



Cleaford News



Christmas 2015

We have known The Clinical Science and Education Foundation since the early days of work in Romania. Based at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, they do excellent work in hospitals and schools for the deaf in the Cluj area.

Their recent newsletter, celebrating 25 years of work (slightly more than our 21 years!) has an article by one of their team which includes the following:

The progress that has been made in the last twenty years is significant. As we bemoan the contemporary state of affairs, it is easy to forget how dire it was before and what a difference a few people can make. I am reminded of a story I heard in a school assembly. A small boy was walking down the beach to find it covered with many thousands of stranded starfish that had been washed ashore after a storm. Vainly he started to pick up a few and return them to the sea. A man walking his dog questioned him about it. "Why are you trying to do this? There are so many that you can't possibly save them and make a difference?" The young boy looked up at him, placing another starfish back into the sea. "It made a difference to him" he said, continuing to stroll along the beach, throwing a few starfish into the sea as he went.

We too are often asked whether we can make much difference in Romania, and I reply with a slightly different adage (which I think came from Tear Fund many years ago). "One man can't change the world, but we can change the world for one man."

I hope that both these thoughts are an encouragement to you, our supporters that, through you and the churches with whom we work, the world has been changed for a number of people in Romania.

Of course there is a fallacy in my quotation, because Jesus Christ is the one man who continues to change the world. As we approach the end of the year we celebrate the lives that have been changed during 2015. We particularly think of the ministry at Harghita Christian Camp, where Phase 1 of the Dining Room Project enabled the

team there to host even more people this year. The Camp continues to be in the forefront of gospel work. We also think of the growth of the smaller churches that we know, particularly celebrating the numbers of Roma children and adults having a life changing encounter with the one man who changes their world. We are thankful for the faithful ministry of pastors in churches that do not see dramatic growth, but who keep on putting the gospel in front of people.

Our shipments of aid are now 'joint' loads, going to associates of The Cleaford Christian Trust, and to our friends at FAST, the Romanian charity with whom we have worked for many years. You may have seen on Facebook that FAST are also doing great gospel work in the villages, so whether you have given cash, knitting, clothes, tools, games, craft items, stationery, toiletries or toys please be assured that they are all useful tools for the gospel in Romania.

As we celebrate the birth of the baby who was to change the world we invite you to imagine someone you have been indirectly supporting in Romania for whom this is the first year when they realise the true significance of the Christ-child, born for their salvation.

We wish you a very happy Christmas, we thank you for your contributions in 2015, and we look forward to further progress of the gospel (particularly praying for the completion of Phase 2 of the Dining Room!) in 2016.

God bless,

Angus Cleaver

