



Cleaford News

December 2008

We particularly wish to send

- ⇒ New clothes and shoes
- ⇒ Educational toys and games; complete puzzles, (max 250 pieces).
- ⇒ Coloured pencils, felt tips
- ⇒ Paints, brushes and craft materials
- ⇒ Shower gel, soap, shampoo and toothpaste (we have enough toothbrushes for the foreseeable future!)
- ⇒ Incontinence pads

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

We also have enough soft toys for the foreseeable future, as your response has been excellent!

With the great expansion of children's work, both at summer camps and at home churches during the year, there is an increasing need for -

- ◆ White paper
- ◆ Coloured paper
- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Glitter, stars, etc. and decorative collage materials
- ◆ Gummed squares

This time our illustrations are on a separate sheet.

Reviewing the year

Our Open Evening in November was a celebration of the good progress of the work in the last year, plus a look forward to what we can see developing in 2009.

We had held a Trustees' meeting the day before, when we made a number of decisions following the plans and requests that had been put to us by our associates in Romania during our autumn visit.

For those who were not able to get to Farnham for the evening we are giving a summary overleaf. We are also enclosing a couple of other papers which were handed out at the meeting. Short DVDs that were shown during the evening are also available via the website.

The enclosed (unedited) report from Attila Toth is most encouraging. Attila is a splendid young assistant pastor who has a great rapport with children, young people and the poor Roma communities who are now being reached with the Gospel. However the local rules are such that he cannot be formally installed in a church until he is married, so we need God to send along the right young lady!

The email version of this Cleaford News also has a copy of our latest Annual Report and Accounts. It is too bulky to post with every printed copy of the News, so if you would like one please either drop us a note or have a look at the website.

December has been pretty busy here, not least because of greater involvement with local schools this year, for which we are most grateful. This is our excuse as to why our Christmas greetings will reach you a few days too late! God bless all our readers!

The encouragement we have had in 2008 spills over into our view of 2009, as we see the snowball effect, as what were small groups are growing into large churches!

Child Sponsorship

Daniel Hristea, at the Romanian FAST charity with which we work, found that many of his overseas visitors were receptive to the idea of sponsoring a needy local child from the Roma communities that he serves. We had quite long discussions as to the best way to deliver such sponsorship, as giving cash to individual children or families would not be satisfactory.

The attached leaflet summarises the scheme that he has developed, and which we wholeheartedly support. It is based around having the children come to Daniel's Centre in Sacele, where they have educational help, food, music, entertainment, a shower, and sometimes some new clothes. It has only taken a few months to start seeing the beneficial effects on the children, and whole families.

UK supporters can send their £15/month sponsorship through the Trust, which enables Gift Aid to be claimed.

Better Home Project

We were very encouraged by the progress made during 2008, which we saw during our autumn visit.

Peter and George from the Roma community are running the project on a day to day basis very successfully. George has now set up a workshop where he is able to prefabricate many of the parts for the simplified house design which was introduced this year.

The new, smaller, design is more in keeping with the scale of buildings in the community, and there seem to be less jealousy problems. More neighbours are having a go at building for themselves, having seen what is possible, and we detected that the general atmosphere of depression in the community is being lifted by the project. The local authority are now taking more interest in what, up till now, has been an area they have ignored.

The new homes we have visited are kept immaculately; being warm and dry is obviously helping the health of the families (and reducing the pressure on the Hospital!).

Recent funding decisions

We look at a rolling 12 months' budget at each Trustees' meeting. We are trusting that our financial support will be maintained so, in addition to our regular expenditure, have agreed some specific items, including -

- ◆ **Apalina** Roma church—They have been given the use of a building rent free, provided they renovate the property. They have completed the inside decorating, and we have budgeted £1,000 for the outside work—a very cheap building in a good location!
- ◆ **Gornesti** church—since completion of the new building it is filling fast with both Hungarian and Roma people—we budgeted up to £1,000 for new chairs. The existing mixed bag of pews and odds and ends will go to Apalina!
- ◆ **Targu Mures** church—the substantial church fence needs to be replaced for which we have budgeted up to £1,000.
- ◆ **Rava** Roma church— we are buying a car to support the work in this remote area—£600
- ◆ **Summer camps**—we see this as strategic work, and a fabulous use of money, so will increase our grant to £5,000.

Where the above projects include labour, we are arranging that this will be offered to unemployed church members who are in financial difficulties, so we are providing a measure of 'job creation'.

We use **Google Groups** for our Trust circulations. Please email us at info@cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk 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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Trustees:

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Roger Guy	Pat Guy
Andrew Henderson	Revd Danny Pritchard

Prayer Points

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

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

Pray for the Romanian national and local governments, as they face many new problems, both social and economic.

Pray that the Trustees may be guided by God as they allocate resources to the many 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 are now hearing the Gospel for the first time.

Thank God for the openness of the Roma communities to the Good News, and for the improving relationships between the ethnic groups.