

Sztehlo, Gabor

(1909--1974) Christian minister in Budapest who rescued hundreds of Jewish children during the Holocaust.

After Germany invaded Hungary in March 1944, Sztehlo and his Protestant Good Shepherd Committee began rescuing abandoned Jewish children. In October 1944, after the antisemitic, fascist Arrow Cross Party took control of the Hungarian government and embarked upon a reign of anti-Jewish terror, Sztehlo decided to extend his rescue activities to all Jewish children. This included young Jews who had been forced into the Hungarian Labor Service System and having deserted their units, needed a place of refuge.

By the end of 1944 the Soviet army had besieged Budapest. Many of Sztehlo's institutions were bombed in the battle between the Germans and the Soviets, and thus could no longer be used as shelters. Sztehlo then moved 33 children to the basement of his home. For 20 days, he and his family hid with the children in the cellar, while bombs exploded right above their heads. When Budapest was liberated in February 1945, Sztehlo moved the children to new accommodations, and took care of them until their families or Jewish organizations came to claim them.

In 1972 Sztehlo was designated as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.