



# Cleaford News



June 2012

## We particularly wish to send

- ⇒ New clothes and shoes
- ⇒ Toys, complete puzzles, games
- ⇒ Coloured pencils, felt tips
- ⇒ Paints, brushes and craft materials
- ⇒ Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap
- ⇒ Medical items—must be at least 6 months within expiry date
- ⇒ Incontinence pads
- ⇒ Secondhand tools—for carpenters and mechanics.

Visit our website at [cleafordchristian-trust.org.uk](http://cleafordchristian-trust.org.uk) (without the hyphen!) and join the **Cleaford Christian Trust Google Group** for news updates.

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

## Costs of postage

The Special Edition of Cleaford News that we produced earlier in June went to all the contacts we have on our email list. We also posted individual copies, but we did not send out the bulk packets to some churches and groups who have received them in the past. Postage of those individual copies totalled £80, which we feel is too much!

Our dream is to go to 100% email, which is the way this News is being distributed. To achieve this we have the following requests -

- ◆ If you look after a group would you be able to print a copy for your notice board.
- ◆ If you know others who normally receive by post can you encourage them to send a short message to [angus.cleaver@cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk](mailto:angus.cleaver@cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk), with the subject as 'Cleaford News' and we will add them to the list.
- ◆ For friends who do not have email would you be able to print a copy for them?

To spread the news more widely we are also using our Facebook page for The Cleaford Christian Trust more frequently, for short updates.

## New support arrangements

Three of us, Andrew Henderson, Sheena and Angus Cleaver, have just returned from a brief visit to Targu Mures, Harghita Christian Camp and Brasov. The intention was to agree with our associates a modus operandi for the future.

In the course of our discussions we discovered that there were a number of items where we have been making regular payments, that will not now be required.

Rather than sending money via a single pastor as in the past, we are now establishing small groups in each location, so that several people are aware of the needs, and how we are meeting those needs financially. To avoid confusion with other local money, in future there will be local 'Cleaford Funds' bank accounts in Targu Mures and Brasov, to which our money will be sent. We will have access to the bank statements for those accounts.

We realise that it is impossible to do our work without placing trust in some people. The pastors who will be handling money from us in future have been very shocked by the errors that have recently come to light, and certainly do not condone the previous actions. Needless to say, we are not making any transfers to anyone who has been directly or indirectly implicated in the breaches of trust that have now been discovered.

The revised arrangements for money transfers will also apply to the Widows' Fund, about which there is more detail on page 3.

# Peris Church

When Abigail Cleaver died we proposed that gifts in her memory should be used for a suitable project in Romania. She was very fond of the church in Gornesti village, a few miles to the north of Targu Mures. There is a need for a similar church in the neighbouring village of Peris, and it was decided that this building would be her memorial.

A dilapidated house on a piece of land in a good position was purchased, with a view to demolition. We have just made a brief visit to the site, and are delighted with the way the new construction has progressed. The work has been led by pastor Attila Toth, who has experience of similar church construction projects, aided by a number of local people.

The official opening of the church is planned for 21st October next, and a number of the Trustees and friends will be there.

The Peris congregation currently meets in small homes, and so is quite small in number. At Gornesti there was rapid growth in the church once they had a proper building, and we expect the same in Peris. In the meantime it is proposed to use a temporary partition to reduce the size of the main meeting room, so as to reduce heating costs, and also for people to feel better—it can be demoralising for a small group to be meeting in a large empty space!



## Widows' fund

Many of you will be aware, from our Cleaford News Special Edition earlier this month, that it has been discovered that funds sent in support of church widows, and a few needy families, were not being passed on by the two pastors responsible for the distribution.

The money which has been recovered is being held in a bank account whilst the situation is reviewed. During our recent visit to Brasov and Targu Mures we discussed the lists of widows and families with the pastors who have taken over at both churches. All cases are now being assessed, as it had become clear that some of the needs that had been reported to us in the past were exaggerated. At least one younger widow has now remarried, has a satisfactory income, and has moved away from the church. Following the reassessments it may well be that some new requests will be submitted for others to join the scheme, and we will also be giving fresh consideration to the appropriate levels of monthly support in the light of current costs of living in Romania.

