



Cleaford News

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We particularly wish to send

- ⇒ New clothes
- ⇒ Toys (including soft toys) for children over 36 mths
- ⇒ Pens, pencils, etc.
- ⇒ Paints, brushes and craft materials
- ⇒ Toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.
- ⇒ Inkjet printers
- ⇒ Medical items—must be at least 6 months within expiry date
- ⇒ Incontinence pads

We are no longer sending food, second-hand clothes or computers and monitors.

July 2005

Encouraging News!

Our programme of visits to Romania has been very different this year, which is the main reason you have not seen a Cleaford News for too long.

Our usual spring trip did not take place until late June, but we came back enthused by what we saw. High points were

- invitations to speak at the church in Sangeorgiu de Padure—possibly the last time in the present building, as the construction of the new church building, mostly financed by our friends in Essex, is coming along very well;
- the friendliness of this congregation, and seeing successful integration of ethnic Hungarian and Gypsy families in one church;
- the lively worship and wonderful welcome at the Gypsy church in Zizin;
- the warmth of our relationships at the Brasov Children's Hospital, and the scope we have to make a difference there;
- the loving pastoral ministry to the Toto family;
- meeting with the CAN organisation in Brasov, and seeing the development of local Romanian charity teams.



Ministers and members after the service at Sangeorgiu de Padure

Media changes

Thanks to a generous donation from AMTEC Consulting in Farnham there has been a major upgrade to the video editing equipment available to the Trust. When you see the Annual Accounts you will find a much larger 'Fundraising' item than usual - reflecting this designated AMTEC donation passing through the books.

With the growth of DVD players it is now much quicker, easier and cheaper for us to distribute short movies about different aspects of the work. (Don't worry—VHS tape is still available also!)

With the advent of cheaper colour laser printing we can at last offer Cleaford News, and other publicity materials, with colour pictures! The costs of Cleaford News are covered from outside the Trust, so be assured that charity funds are not being used for what we hope you will agree is an improved bit of communication.

F.A.S.T.

www.fastcharity.go.ro

More schools are asking Daniel Hristea, leader of FAST, to start kindergartens in their areas! Although it was officially holiday time, we had the chance to see the first 6 children who have started in a room at Tarlungeni School.

As they are due to start primary school in September they need a crash course to get them ready in time. The syllabus includes sitting on a chair listening to, and being able to answer questions about, a story; hand washing; using the toilet; starting to use a computer keyboard (you can see from this picture that, unlike many of us, they are taught to use the correct fingers!), and simple games that help co-ordination. They will move on to using a pencil, paint brush, scissors, etc.



It sounds basic stuff, but can have far reaching results for a child's life. Past history shows that children who are unprepared for school drop out very soon. About 50% of the congregation at the Zizin Gypsy church can read, and the kindergarten is the first step towards improving that percentage.

It was interesting to find that one girl at the church understood our English preaching before it was translated, and we found out afterwards that she was one of the very few in the community who has stayed at school and made a success of it.

We are gradually increasing our support for Daniel's work in this field. His first kindergarten in 'our' villages is 'Cinderella' in Zizin. The support we have been receiving for the Beko children (who are now standing on their own feet) is, with the donors' agreement, being sent to Cinderella. As more kindergartens are established we would like to increase the help we can send, in both materials and cash.

Daniel's pattern of working includes training girls from the local community to assist with the teaching, with a view to finally taking over. Apart from giving skills it also brings a little cash income into these families. If you would like to help please mark donations as 'kindergarten' and ring us for guidance on the materials needed.

Church building at Sangeorgiu de Padure

The church in Sangeorgiu de Padure, a small town outside Targu Mures, needs to move out of the building they have been using. The mayor had donated a piece of land for a new church, but the lease did not look too good! Now a supporter has lent the church £1,000 so they can buy the freehold.

