



Cleaford News



October 2009

We particularly wish to send

- ⇒ **New** clothes and shoes
- ⇒ Toys, complete puzzles, games
- ⇒ Coloured pencils, felt tips
- ⇒ Paints, brushes and craft materials
- ⇒ **T o o t h p a s t e**, toothbrushes, and soap
- ⇒ Medical items—must be at least 6 months

Visit our website at cleafordchristian-trust.org.uk—it has recently been revised and refreshed by our Trustee, Andrew Henderson.

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

Autumn Visit

Andrew Henderson led a team visit in mid-October, which coincided with the change of weather from warm sunshine to the first snow. This served as a spur to the projects that need action before the winter is fully established. Elsewhere in this News you will see details of one such project that FAST are proposing.

Much of this News consists of extracts from Andrew's Journal of the visit.....

The Brasov Children's Hospital

Traditionally Monday morning on a TCCT trip is always a visit to the Children's Hospital in Brasov, and this trip was no exception. In recent years we have been encouraged at the slow but positive improvements seen at the Hospital, but this visit was very different. What we saw and heard this time shocked us all.

We were told that the financial situation in the hospital had regressed about 4-5 years. The national insurance company, that everyone paid into so as to guarantee hospital treatment, has no money at all, but hospitals have to continue giving treatment whilst getting little or no income in return.

Basics, such as syringes, bandages and even cotton wool are now at a premium, whereas only six to seven months ago there were sufficient to meet all needs. Finger clips for pulse oximeters are a very urgent requirement, particularly disposable sensors for very small babies. There is a desperate need for oxygen masks for babies and also for gastric tubes for new born babies. Medicines are still a priority, and we will continue to send these on a quarterly basis.

Another, very important, area of the hospital is the play therapy department. Dana Tanasescu does amazing work with very limited resources. On this trip she asked particularly for good quality cot toys and fine paint brushes. Dana once again expressed her thanks for all the donations received through the Cleaford Christian Trust and she particularly wanted us to pass on her appreciation to all the Trust's supporters.

AGM and Open Evening

The Annual General Meeting and Open Evening this year will be at **8 p.m. on Friday 20th November**, at Farnham Baptist Church. We always aim to keep the formal business to a minimum, as we want to concentrate on reporting to you on the encouraging progress during the past year, and tell you of our vision for the future. We will have some brand new video from the recent visit to our projects.

There is ample free parking at the church, and you will find a Google map if you search on GU9 7HA.. **Please do come if you possibly can.**

The Church at Maiad

After the visit to the hospital the team ventured north to Targu Mures where we met up with Istvan and Marta Borzasi. The Monday evening was spent at a new church for us in the village of Maiad, just south east of the city.

The Maiad church has been established for about 4 years and now consists of some 15 adults and 30 children. They currently meet in a small house which is rented.

Here we enjoyed a lovely service and each member of the TCCT party was encouraged to give a short word.

At the end of the service it was brought to our attention that the church would need wood for winter heating and that this would cost in the region of £200, a sum unattainable by the congregation.



Fantanele—Grand Opening

We were privileged to be invited to the official opening of the new church in Fantanele village.

Many readers will remember that we were able to buy the house that would form the church only a short time ago. Since then it has been transformed. The old barn has gone and the main building repaired, re-plastered and re-painted. In fact the appearance of the outside of the building had undergone such a complete facelift that none of the TCCT team recognised it!

The opening service was a very lovely occasion, lots of excited faces all rightly very proud of their achievement. Of particular note was the beautiful, traditional, guttering which had been made by the Garbor family.



Before...



After...

Although most of the work is now done there are still some immediate costs that need to be met which, when added together, come to about £1,000.

Sangeorgiu de Padure

It was very good to see the new church, which we helped to open in the spring, being used, and it was noticeable that it was already starting to gain new attendees.

The highlight of the evening service we attended was a delightful little concert given by the children of a local orphanage.

Although the building is now completed and fully operational there are some outstanding, legal, issues which may well involve some cost in the future.



Rava—the open air church

After a delicious lunch with Elizabeth and Janos Totos (the pastor for the whole area around Sangeorgiu de Padure) we visited the Roma church at Rava. Initially the visit was in some doubt as the rain was pouring down, but a lady of the church offered her home to be used as the meeting place, Imre provided the chairs and all 40 of us squeezed into her living space.

The church at Rava is growing with many more children coming to the meetings. After the service Imre gave each child a cuddly toy as a gift; it was so refreshing to see even teenage boys appreciating these simple but welcome gifts.



Valcele Hospital—The Muscular Dystrophy Centre for all Romania

Otto Kis (pastor for the Sacele area, and interim pastor for Brasov) invited us to visit this hospital. It is the one specialist hospital for Muscular Dystrophy sufferers in the whole of Romania.

With 85 beds crammed into 11 fairly small rooms one can imagine the cramped conditions. In some cases three beds were pushed together to make sufficient room.

The laundry room contained one pre-revolution washing machine and one spin drier of a similar age. These two machines frequently break down which means that the washing is then carried out by hand.

The physiotherapy room has one working Ultrasound machine and two physiotherapy beds. There is a gym at

the hospital which does have some reasonable, though old, equipment.

When the Hospital Manager, Claudia, was asked what the most urgent need was she immediately told us that it was new mattresses and, if possible, new beds. On inspection we did not find a mattress that was more than 1½ inches thick and heavily stained; the beds were also worn out and damaged.

Although it would not be cost efficient for us to send beds, we were able to pass the need on to other agencies in Romania who could help. What the request did highlight though is the plight of the health service in Romania.

