

Prof. Dr. Peter Balla (MTh, PhD) – *Curriculum vitae*
Chair of New Testament Studies, Faculty of Theology,
Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary
Rector of the university from 1 September, 2011

Revised: 06 May, 2019

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.

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 *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), and in Athens (2018).

Peter Balla has been teaching in Budapest at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, at the Faculty of Theology, since 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 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 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 asked 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).

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 has been 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.

As from 2011, Peter Balla has been asked to act as “Associate Editor” for the then new journal: *Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters* (<http://www.eisenbrauns.com/pages/JSPL>).

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 has 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 has 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.

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), and of Erik

Kormos (PhD degree obtained in 2018). He is currently the supervisor of two PhD research students who have already reached the *absolutorium*: László Páll jr. and András Dávid Pataki. He is the co-supervisor of Ádám Szabados; and he was the supervisor of Márk Fazakas from September 2016 to June 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), and twice for the Evangelical Lutheran Theological University, Budapest, Hungary (2006 and 2009).

Peter Balla is 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 (he was an elected member of both these institutions between 2003-2008, then between 2009-2014, and he is elected now in a third term between 2015-2020 in both institutions).

Peter Balla is an elected member of the Directorial Council of the Szabó Imre Reformed College in Budapest, in the present term until 2020.

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 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.

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).

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.

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

Books in Hungarian language:

A “NT 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 his personal homepage at:

www.peterballa.eoldal.hu

or at www.kre.hu, Faculties, Faculty of Theology, Departments, New Testament Dept.

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