When we visited we were able to see how the money we have so far provided (thanks to splendid fundraising by Rev Phil Andrews and the Baptist Ladies of Essex) has been used to put in the foundations and the floor of the main



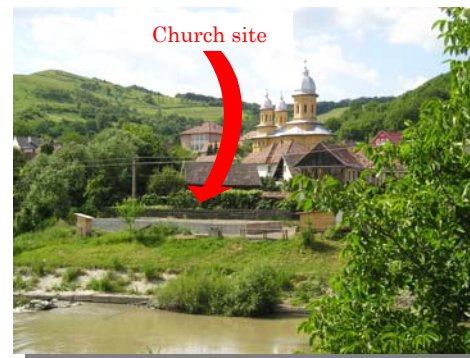
church. Pastor Istvan Borzasi (on the left) is overseeing the work, with local project management from Pastor Janos Totos. [A video of the work is available.]

Original design was for the church to follow the dimensions of an 'American Standard Chapel', but with

the addition of extra rooms at the end for Sunday School, toilets, a small office, etc. This section would have its floor cast soon after we visited.

The next question is, "Will this project get onto the 2006 list to receive an American Standard Chapel?" That scheme seems to be reducing in scope, so we think fundraising should continue on the assumption that there will not be help from America.

Again we were delighted to be invited to speak in the old church, and had the opportunity to meet friends from our previous visits, including the patriarch (with



his black hat and splendid moustache) of the Gypsy families who are members of the church. It is these families who will be supplying much of the labour for

the renovation of the Toto house mentioned elsewhere.

Neonatal ITU at Brasov Children's Hospital

This time we concentrated on looking at how we can help with some of the lacking items in the small ITU department.



There was quite a bit to be learned from just this one picture. They don't have

- the correct tape for holding tubes in place
- enough gastric, nasal and urinary tubing

- small size ECG pads
- IV dressings
- face masks for children weighing only 1 kg
- enough stethoscopes for all the staff who need them
- small size non sterile nursing gloves

Amongst the equipment items we have started to look for are a couple of basic incubators—2 out of the 3 they have are not working. We have ordered a small sensor for a pulse oximeter, as the adult size one was useless for a small baby. One of the other baby monitors has to be switched off every 2 hours because it overheats (itself, not the baby!)

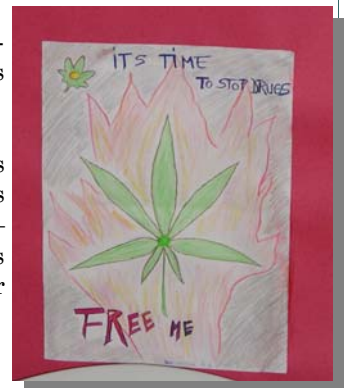
We are on to our good friends at Profile Health in Bognor for a couple of nebulisers, and we need another hand ventilator.

On the next floor we were shown the newly furnished counselling room. Funded by a local Brasov ladies charity effort, led by the ITU Consultant, the room has been prepared for sessions with youngsters who are trou-



bled by drugs, alcohol, problems at home and attempts at suicide.

One child had drawn this picture with the captions "Its time to stop drugs—FREE ME" Other drawings expressed some of their other common problems.



The Lazlo Family

Joseph Lazlo, aged 40, the only male member of the village church in Crizbav, was killed last November in a work accident.

Joseph's wife, Eniko, is 36 years old, and has three children—Gyongyi is 18, and has just taken her 'A' levels, Hunor is a boy of 12 having difficulty handling the sudden death of his father, and Abigail is nearly 3.

The Water Company, for whom Joseph worked, continued to pay his salary until May, but after that the family receives just £55 per month from the state.

The Lazlos plan to swap their village cottage for a flat in Brasov city, as this will make it easier for the older children to attend school and college in the city. It so happens that a member of the Brasov church is willing to do the swap.



Over the years we have become used to Romania's sudden jumps in inflation, and another of those has just hit. We were amazed at the recent increase in fuel prices, which is only partly a result of the increase in oil prices worldwide. It is said that many prices are being increased as preparation for joining the EU.

We are told that for a reasonable standard of living Eniko and the 3 children now need about £120 per month, so we are keen to know whether anyone would be interested in signing a monthly Standing Order towards help for this family. Many will know that we already run a similar scheme for a number of widows and several families in difficult circumstances.

Christian Camping—Harghita and elsewhere!

Andrew and Ester Erdo have led the very effective evangelism amongst children and young people at Harghita Christian Camp for many years. They retired from this work on 31st March 2005.

