



Cleaford News



December 2010

End of year update

We particularly wish to send

- ⇒ New clothes and shoes
- ⇒ Toys, complete puzzles, games
- ⇒ Coloured pencils, felt tips
- ⇒ Paints, brushes and craft materials
- ⇒ Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap
- ⇒ Medical items—must be at least 6 months within expiry date
- ⇒ Incontinence pads
- ⇒ Secondhand tools—for carpenters and mechanics.

Visit our website at cleafordchristian-trust.org.uk (without the hyphen!) and join the Cleaford Christian Trust Google Group for news updates.

We are no longer sending food, knitted blankets, second-hand clothes, computers, monitors and printers.

The autumn visit to Romania brought us face to face with the terrible situation at the Children's Hospital in Brasov, but everything else during the week was positive. This News tells you about the projects we visited, and the spending decisions made by the Trustees at their subsequent meeting.

At that meeting the Trustees also approved the 2010 Annual Report and Accounts, the Independent Examiners having given their approval earlier in the week.

Readers who belong to our Google Group circulation list have already received a copy of the Report and Accounts. If you are reading a paper copy of this News, but have an email address, we do ask you to drop an email to cleaver@cleaford.co.uk and ask us to put you on the list. There are several advantages—you can receive occasional updates and urgent messages between editions of Cleaford News, and it reduces our printing and postage costs. Postage, in particular, is getting ever more expensive.

For those of you who receive bulk postings of Cleaford News it would be very helpful if you would encourage those you contact to take the email version and as a result, let us know if you would like us to reduce the bulk numbers we send you.

Whilst talking electronics, we now have a Cleaford Christian Trust Facebook group.

We wish all our readers and supporters a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Brasov Children's Hospital

Facts we were given when we visited -

- ◆ Salaries reduced by 25% - no income for other than salaries at present. A doctor's pay is now £200/month. Dana (who now has a degree) gets £30/month.
- ◆ Government agreed to pay off the hospital's large debt for medicines and consumables, but only cleared 50%. Medicines are again being obtained on credit. The gas bill is unpaid, and nobody knows how long these credit deals will last.
- ◆ Our donations of medicines each quarter account for 33% of the hospital's needs.
- ◆ To reach its **minimum** staff levels the hospital needs 22 more nurses and 4 more doctors
- ◆ At the adults' hospital, patients are assessed and given a shopping list of medical needs. When they return with their medicines, syringes, bandages, etc. (and their food) they can be treated.
- ◆ A nurse in Bucharest was doing the work of 4 and was alone for a 12 hour night shift. She went to the toilet while on duty, at which point there was an electrical fault in the ward, causing a fire. 4 babies died in the fire. The nurse and the hospital director are now in jail.

Abigail Cleaver memorial church

We visited the site of the new church in Peris village. The old building has been demolished, and the foundations have been laid by church members for a purpose built church (rather than a conversion of a private house).

There was sufficient money in the memorial fund to cover the purchase of the land, and the development of the building up to the top of the walls. Additional money has been transferred from the late Abigail Cleaver's 'giving' account (she used to put aside her OAP for giving away) which should cover the cost of completing the building. Work has now stopped for the winter, and we hope for an opening ceremony during our visit in the autumn of 2011. We hope all of you who contributed to the memorial fund will be pleased with this news.



Glodeni

Our first visit to Glodeni was both fascinating and inspiring. We were taken through the village and up a muddy track to the Roma area which, in this case, is clearly separated from the rest!

We were met by a tall, bearded, mud splattered man, who was supervising a small building project. This was Zoltan Doni, who has graduated from the Hungarian Baptist Seminary. Over the next couple of hours we learnt something of his story....

Zoltan was keen to get in amongst the needy Roma people whom he wishes to serve, and was not offered a pastorate by any of the Hungarian speaking Baptist churches. He moved into a simple Roma house in Glodeni, with his wife Abigail and three boys.



We had a short meeting with a couple of families in one of the little Roma houses, but it is clear that the community needs some sort of church building. Zoltan had seen this need, and we learned that he had given his total savings of £1,000 to build a church. This was the project on which he and his friends were working when we arrived, building with second-hand bricks and using mud for mortar. He had intended to use the £1,000 to install a bathroom in his rented house.

The family receives £108/month from a Gypsy Mission, from which they pay rent of £100/month.

A lady in the community was talking of abandoning her baby at the hospital as she could not care for him. Zoltan volunteered to take in the baby, prior to adoption, rather than see him abandoned. For the adoption procedure to work, Zoltan needed a proper address, so is now renting a house in a nearby village. It was then discovered that the baby is blind.

Zoltan sold his little car and used the proceeds partly to pay off a debt and partly for the first of several operations on the baby's eyes. He now walks 5 km over the hill to get to his parish, or sometime rides a horse he has been given.



Financial decisions

The Trustees run a rolling budget, always looking 12 months ahead, so at our November meeting we assessed the various requests we have for 2011.

We start with our regular commitments -

£861 a quarter is sent for support of widows and a few families with special needs. For next year we are budgeting £1,100 per quarter for medicines for the hospital, and £900 for freight of these and the other gifts we send at the same time. Salary support for pastors and other church workers accounts for £3,380 per quarter. Pastors have forgone the salary increase they should get in January in view of the economic state of the country (they generally follow the teachers' pay scales), but we have written in a small increase in July 2011.

