



Cleaford News



January 2011

The Widows' Support Scheme

One of the first ideas in the early days of the Trust was to arrange for small supplementary pensions to go to poor widows in the churches we knew in Romania. We were aware that state pensions were either non-existent (depending on any previous employment) or very small, and so the scheme was started where local pastors could distribute extra help to widows whom they recommended. Supporters in the UK undertook to provide a monthly sum by standing order.

For a long time there has been a serious lack of news passed on to the sponsors about the ladies (and a couple of families) whom they are supporting. The fault has almost entirely been mine, and I want to apologise for my failure in this area.

This winter I have received reports from the two pastors in Romania who administer the scheme, and I think it would be useful to make these widely known. Not only does it bring sponsors up to date, but it also gives an insight into the situation for typical widows in the churches in Romania. You will also see that there is scope for us to enlarge the scheme, both in terms of the amounts going to the existing members, and also a few extra needs that are brought to our attention.

Again, I apologise for not handing this scheme as well as I should have, and resolve to do better in future. Please let me know at angus.cleaver@cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk or by writing to 46 Hazell Road, Farnham, GU9 7BP if you would like to be involved.

Yours,

Angus Cleaver

Widows Report from Pastor Istvan Borzasi

1. **Ágnes Süket** was in the bed, in a more poorer healthy state than I saw earlier. She is living with her son, who is also sick. They both are living in a small room, not far from the Church in Targu Mures. I regularly deliver the support you send, which is £20/month.

2. **Bordi Hajnal** from Idrifaia is raising an orphan child (Tofalvi Tamara Noemi). The child's mother is related with Hajnal, but is mentally ill and cannot raise the child. The family does not get any help from the state, because the girl is not registered as an orphan. Hajnal is married, and her husband has a little income, from milking the cows in the village, by hand. This generates about £6 or £10/month, and that's all they have for their living. Plus the allowance she received from TCCT: £12.50.

2. **Zsuzsana Stan** is the Roma lady, who has one leg amputated. She is living with some of her relatives in Targu Mures. They have two rooms there. Zsuzsana was a faithful member of the Church in Targu Mures, but now she cannot attend the meetings for about four years or so, since her leg was amputated. Pastor Kelemen Sándor is delivering the Lord's Supper from time to time. This is the lady I mentioned, who needs a wheelchair. [We had just received a gift of a special wheelchair for an amputee when we heard of this need, so were able to deliver immediately – Angus] Her allowance beginning with March was £18.75/month.

3. **Iszlai Iлона** from Magherani receives an allowance from TCCT, but I found out recently that though she is a widow, she has a better situation than others, because her relatives are helping her. She lives in Magherani in her own house, alone. Her allowance beginning with April was £18.75/month. This help may be stopped, if necessary, if you consider that there are more serious needs.

4. *Kovács Gyöngyvér* died this year. I mentioned this to you in February. So, beginning with April, Stan Zsuzsanna and Iszlai Ilona received £18.75 per month.

5. I would like to mention other two old widows from Pericei: *Darabont Mária* (born on 6 December 1939) and *Bákai Ilona* (born is 15 August 1937). They both have difficulties, and there is nobody who could help them.

Widows Report from Pastor Gyula Borzasi

1. Terez Borzasi from village Ip.

Joseph, Terez's oldest son studies in Cluj. He is in the fifth year of his studies, as structural engineer. He is doing fine with his studies, and he is a committed Christian. In July this year he got married with a Christian girl from near Oradea. Both Joseph and his wife are students in Cluj. Aniko, Terez's daughter got married too with a Christian young man from near Oradea. Aniko studies nursing in Oradea. Ferenc, Terez's youngest son studies in high school in Simleu Silvaniei, commuting from village Ip to the town. He loves the Lord too, and is a member in Hungarian Baptist Church in village Ip.

2. Mrs. Elisabeth Gal and her sister Miss Berta Ilonka from Brasov.

Mrs. Elisabeth Gal is a widow and lives with her sister Berta who was never married. Both of them are getting weaker and weaker as they advance in their age. They are not able to attend the church.