When we met them at the Camp last month we realised that new plans were afoot! This is what Andrew wrote to us on our return:

“Thank you for your interest in our future ministry. As the Lord keeps opening the doors, it looks like we will start our new ministry in the Ukraine, on the very south-west part, called Transcarpathian region, among Hungarian minorities, beginning with 1st September this year.

I have mentioned to you how the Lord has called and convinced us about this work. It was not our initial plan, but now as time passes we understand more and more that this is the place where He wants us to use in the time He will give us.

At this time, the only thing we know about our ministry is that CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) the organization I was working with, before taking over Harghita Camp, purchased a piece of land, near Beregszász with an unfinished building on it. Roy Harrison the European CEF director and Sebastian Edelmann the regional director invited me to coordinate the project of building a camp, similar to the one we have here at Harghita. It's quite a challenge.

We are convinced that it is beyond our abilities, but we do trust in God's faithfulness, who was there always in the past.

The most urgent need is to replace the roof on the building to stop further damages during the winter. Then to plan exactly what we would like to do, to obtain the necessary approvals and organize and lead the work.

This means that most of our time we will need to spend in the Ukraine. Today we were offered to stay in the mission house in Beregszász, which is about 8 miles from the camp we have to build. We also will need a



vehicle to use for the ministry. Already received 1000 USD for this purpose and some friends promised further help to purchase the vehicle. We are thinking in a minibus, because it will be our duty to transport teams arriving to Budapest airport from different countries. In the same time we could use it to transport materials needed for construction.

According to the CEF policy we can not start our work before having promised enough support for at least a year, for both Esther and myself. We already have some promises, and looking forward to the rest.

This is what I can share with you about our future. Thank you indeed for all your help so far here at Harghita. I am sure the Lord will reward you according to His reaches. If you feel that you want to continue to help our future ministry in the Ukraine, please let me know, and I will send you my prayer letters and keep you informed about the work.”

Our Trustees have decided that -

- ⇒ **We will not reduce our commitment to Harghita, which continues to provide an excellent place for many people to meet with God in a “burning bush” experience**
- ⇒ **As God has clearly chosen to use Andrew and Ester's vast experience to help produce another ‘Harghita’ in an area that is even more needy than Romania (Andrew told us the Ukraine makes Romanian look like the West!) we will look to raise support for them through The Cleaford Christian Trust.**
- ⇒ **The terms of our Trust Deed do not restrict us to Romanian projects**

We believe that the most satisfactory way for the Erdos to know they have pledges behind them is via monthly Standing Orders. If you wish to support this project would you please ask us to send you a Standing Order form and, if appropriate, a Gift Aid Declaration. Alternatively, please download them from our site at www.cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk and send them in to the office marked “Erdo Support”.

The church with a very needy family

We first heard of the Toto family in March 2004, when we met Pastor Janos Totos in the town of Sangeorgiu de Padure in the Transylvanian region of Romania.

Janos had been driving home on a filthy night when he gave a lift to people trying to get to the village of Calimanesti. During the journey he had the feeling that he should be helping their village, and asked his passengers for the name of the most needy family in Calimanesti. He was given the names of Attila and Simona Toto, and went to visit them the next day.

Slipping and sliding down a muddy track to the far edge of the village he found the family living in one room of a little cottage. The biggest shock was finding that Attila, the father of two small boys, had a progressive disease that had resulted in the amputation of both legs, and later, both hands.

Five year old Arnold and 3 year old Josef had few clothes, and there was very little food.

There was no door to keep out the winter weather - just an old curtain. The other facilities were a well and a tumble down privy in the little garden. There was obviously friction with those living in the other room of the cottage.

Attila and Simona had married in 1996, when he was 23 and she was 18. At this point Simona's father rejected her because she was marrying a disabled man - at that time Attila had lost one leg.

The Trust immediately made a grant for Janos Totos to buy clothes and other necessities, and a housegroup in a UK church started to sponsor the family with a regular monthly allowance of £12.50 sent via the Trust, as a supplement to the meagre carer's allowance paid to Simona by the state.

The family was welcomed into the nearest church, where Janos ministers in Sangeorgiu de Padure. Although not many members had cars, and fuel was expensive, lifts were arranged to bring the family to church, and in due course the parents were converted. Although it is normal to wait longer, the ministers were happy to baptise Attila and Simona in 2004.

