



Cleaford News



Christmas 2017

On the first day of our Autumn visit to Romania we visited the Brasov Children's Hospital for a meeting with the Principal Therapist, Dana Tanasescu. We saw the considerable improvements to the wards that have been implemented during the last few years. The current scene is a massive change for those of us who can remember how things were over 20 years ago.

We took Dana to the big toy shop in the Retail Park, and ordered 150 teddies, to be given as Christmas presents. (We are grateful to the Manager of Noriel for giving us a slightly increased discount compared with the bulk purchase we made in the summer.)

As we had lunch with Dana at the MacDonal'd's in the nearby Carrefour we realised that we could have been sitting in any Western European capital city. The very large shop is well stocked, with plenty of customers, and there are lots of good quality cars parked outside. This is another massive change from 20 years ago.

Our recently completed Annual Accounts had shown that in some areas we are raiding our General Fund in order to supplement the designated donations that we receive for particular needs. As we travelled around our projects we discussed how resources in Romania have grown whilst, for valid reasons, some of our long-standing supporters have had to reduce their giving. We realised that the time has come for a realignment, rather than just perpetuating long-standing arrangements for another year.

The Trustees have decided to implement a staged reduction in the support we are sending to wealthier churches for their widows. By the end of 2018 we will have reduced our contributions down to a sum which is equal to the designated donations we receive for widows. We will be continuing our existing support, unaltered, for two poor families whose needs we have known for many years.

Not all the churches with whom we have a relationship are yet able to give realistic financial support to their pastors, and so we are continuing to

help George Doczi. He is in a long drawn out battle to obtain the pension to which he is entitled, and this is unlikely to be resolved for another few years.

Otto Kis is developing his ministry in Sacele and the surrounding villages, and continues to need an allowance from us. It is anticipated that we will no longer need to pay rent for his flat from next summer, when he hopes to have moved his family into the new church centre which is currently being built.

Harghita Christian Camp has had another very good year, both spiritually and financially. Now that their finances are on a sound footing Erika and Zoltan Joo have agreed that we no longer need to help them with staff costs.

At the Camp there are plans to continue to work on the backlog of infrastructure needs. The electricity supply has been overloaded for many years. A deal has been struck with another local business who also need an upgraded supply, which has enabled the Camp to get a reduced cost for the upgrade. The Camp needs to commit EUR 15,000 in 2018 for this, and a similar sum in the following year. There is also a need to upgrade the water treatment system, for which the costs will be quite modest. Further ahead is the need to reroof the original dormitory block and renovate the David House. We have committed £2,500 to the project budget, and would like to do more, as we see it as so important to concentrate our help on this great centre for evangelism.

We thank you for your support during our 23rd year of helping bring the Good News of Jesus to many people of all ages in Romania, and we look forward to continuing to work together with you after a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

God bless,

Angus Cleaver