3. Elisabeth Gyarfas from Brasov.

She struggles with her health after she had an operation, and had one breast removed in June 2004 in Targu Mures. Elisabeth had to have radio-therapy in Brasov. She continues to have different health problems, but "fights the battle" with hope and courage. She is a very faithful believer and church member in Brasov. She is able to attend the church meetings quite regularly.

4. The Laszlo Family from Crizbav.

The widow, Eniko, is 42 years old and she got married with a Romanian man. They live and work in Crizbav. Eniko's three children: the first girl, Gyongyi is 24, married a Romanian man in Arad. The boy, Hunor is 18, attends technical college in Brasov, the 3rd year. The third child, Abigail was 8 years old in September 2010, and goes to school in Crizbav.

5. Anna Toth from Purcareni died end of September 2008.

Mrs. Terez Katona a widow from Vlahita Baptist Church, near Harghita Christian Camp is receiving the support from October 2008. I attach a photo of Terez Katona from Vlahita.

6. Anna Andrei from Tarlungeni is member of the Baptist Church in Purcareni. She lives with her daughter-in-law in village Tarlungeni, and is able to come to church only if someone (usually the pastor from Brasov, Otto Kis) gives her a lift in a car. Her state pension is £20 per month.

7. Lydia Nagy from Brasov died in July 2009.

Anna Szilagyi, a widow from Borla Baptist Church, is receiving the support from October 2009.

Her husband was a miner in Sarmasag coal mine, and her state widow's pension is £50 per month.

8. Juliana Vlad from Brasov is a widow. She lives on her own in Brasov in a flat of one room. Her state pension is £20 per month.

9. Ida Fejer from Crizbav is a widow. Her husband died in April, 2003. Ida lives in Crizbav and is member in the Baptist Church. She has a state pension of £14 per month. Ida has a house in Crizbav, and garden. She is no longer able to work her garden and is getting very weak.

10. Klara Csepei from village Ip is a widow for many years. Her husband died n the 70's. She has no children. She is a member of the local Baptist Church. Her state pension is £20 per month. She has a small garden, has hens. Klara was a dress-maker in the village. Klara suffers with heart and rheumatic pains. She was born on 27 January 1928.

Klara's birth-day: 27 January.

11. Elisabeth Fazakas died in March 2010.

Mrs. Etelka Mate, a widow from Ip Baptist Church receives the support from April 2010. Her husband was a

miner in the local coal mine, and her state pension is £45 per month.

12. Rozalia Borzasi from village Ip is a widow. She is a member of the local Baptist Church. Her husband was a miner in the local coal mine. Her state pension is £25 per month. She has a small garden, hens and a pig which is killed usually before Christmas, each year. She was born on 19 January 1930.

Rozalia's birth-day: 19 January.

13. Ilona Fejer, from Tarlungeni.

Was born on 20th January 1931 in Tarlungeni, and was baptized in 1946 in the river Tarlung, village Tarlungeni, near Brasov. She is a member in Purcareni Baptist Church. Because of her ill health she can come to Purcareni Church only if someone (usually the pastor) gives her a lift in a car. She was married and has two grown up children: a son and a daughter.

Her daughter, Melania, is married, has two children, and lives in Brasov. Her son, Geza is single, and is an alcoholic. Ilona's state pension is £28 per month. She has health problems, especially with her heart, blood pressure and asthma. The cost for her medication (even subsidized by the Romanian Government) is £12 per month.

Birthday: 20 th January

14. Vilma Bagoly, was born in 3rd May 1923. She was baptized in 1947, and is member in Brasov Hungarian Baptist Church. She lives in town Sacele, near Brasov. She is able to come regularly to the Sunday morning church meetings. Vilma uses a walking stick. Her state pension is £22.

15. Piroska Scherr. She lives on her own in Brasov, and is in need of help. Piroska was saved when she in was in her sixties and learned to read from her Hungarian Bible. She is very faithful in attending our church services. She is dedicated to prayer and is a modest and grateful lady.

16. Sarah Rab from Zizin, lives in a house with her son and his family. Her son and family are not Christians. Sarah was a post-woman in the village. Her state pension is £98 per month. She is 81 years old.



Elisabeth Gyarfás



Julianna Vlad



Sarah Rab



Piroska Sherr



Terez Katona