Over the coming months Janos, his wife Elizabeth, and other church members would visit regularly, often bringing wood for their little stove. As Attila's condition worsened so the pain increased. At prayer times

in their room he would ask to pray first, as he did not know how soon the effect of his painkillers would wear off. His repeated wish was to have the opportunity to tell others of the love of Jesus and, if his illness could be arrested, to become a full time evangelist.

A dispute about ownership of the cottage was looming. To resolve this, and give the family a little security, in December 2004 the Trust provided £1,000 to buy out the other joint owners.

We arrived in Sangeorgiu de Padure on 22nd June 2005, to learn that Attila's funeral had taken place that day. The funeral notice announced that he had died aged 32, after a long period of suffering. The service was held at the home, with 200 people then walking through the village to the cemetery. Simona's father attended—their first meeting for 9 years.



When we visited the next day Simona looked exhausted. For months she had been nursing Attila constantly, in the final weeks getting up every half hour during the night to administer morphine and give what comfort she could for his continual pain.

It seemed to us that there was an immediate need for a holiday. Istvan Borzasi, the superintendent minister, is able to arrange for Simona and the boys to stay

with a Christian family, at a cost of £150 for 10 days.

The men of the church have inspected the cottage, which is in need of repairs. They want to cast a screed to replace the damp earth floor, some of the windows need to be repaired and, most important, the roof needs to be replaced. The work will be done by church members. Much of the labour will be free, but some of the poorer men will need to be paid a small amount. The estimate for materials and labour is about £1,100.

The previous occupier of the main room of the cottage had never paid the gas bill, and so the supply has been cut off. At the time of our visit there was a small bottled gas canister, but restoring the mains supply would obviously be preferable. It will cost £170 to clear the outstanding account.

Simona's carer's allowance now ceases. She will get unemployment pay for 6 months, and then will be expected to get a job. Local job prospects are poor.

Janos told us that a few months ago, as Attila's amputation treatment became more drastic, Simona had said, "I will stay with him, if only his head is left."

Pastors' Salaries

The Trust currently contributes to the salaries of two church ministers, and hopes that shortly a church in the Farnham area will agree to help a third.

The pay rates are based on those for school teachers, with each minister being allocated a point on the teachers' scale that reflects his training and experience. The current gross salary for a man on the mid point of the scale is about £150 per month. From this about 40% is deducted for tax and National Insurance.

Hardly any churches have the ability to pay anything like the scale rates, even where, as is normally the case, a man is serving several villages. As a result most pastors are dependant on finding sponsorship from abroad.

Without exception these men are travelling long distances each month, moving between their various churches and mission points. Few have any allowance for travel and other expenses. Most ministers' wives are heavily involved in Sunday School and work with ladies' groups.

Would your church or group be prepared to treat one of 'our' pastors as one of your 'staff'? Even if you could only manage part of a salary it would be a great help. Once we have sponsorship for a total salary, maybe by combining several contributions, we can then look at helping with expenses.

If you are interested please contact us, and we can give you fuller details of a couple looking for support, and you can get to know them and their work.

Movies

We have made a series of short programmes during this summer's visit to Romania which are available to you free of charge. These are a suitable length for use in talks or with groups.

Please let us know where you would prefer DVD or VHS video.

1. Harghita Christian Camp
2. Brasov Children's Hospital
3. The work of a young village pastor (Jakab Sallai)
4. Church building at Sangeorgiu de Padure

We are also very happy to put together PowerPoint presentations—we already have several that we use ourselves.

We also enjoy speaking in churches, schools and with groups. Please consider whether you can invite us. We are glad to attend quite a number of Harvest Festivals so please book early!

The Cleaford Christian Trust

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Roger Guy	Pat Guy
Revd Dave Stickland	Andrew Henderson

Prayer Points

Pray for the leaders and evangelists working in the villages, planting churches and nurturing new believers. Pray for safety as they travel, and for wisdom as they buy land and buildings, and manage development projects

Pray for the staff at the Children's Hospital, for wisdom, compassion and patience, and for fair dealing with all in need.

Pray for those in church leadership and administering funds to aid the very poor.

Thank God for his unchanging faithfulness over the years, and pray for his continuing guidance as we seek His leading in decision making. Thank God for the resources we have year after year, and for the vision of our Romanian friends.