Marta Borzasi runs an evangelistic conference for women, and a training conference for Sunday School teachers each year. To help with transport and accommodation we contribute £500 to each conference. Each quarter we also send her £500 for her work with many Sunday Schools.

We then consider the extra requests. We have decided to repay the £1,000 which Zoltan had given for the new church building, and we will also cover his rent of £100 a month.

The new church centre at Apalina, currently at foundations stage, is being funded by friends from USA. We expect to be asked to help with the fence and some fittings, for which we have budgeted £1,000 for the autumn of 2011.

Marta would like us to add £20/month to our regular payments, to help with the costs of her women's work.

We have been able to send the money for the local purchase of a data projector, and a supporter has donated a laptop to go with it.

We have been asked for funds for 3 computers for internet access from a camp, but have not been able to include these in the budget.

The big question is what subsidy we can provide for the summer camping programme. Many children attend who cannot afford the travel costs or the fees, and so for many years we have provided a subsidy. As summer camps are the big evangelistic effort of the year, we have always been keen to support this. Two years ago we were able to give £5,000, and last year £4,500. Because our projections show that our funds will be tight next summer we have had to tell Istvan and Marta that we can only provide for £2,000 for 2011.

Otto Kis and the Hope Group

Otto's ministry amongst the disabled, based in Sacele near Brasov, is now getting known nationally. There was very good TV coverage for an amazing event he planned and led – taking a large number of disabled people up to see the view from the top of a mountain! It involved a large number of helpers to push wheelchairs, drive vehicles, etc, so was quite an undertaking.

Following on from this, Otto is now organising national conferences and exchanges of information, in order to widen the help to disabled people who have always been ignored up till now.

In Sacele he is keen to start building a stock of aids which can be loaned out to those in need. One of our UK supporters has a very good contact, which has enabled us to send a dozen wheelchairs, and many zimmer frames and crutches, as a start. The needs are so great that we hope to be sending more during the coming year. We only have to pay the transport costs!

Otto has been able to take members of his group to Harghita Camp in the summer, where there is a pur-

pose built building for the disabled and their carers. We would like to help with some funds for this, but do not have anything in the budget at present. He would also like craft materials, so we expect to be sending in his direction some of what we receive from our supporting schools in the UK.

As we were leaving Targu Mures, Istvan stopped us to say that there was a need for a wheelchair for an amputee that he had recently visited. We were able to say that we had been given one of those specially designed wheelchairs a few weeks before, and were waiting to hear where it would be useful! This is not the first time God has provided before we are aware of the need!

Otto is always full of plans for development of the ministry! He now has a minibus donated by one of our supporting families, and other UK contacts of his have sent him a minibus adapted for wheelchairs. A disabled member of the group is about to take his test to drive that bus.

His next idea is to register a charity in Romania, for which he would need a registration fee of £400.

In the UK

We would like to acknowledge the continuing support from pupils, staff and parents at a number of schools. When we visit we explain that each year we need 300 Christmas presents for children in the Hospital, as well as games and toys for the rest of the year. We also give to kindergartens and other groups. The response has been fantastic as, year after year, the toys and games flood in from schools and a few churches.

At harvest time we usually ask for craft materials and toiletries, and again the response has been good. Through the work of our Romanian associates at FAST, plus the churches who use the camp, we now have literally thousands of children in need of these basics.

It continues to be our policy not to send secondhand clothes. Daniel Hristea at FAST agrees with this, as he does not want his clients to be treated as second class. In his Centre he now has a small shop where he sells new clothes and shoes at minimal prices, so that people are not being demeaned by handouts all the time. From time to time we hear of cases where new clothes have become available when a logo has changed, or some other change has resulted in a restocking. We are always keen to send such items over to Romania. We are delighted that one of our supporters has just arranged for our large local M&S to pass on new items which they cannot sell, usually because they are out of their original wrapping.

Better Homes

Although not a Cleaford project, the Better Home project is always worth a visit! We were most impressed by the progress, even since the spring. Some of you may have met Daniel and Ema Hristea during their UK 'appreciation tour', and seen from their pictures how the appearance of the Roma area of Tarlungeni has changed out of recognition.

This is not just a change of building quality, but a change of atmosphere in the village, as people get on with little projects rather than standing around hopelessly. We are delighted that Daniel now feels the time is right to build a 'Mission House' in the village. The building foundations are in, and we pray that this place may help people to get a real foundation for their lives, as they hear the Gospel and get other help there.

FAST have a very good website at www.fastcharity.ro with plenty of up to date news.

We are now using **Google Groups** for our Trust circulations. Please go to the Trust website and add yourself to the list if you are not already on. Drop us an email if you can now receive the News (and other occasional items) by email, which saves us printing and postage.

The Cleaford Christian Trust

...caring about Romania...

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Prayer Points

Pray for wisdom and energy for the church leaders, wives, Sunday school teachers and evangelists.

Thank God for the financial and prayer support received by the Trust, and pray for its continuance.

Pray that the Trustees may be guided by God as they allocate resources to the various worthwhile projects presented to them for support.

Pray that we may all see the way God wants us to go in both the short term and long term life of the Trust, and that we may follow his will.

Thank God for the many children and young people who have been to camps this summer.

Thank God for the progress of church planting.

Pray for good relationships within churches with mixed backgrounds.

Pray for the staff at the Children's Hospital as they seek to stretch what little resources they have, and show us how we may best help that situation.