



# Cleaford News Extra



December 2009

## Otto & Elizabeth Kis in Sacele

**A**fter the tremendous response to the 'Water for Christmas' appeal from Daniel Hristea in the October Cleaford News, we are reluctant to bring a further special request to you so soon. However, this is an emergency that cannot wait; we need to respond urgently.

Readers of the October Cleaford News saw Andrew Henderson's report of the time spent with Pastor Otto Kis and Elizabeth, and their Hope Group of disabled people in Sacele. Sacele is the town on the outskirts of Brasov where Daniel's FAST charity is based, and Daniel and Otto increasingly work together.

Otto and his wife both work extremely hard, as well as looking after two delightful small children. His work with the Hope Group involves him driving many miles to collect disabled people for the meetings and, as you saw in the October News, he is also visiting and working with patients at the one specialist hospital for Muscular Dystrophy sufferers in the whole of Romania at Valcele. The little mission in Sacele and the villages, which he started from scratch a few years ago, has up to 60 people, including children, at some meetings, and this is in what has officially been described as a culturally difficult area

Having established excellent relationships in the villages around Sacele, particularly in Tarlungeni and Zizin, Daniel Hristea has recently told us of his vision for FAST to put more emphasis on evangelism in the villages in 2010. As Otto is a trained pastor (whereas Daniel has no seminary training), and the villages are on Otto's 'patch', we are very excited at the prospect of the two working closely together. Otto and Elizabeth already have a thriving ministry amongst children in the area, initially meeting in their flat, but now using the FAST centre.

We were shocked to learn a few days ago that the American group that has been paying the majority of Otto's salary and rent will not support him from January onwards. (We do not know the reason for this decision, and it is not our affair.) For a while Otto has been acting as an interim pastor at Brasov whilst they have an interregnum, and we understand that the Brasov church has been making up the difference in his salary. The contribution from Brasov will cease once they appoint a new pastor, and it is expected that this will be very soon.

**As of 1st January 2010 Otto, Elizabeth and the children will have no income, and no rent for their flat.** We have always verbally expressed our support for the family and their work, but the time has come to put our money where our mouth is! The Trust has no spare funds with which to meet this need, but we feel that we cannot turn our back on them. Apart from anything else, the loss of a trained evangelist and very effective pastor, were Otto to have to seek a secular job, would be most regrettable.

Thanks to generous support from a few people who have been aware of this situation over the last few days, we have made an immediate grant of £500 to cover the period up to Christmas. We are now asking for support by regular Standing Order for the family's salary and rent from January onwards. His monthly salary is £300, and the rent of the flat is £200. If you are able to commit to helping resolve this emergency situation would you please get the enclosed Standing Order back to us as soon as possible. This donation is eligible for Gift Aid, so if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim an addition of 28% to your donation. Please do not hesitate if you can only offer a small amount—we can hit the target with a mixture of all sizes of donation! If you cannot make a regular commitment we will happily put any one-off donations into the fund. As their salary level implies, the family live very frugally, and we know that no donation will be wasted.

We wish you a happy and blessed Christmas, and we want to wish the same to Otto, Elizabeth and the children by resolving this major worry that they have at present!

Angus Cleaver, and all the Trustees at The Cleaford Christian Trust.

7th December 2009