



Cleaford News



April 2011

Romania in the Spring

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.

A small team of us has recently returned from our spring visit to the projects in Romania. As in the past, the trip was very positive; the only exceptions were the dire situation that persists at the Brasov Children's Hospital, and the shortage of pastors.

Our visit coincided with the 10th anniversary of the opening of one of the first churches with which we were involved, in the village of Magherani, in Mures county. We enjoyed joining visitors from many places for a day of worship and thanksgiving. Later that Sunday evening we had the opportunity to see our good friends in the Garbor Roma church at Viforasa. This was Angus Cleaver's first opportunity to visit them proudly wearing the traditional hat with which they had presented him last summer.



Magherani

In March 2000, Pastor Istvan Borzasi sent us this picture of a house and a piece of land which was for sale for the cheap price of Lei 65,000,000 ! In those days the sterling equivalent was £2,200, for which we got the house, the well, a large barn and a large piece of land.

The two rooms of the house were converted to a church room, and a room for the children's work. The following year Magherani came to the top of the list of the American Standard Chapel project, and the church was built. We were delighted to join the celebrations.



Brasov Children's Hospital

We have known Dana Tanasescu for at least a dozen years. As she is not a doctor or nurse she is treated, for salary purposes, as 'non-medical' staff, although she has a psychology degree! Dana is the leader of the team of therapists.

When we first went to the Children's Hospital the role of therapist was just being introduced in Romania, and Dana and her colleagues were the pioneers for the country, with financial support for the Comedy Store in London. (this support subsequently ceased). They started out as 'play therapists', but since those days the role has greatly expanded to include preparation of children for operations and other treatments, and Dana herself has done a considerable amount of counselling for children who have attempted suicide. With 80% of the children coming from very inadequate home



situations, there is also much valuable work to be done with the parents.

As well as working with the children in her department, Dana also co-ordinates the work in each ward's play-room, tells us what stocks of craft and play materials are needed throughout the hospital, arranges for the distribution of the Christmas presents we send for every child, and acts as our translator when we visit!

Last year all salaries at the hospital were reduced by 25%. Prior to that, Dana's salary just covered her domestic gas bill! For years she has only been able to work at the hospital because her husband's salary would support them both. We learned last month that the financial situation has deteriorated even further and she felt she must look for another job.

We are very keen that someone as dedicated and experienced as Dana should not be lost to the hospital, and so we are replacing the Comedy Store support with a monthly grant of £200, which will double her income! Please let us know if you would like to make a monthly contribution by Standing Order to this fund. Naturally Gift Aid attributable to such donations will also go into the fund.

Pastors

The manpower situation in our main areas of work in Mures county is serious!

Pastor Janos Totos, based at Sangeorgiu de Padure, retired last year. He was the driving force behind a number of church plants with which we have been involved. He inspired congregations in Viforasa, Calemanesti, Fantanele, Rava and Balauseri, to name just a few that we know! He also oversaw the construction of the large new church in Sangeorgiu de Padure.

Pastor Jakob Sallai has been looking after three churches, based in Magherani, and has also been acting as interim pastor for Janos' circle. We learned dur-

ing our visit that Jakob and his family will move to Arad (in the north of Romania) during this coming summer. Ministry in Magherani has been very hard.

We have been asked to pray for these two posts to be filled. Unfortunately there is only one man due to graduate from the Seminary. All of Janos' churches have members who are Roma, and not everyone is happy to work in a church that is not wholly Hungarian.

Our 'Pastors' Salaries Fund' has been supporting Janos and Jakob, plus Otto Kis in Sacele and providing a half salary to Marta Borzasi and some help to Zoltan Doni. This fund has always been in deficit, and has been supplemented from our general funds. We hope that those who have been supporting Janos and Jakob will allow their contributions to the fund to continue, whilst we wait to see what will happen about replacements.

As a general rule, pastors' salaries are based on the school teachers' pay scale, and they are notoriously underpaid! Because men are looking after a number of churches their car expenses are large. We discovered during our last visit that diesel prices are very similar to the UK, but of course incomes are far, far lower.



Otto & Elizabeth Kis in Sacele

We have written before about Otto and Elizabeth's ministry in Sacele, the suburb of Brasov where Daniel Hristea's FAST charity is based. Otto's official title is 'Missionary Pastor to the Seven Villages' - an area where there are about 12,000 Hungarians.

