



Cleaford News

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April 2008

Romania in Spring 2008

Angus and Abigail Cleaver led a small party to Romania this March. Accompanying them were Andrew Henderson, a trustee, and Eric Escott. Eric (on the left) is the manager of Link European Ltd who arrange for the transportation of all our aid items to Romania. This was Eric's first trip to Brasov and Targu Mures although he has been closely involved with a Charity working in Iasi.



A New Building for the Church in Fantanele

During this last visit, we were privileged to be instrumental in buying a house that will form the new church building for the flourishing Garbor Roma Church in Fantanele. In a highly advantageous position, and with sufficient land to sell a portion off at some later date, this four room house is an ideal solution to accommodating an already bursting church.



We particularly wish to send

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

Sunday Schools in Mures

The work of the Sunday Schools, under the guidance of Marta Borzasi, is growing rapidly. This summer it is anticipated that over 600 children and young people, including 120 Roma children, will be attending Christian camps. The Trust subsidises the poorest children to enable them to benefit from the camps.

To ensure the long term future of the Sunday Schools work Marta has organised a three day Sunday School teacher training course to take place later this year; it is anticipated that over 40 teachers will attend.

Zizin Kindergarten

The Zizin Kindergarten, situated in the upstairs of the Zizin Pentecostal Church, has recently been finished. It now has proper heating, carpeting and has been beautifully decorated throughout. It was a delight to see a party of children enjoying, not only the lovely premises, but also excellent teaching, fun activities and a small snack meal. Another exciting development is that the adults at Zizin Church are starting their own church library.



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

A Message from Jacob Sallai



Jacob Sallai is a young missionary Pastor based in Mercurea Nirajului, a town that lies due east of Targu Mures. He is married to Maria and has two young daughters. Jacob's salary is funded by the Trust with help from a church in Farnham.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear supporters from TCCT, it is a joy to share with you the joyous blessings and concerns of the missionary work from Miercurea Nirajului, Magherani, Adrianu Mic and Maiat.

The Lord called us to serve Him in a mission area, where there are no evangelical churches. We already have a few church groups in different villages, where we continue to do the ministry, but our work is concentrated now mostly in Miercurea Nirajului.

Miercurea Nirajului is the centre of the area, and the town where we live. We started a church planting project over a year ago, beginning with a group of children, personal contacts and youth activities. We focused mainly on young couples, even if they are the busiest people.

We organized *several outreach events*. The Vacation Bible School (VBS) week, held in our back yard, was very successful last summer. There were about 25-30 kids every day. Some friends from the US were very good help to teach the children and organize the handcrafts with them. They brought some VBS materials, and some were received from TCCT through Márta Borzási. My wife can use these materials during the year.



Here you can see the group of children in our backyard, as they are listening to the Bible teaching. They are all from non-Christian parents, and learned stories from the Bible they had no possibilities to learn elsewhere.

At the end of the VBS the parents were invited for a meeting, where the children told the stories and sang the songs they learned during the week. It was a special time for evangelism.

There were mostly mothers who came, but it was good to have a time with them, to know them, and talk with them. We had crackers and juice at the end. So, we had a good fellowship with them, and a good beginning for starting a new church in Miercurea Nirajului.

Together with our American friends we went out to the streets to distribute tracts and talk with people. This was a good way to step out and go where people are. We made some more contacts, and than we visited them at home.



Starting with September, the Lord answered our prayer, and we were able to *rent a room* for the group activities. It is a 5x6 meter room and we pay 50 Euro/month for the rent. This was a big step forward, which widened the possibility for new activities. Now we could start regular meetings for children and adults.

There is a proper room now for the meetings with the children, and for our youth group (which had its meeting regularly in Magherani, before), gathering the young people from the villages (Magherani and Adrianu Mic). We have a dynamic, young team, which is singing at evangelistic services, and are used for outreach.

Among our new activities are the *English classes*. I teach English for the young people before the youth meetings. There are others also who are interested in learning English. So we made new friends, who at first came only for English, but later were among those who stayed for the Bible study. Smaller children could not get along with the youth, and we realized that we should start another class just for them.

A group of young adults joined the English class, so we had to separate them and make another team. Most of these new young people are university students, who need English for their exams. This is a good way to know them, some times they ask about my ministry and our church, I even went to play tennis with them... My sister-in-law is an English teacher in a high school, and I ask her to come and help us some times. So, this is another tool for sharing the Gospel.





