



Cleaford News



Special Edition: November 2013

As a rule we don't make special appeals, but at the moment we have an exceptional opportunity that we need to bring to your attention.

It is difficult for us to imagine, but there are many children in Romania who have never been out of their village or town. They have never had a ride in a coach or train, and obviously have never been away from home for a holiday. This is their situation until they are invited to go for a week to Harghita Christian Camp, up in the beautiful Harghita mountains of central Transylvania.



If they are in a church group they may have heard a little about Jesus Christ, but it is at Harghita that they will have the benefits of a week's teaching that, for many campers, has been life-changing. For the poorest children who are brought to the camp there will be a number of other new experiences which seem quite commonplace to us, such as having their own bed, sitting at a table for a good meal, and being introduced to the social skills of being valued as a member of a team.

The Harghita site has been running since soon after the changes of 1989 and, as you may have heard, the first buildings have come to the end of their life. For a long time the dining room building has been the main meeting place in the camp, not only for meals. Some of the pressure came off the building when the chapel was built, as campers could meet together there, but of course it continued to be used three times a day for meals.

Last year the local authority condemned the building, although the camp leaders already knew that it was on its last legs. A team from our local area of Farnham went to Harghita in September and demolished the old building. This was done carefully so that the materials could be sold on!



Artist's impression of the new building



The new development has been planned in three phases.

1. Foundations, walls and roof to be in place before the worst of the winter weather.
2. Windows, doors, plastering, heating and floor covering.
3. Toilets, insulation, terrace, tables, chairs, etc.

During the autumn there has been rapid progress with phase 1, and the race is now on to finish the roofing before the weather deteriorates. Assuming this phase is completed in time, it will be possible to carry on with phase 2 during the winter months, which would get the building to a stage where, although unfinished, it could be used on a temporary basis during the spring.



We are writing to you now because there is a need for approximately £20,000 to complete phase 1. Of that, £8,500 is needed urgently for the roof tiles. The tiles are at the builders' merchants but cannot be collected until the bill can be paid!

We have contributed what we can from the Trust's general funds, and there have been a number of personal donations, plus local collections in Romania, that have brought the project to its present state. The 'demolition team' raised a significant sum, which they were able to deliver to the project when they were there.

The Harghita Camp is not just for children. It is used for groups of teenagers, young people, pastors and their families, regional and national meetings, and it has special facilities for the disabled.

The kitchen and staff quarters were rebuilt a few years ago, and adjoin the new dining room, making one building that is, of course, crucial to the running of the place.

The new dining room is designed for up to 180 people to dine in reasonable comfort. A new feature is the terrace on the long side of the building, which is both useful and makes a more attractive sight than the old building could manage!

Are you able to help us with a donation, large or small? You could -

1. Go to our website at www.cleafordchristiantrust.co.uk and click the JustGiving button. In the 'comment' section please mention 'Dining Room'. While you are at our website you could watch the short video we made at Harghita in the summer.
2. Make a BACS transfer to our account using Sort Code 12-20-29 and A/c No. 00291458. Please email me at cleaver@cleaford.co.uk to let me know.
3. Post a cheque, payable to The Cleaford Christian Trust, to 46 Hazell Road, Farnham, GU9 7BP
4. Ring us on 01252 717166 with your credit card details.

Many of you are regular supporters of the Trust's work, and as such will have contributed to the Harghita work, through us, over the years. In addition to paying for items for the camp we have given financial help with the gas bill, and have given significant sums to cover the costs of campers from families who would not be able to afford the costs of transport or the (very modest) fees that the camp charges for board and lodging. We are grateful for the funds that have been donated that we have been able to use for this work. We are totally committed to the future of Harghita Christian Camp, and long to see more and more people coming to the Lord Jesus Christ through its ministry.

Please pray for Zoltan and Erika Joo, the young couple who are the camp managers, who are overseeing this major project, for safety on the building site, and for the resources to progress the project.

God bless,

Angus Cleaver.

The Cleaford Christian Trust

...caring about Romania...

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