During our visit he gave us a brief presentation on his work and plans. He would like to establish a 'Mission House', which would be used more widely than just as a church.

They are probably best known for their work amongst disabled people—the Hope Group. Otto would like to establish a Hope Day Centre where people can be together, and perhaps do some work to earn some money. In conjunction with an American charity, Otto is obtaining about 150 wheelchairs to form the basis of a lending scheme. In the meantime, he still needs any wheelchairs and walking aids that we can

send, as the needs are very great.

Otto and Elizabeth also have a flourishing work with children, and when they met at Daniel's FAST Centre we were happy to be invited to put together a 90 minute programme for one of their meetings; putting into practice some of the ideas we had been teaching at a day conference for the Sunday School teachers of Transylvania on the previous Saturday.

As we go into a period of consolidation in church planting, so the Trustees have resolved to look at giving more support to Otto and Elizabeth's ministry.



Brasov church

We were delighted to meet up again with Zolt and Evodia Deak. Zolt had just finished his 6 month probationary period at Brasov church, and has now been 'voted in' as the pastor. They also attended the workshop on working with children, and are seeing work with children and young families as the way to bring new life back into the church there. Please pray for wisdom and energy for this young couple at the start of their ministry in one of the strategic churches of the Hungarian speaking Baptist Convention in Romania.



Widows' fund

Enclosed with this Cleaford News is an update from pastor Gyula Borzasi on the ladies in the Widows' fund for whom he is responsible. (Other ladies are looked after by pastor Istvan Borzasi.)

Gyula sent us this picture which he took when taking communion to the ladies in Maria Menyhart's home in Vlahita, the village just down the road from Harghita Camp, where Gyula spends much of his time and ministry.

We are grateful that another supporter in the UK has recently offered to join this scheme, which involves providing a standing order for £12.50 a month which we can send on to support a needy widow in the churches.



In Acts chapter 6 some of the widows in the church were being overlooked! We are just waiting to hear from Gyula the details of the next person on his list needing help, as the plight of widows in Romania continues to be very serious, as you will see from his report.

Although it is called a 'Widows' Fund', we do also help a couple of families who are in a particularly difficult situation.

FAST

We first came into contact with FAST in the spring of 2004, when Daniel, Ema and their small team were starting to move out from Sacele into the poor villages of Zizin and Tarlungeni—an area which we knew well.

Since that time FAST has developed enormously. Just one area of their work is the Better Home Project, on which a number of teams from the UK have been working. As a result of visits, and very good communication, FAST has built a substantial supporter base in the UK. Because they were not a registered UK charity, many of their supporters have sent money through Cleaford, so that the Gift Aid could be claimed, for us to pass on.

They have now reached the stage of registering FAST (UK), so we will be passing over this administrative work. We shall also be removing the confusion which sometimes arises when people wishing to support FAST are told to give their money to Cleaford!

We are delighted that one of our Trustees, Andrew Henderson, is doing much of the work to set up FAST(UK), so the handover will be smooth. Once they are up and running, supporters will be contacted with the details of the change over. We will, of course, continue to co-operate with FAST, but the lines of demarcation here in the UK will be clearer, and Cleaford income statistics will be more realistic.

Disney

We have been members of InKindDirect for many years; it was known as Gifts in Kind when it was established with help from one of Prince Charles' funds.

IKD's offers to charities goods that have been donated by businesses, at a nominal charge. Their catalogue contains a huge range of goods, and in the past we have bought many useful things.

Some years ago they introduced a further scheme, where they linked a UK charity with a Disney Store. We were fortunate to be allocated the Guildford store, from whom we have received very large quantities of toys, games and dressing up clothes. We are really grateful that the staff in Guildford have been so enthusiastic about our work at the Children's Hospital and with FAST, and so we were sad to learn of the sudden closure of the Store a few weeks ago. We would love to link to another Store, but at present there seem to be no vacancies.

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 men to come forward to lead churches, and for wisdom in the deployment decisions to be made.

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 for the work of preparation for many summer camps—for ideas that will enthuse the children from different backgrounds, and for sufficient adults who can give up their time to serve at camps.

Pray for evangelism in the villages that now have buildings to which they can invite adults and children.

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.

Pray for the satisfactory establishment of FAST (UK).