The *Christmas Season* was another special occasion in mission and church life. At this time people were a bit more open, and not so busy. We prepared a few songs and a drama for Christmas with the youth who could come to the celebration to our Church in Magherani. They received small gifts, and then we went to sing carols at different families at Christmas Eve.

At New Years Eve we invited the youth group from the Church in Targu Mures, and we had a good fellowship and games together, for several hours, than we even went out to the hills for sledging, because we had snow right at that time. The young people from Targu Mures helped us in many other ways in most of our evangelistic efforts.

The Lord opened another door to serve in the Kindergarten in Miercurea N. before Christmas. Our children attend the kindergarten, and when the teacher found out that my wife teaches children in the Church, she invited us to go there and have a program for them. We were happy to do this, and went to teach songs to them, my wife told the Christmas story, and had a jumbo puzzle with her. We gave them gifts, provided by the Samaritan's Purse, (shoe box), and they were very happy.

The teachers were pleased, and we promised that we will go at Easter again, to teach the children. The parents were very surprised too. Some times we help the kindergarten with handcrafts materials, because I believe this is also sowing the good seed there. May Him make it grow.



We thank God for all the open doors, and pray for good opportunities. Among our planned activities was to start a mothers and toddlers group. We have the equipment and toys, but nobody came. This was a bit discouraging. It is also painful when we meet people who were friendly before, but now they don't really want to talk with us, or keep their children away from us...

The church planting work in Miercurea Nirajului now just moved from the preliminary phase to next step, to have regular meetings. Please pray that we can find those who have a spiritual hunger, and may the Lord enable us to encourage them.

Jakab and Maria Sallai

Dana's work at the Children's Hospital

Dana is the head of the Play Therapy department at the Brasov Children's Hospital.

The work continues to be a crucial part of both the treatment and rehabilitation of sick children and can only continue through the generosity of so many of you who give paints, toys, colouring books and money to buy paper and other items.

On our last visit we witnessed a graphic demonstration of the effectiveness of play therapy. A young child with leukaemia needed to have a large cannula inserted. As we were arriving on the ward the child was clearly in great distress and panic—there was no possibility of the nurses being able to insert the cannula with the young boy in this state, so they called for Dana. Within a very short space of time the child was calm, the cannula inserted and the treatment continuing.

Dana explained that, through play, she teaches the children to overcome their fear of treatment.



Projects Roundup

There is not much space left in this News to tell you -

- ◆ There is a short video presentation about the recent trip by the Trust to Brasov and Mures County. It has been posted onto the Google Video system and is available simply by going to www.google.co.uk, then select 'More' and then 'Video'. This will lead you to the Video page for Google, then search for items called Cleaford - A good broadband connection will be necessary to get the best view. It is anticipated that we will be posting many more videos to this link.
- ◆ Daniel's Sacele Centre is very close to completion. The final phase, the upstairs accommodation, will be finished this summer. The centre continues to be very well used by groups from schools, ladies' meetings, deprived families, etc.
- ◆ Thanks to the Ministry of Education refurbishment grants, the school at Tarlungeni now has a whole new floor specifically designated for handicapped children .
- ◆ Now 80% of the Children's Hospital's young patients are Roma. Food and medicine prices are rising fast, but the hospital's budget is fixed by the Ministry at the start of the year! It is for this reason that our regular donations of medicines continue to be so important. However, it was good to see that the Health Ministry had provided a resuscitation unit specifically designed for babies; this is now situated in the new A & E department at the Hospital.
- ◆ The young pastor Attila Toth has 60 children and 30 adults regularly attending meetings in the very difficult Roma area of Rhegin—we last saw the work when it was a handful of teenagers in a miserable, dark hall.

Administration

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ It has been pointed out that the Lloyd Webber Organisation would have given us permission to video the Joseph production, but due to a misunderstanding the school did not return the correct forms. However, we are happy to report that a supporter's donation covered most of the income we would have received from the DVDs.

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Prayer Points

Thank God for the growing groups of believers, of different ethnic origins, in the villages.

Pray for their witness to those around them, which can be strong in such close-knit communities

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 many worthwhile projects presented to them for support.

Pray for the organisers, helpers and children at evangelistic camps during the summer.

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 provision of a suitable building for the church in Fantanele and pray that it may be as effective a base for evangelism as the other new village churches are proving to be.