We were upset to hear that many old people suffered during the recent harsh winters because they could not afford the high costs of heating.

When considering the distribution of the money we have recovered, we think it possible that we may be able to establish a 'Hardship Fund' which could be used to help with high heating costs, and also with unexpected extra expenses, such as medicines, hospital treatment, etc.

We are grateful for the continuation of standing orders towards the Widows' Fund, as we know that there are still significant needs. We will be in touch as soon as we can with our proposals for the revisions to the scheme, following the reassessments.

## Harghita Christian Camp

The Camp ran into financial difficulties last year, following which there has been a change of management. The legal position is also being changed, so that it will shortly become a separate Foundation, with its own Board of Trustees. We are pleased to hear that the new Chairman has successful business experience, and the new managers have experience in catering and estate management.

The new managers are a young couple, Zoltan and Erika Joo, who lived in the UK for some time, working with relatives of Jamie Oliver! They have a small baby, Viktoria, who is a few months old. They are being ably supported by Andrew and Ester Erdo, who ran the Camp very successfully before they retired several years ago.



The Camp is a powerhouse for evangelism, being filled with children and young people during the summer months. There is also a growing ministry to disabled people, for whom there is a purpose built building.

During the last couple of years two of the original buildings, dormitories and dining hall, have reached the end of their lives, and have been condemned by the local authority. There is also (expensive) work to be done to upgrade the electricity supply.

Zoltan and Erika have negotiated fresh contracts with suppliers, revised the prices quoted to visitors, and improved the atmosphere of the place. Whilst the Camp is no longer making a day-to-day loss, it is clear that significant capital investment will be needed during the next 12 months. We hope to be in a position to support this, as we have always believed the camp to be a key place for gospel development.

Overseas volunteers are always welcome, and it is a fabulous part of the country to visit. Have a look at their website at [hargitacamp.ro](http://hargitacamp.ro)

## The Hope Group



Otto and Elizabeth Kis's Hope Group (above) for disabled people in Sacele (near Brasov) has had a great boost from making an association with Joni Eareckson Tada's organisation 'Joni and Friends'. Otto was invited to visit their headquarters in USA. We hear that Joni and Friends had not succeeded when they tried to start work in Romania, and now are delighted to have linked with Otto who has achieved what they could not.

The Hope Group is already co-ordinating work with other similar groups that are developing in Romania, and they are much encouraged by the significant input



## Prayer Points

**Pray** for Zoltan & Erika Joo, and Andrew & Ester Erdu, as they work to get the Harghita Christian Camp back on to the right footing so that it can be used by God to bring many more youngsters to Christ.

**Thank God** for the financial and prayer support received by the Trust, and pray for its continuance.

**Pray** that the Trustees may be guided by God as we work to resolve the problems stemming from financial irregularities in Romania.

**Pray** for the leaders and pastors of the Hungarian Baptist Convention in Romania as they come to terms with the consequences of those irregularities, and as they seek to restore the good name of the denomination.

**Thank God** for the church development in Peris, and pray that with the provision of the new building there may be an awakening of interest in Christian things in that village.

**Pray** for the hard working pastors and their wives in Brasov and Mures counties, many of whom have young families. Pray that God will guide them in management of time and energy.

The Cleaford Christian Trust

...caring about Romania...

Charity Registration No 1039861

**Head Office:**

46 Hazell Road

Farnham

Surrey GU9 7BP

Phone 0845 124 9402

**Sussex Office:**

37 Ridgeway

Woodingdean

Brighton

BN2 6PE

Phone: 01273 304018

**Midlands Office:**

88 Arbury Avenue

Bedworth

CV12 8QX

Phone: 024 7631 9510

We're on the Web at

<http://www.cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk>

### Trustees:

Angus Cleaver

Phil Dunford

Roger Guy

Andrew Henderson

Sheena Cleaver

Lucy Barnardo

Jan Dunford

Pat Guy

Revd Danny Pritchard

We use a **Google Groups** for our Trust circulations. Please go to the Trust website and add yourself to the list if you are not already on. Drop us an email if you can now receive the News (and other occasional items) by email, which saves us printing and postage.