition of the same: *Challenges to New Testament Theology.* Peabody, Mass., USA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998. As of October 2010, the publishing rights of the reprint edition are with Baker Academic.

Baker Academic has reprinted the same book in 2011 (ISBN: 978-0-8010-4551-6).

Mohr Siebeck (Tübingen) published the same book as an eBook in 2019.

The Hungarian translation and updated edition of the doctoral thesis has been published in 2008 (Budapest: KIA, with the support of "Project Hungary").

Habilitation thesis:

The Child-Parent Relationship in the New Testament and its Environment. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, WUNT 155, 2003 (279 pp.);

Paperback reprint edition of the same: *The Child-Parent Relationship in the New Testament and Its Environment.* Peabody, Mass., USA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005. As of October 2010, the publishing rights of the reprint edition are with Baker Academic (ISBN: 978-0-8010-4552-3).

Wipf and Stock Publishers (Eugene, Oregon, USA) have reprinted the same book in December 2015.

Mohr Siebeck (Tübingen) published the same book as an eBook in 2019.

Its Hungarian translation was published in 2010 (Budapest: Kálvin Kiadó).

Books in Hungarian language:

A "New Testament Introduction" textbook in Hungarian language: *"The History of the Origin of the New Testament Writings and of their Canonical Collection: Introductory Alternatives."* Budapest, 2005 (279 pp.). The second (corrected and updated) edition has been published in 2008, by Károli Egyetemi Kiadó in Budapest, under the shorter title: *Az újszövetségi iratok története: Bevezetéstani alternatívák.* ("The History of the New Testament Writings: Introductory Alternatives"; 321 pp.)

A commentary on Galatians, in Hungarian language, was published in 2009 (by KIA in Budapest; XLI + 284 pp.).

For a list of his further publications, see at the website of MTMT:

<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10002178>

or at www.kre.hu, Faculties, Faculty of Theology, Departments, New Testament Department: <https://htk.kre.hu/index.php/balla-peter>

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