The Hope Group of Sacele

After the visit to Valcele Hospital we were invited to join in with Otto Kis's Hope Group, for a celebration lunch of Goulash soup.

The occasion marked the 5th anniversary of the founding of the Hope Group, which brings together disabled people from Sacele and the nearby villages of Zizin and Tarlungeni for fellowship, Bible study, prayer and a meal.

During the short service that followed the meal there were many testimonies as to how the Group had changed the lives of the participants, giving them hope and purpose. It had given many of the members the

opportunity to see the world outside the four walls of their home.

We all felt honoured to be part of this celebration and to be asked to share a word of scripture and a testimony.

It was mentioned that the Hope Group would really appreciate some simple percussion instruments, such as maracas or similar, so that they could join in the beat of the songs during worship. It was also evident that wheelchairs and walking aids would also be much appreciated.

The Better Home Project

Before leaving for the airport we were taken to Tarlungeni to visit two of the new style Better Homes.

The first one was occupied even though it was not completed. The reason for this was the appalling state of the family's existing 'home' which consisted of no more than a few doors nailed together forming a small shack no larger than 9 x 9 feet and about six feet high. The roof leaks and the floor floods – as Daniel said, another winter would kill off some of the children, so something had to be done. At least in the new home they will have a warm and dry winter and the work can be completed when the warmer weather returns in the spring.

The second home we visited was completed and rendered and looked very smart indeed.

There are now some fifteen Better Homes in Tarlungeni and at least one in Zizin, but this is not all. Some families in the village have been inspired by what they have seen and have used their meagre resources to build a new home of their own with proper foundations. The main problem these people had was the roof, so the Better Homes Team have been helping in building well made, watertight, roofs for these homes.....the skyline in Tarlungeni is changing for the better!



The Red Building

As many of you will know Daniel's Ziurel Centre building at Sacele was originally the boiler house for a large 'technical college'. The college is on a large site, with a number of derelict buildings.

A recent development is that, thanks to EU and Local Authority funding, the red brick building next to Ziurel is now to be fully refurbished and fitted out to Daniel and FAST's specifications, so that various out of school educational activities can be run. All the building costs will be met by the Mayor's office, as will the future running and maintenance costs. FAST have been asked to run the educational side of the new Centre.

Daniel sees this as an incredible opportunity to widen his educational vision, and at the same time have premises which can be used to further the integration of the Romanian and Roma communities.

The refurbishment and commencement of the project will probably take in the order of 2 – 5 years but it is an opportunity that FAST is enthusiastically grasping.

The FAST team have specifically asked us to pray for this project, that God will grant them wisdom in the building and then in the planning of the centre.

The TCCT team was given a tour of the building,

which is in need of massive structural alteration and renovation, and it was clear to see the enormous potential that the vast amount of space offered. We look forward to seeing the vision become a reality.



Finances

For budget purposes we run a rolling spreadsheet that is always looking 12 months ahead. Our expenditure plans are divided into two groups—regular commitments, and individual projects.

With the church growth that we are experiencing there will always be a number of proposed projects for which we need to plan and, in conjunction with our associates in Romania, we adjust the priority order as appropriate. It is not unknown for there to be legal or bureaucratic hurdles that can create long delays, particularly in the acquisition of land and buildings.

The main project this year is the purchase of a house in **Peris**, for conversion to a church in memory of Abigail Cleaver who died in January. Including Gift Aid, the total of donations made in her memory is currently about £18,500, which is a magnificent tribute to her life and work. There has been some delay in finalising the purchase, and the current estimate (after allowing for a collection amongst the local churches) is that we will need about £27,000.

We have already purchased a piece of land in **Apalina** for a church centre in the Roma community. We expect to construct a simple building over the coming few years.

As you have seen on page 2, about £1,000 is needed to finish the new church at **Fantanele**. This includes £250 for heating which needs to be installed promptly. There is scope for further minor works here, costing about £1,000, but these are not urgent, and can be left until finance is available.

£200 is needed for wood at **Maiat** immediately.

There are about £900 worth of outstanding legal costs in connection with the new church at **Sangeorgiu de Padure**.

The hall used as the previous church building in **Sangeorgiu de Padure** is being used for some meetings, and there is the opportunity to buy the

lease at a good price. Together with legal costs, this would be a good investment at about £700. In the same town, there is a need to transfer title deeds for two of the church's cemeteries, at a total cost of £500.

In order to progress several projects during the last summer, the Trustees decided to allow our reserves to fall lower than usual, trusting that God would provide sufficient to see us through to next year's project programme. In making this decision, we were careful to set aside sufficient funds for our regular commitments, such as pastors' salaries, children's work and medicines for the hospital.

We appreciate that many people made generous donations to the Abigail Cleaver memorial fund, and for this reason income to our general funds is lower than was the case in previous years.

We allocated a subsidy of £5,000 for Christian Camps in the summer of 2009, and we are convinced that this is an excellent use of funds for front line evangelism. At present it is looking as though we may have to reduce this to £4,000 for 2010, which is a pity in a time of increased costs in Romania. The subsidy is used for travel and food costs for children who cannot afford to pay; in addition we supply large quantities of craft materials.

By the time you are reading this we will have sent funds for the urgent items listed above, but will hold back on the other items until (a) the Peris church costs are clearer and (b) we see whether our general fund becomes healthier.

As you have read this Cleaford News you will have seen various references to things that it would be good to send to the different projects. You will also have realised that we do not have spare cash at present, so will be grateful for any contacts where we may be able to obtain redundant or surplus items that would meet some of these needs. None of them are very large, so we can handle the transport costs from Farnham to Romania.

Summer Camps

During the summer of 2009 Istvan and Marta Borzasi, with their helpers, took a total of 692 children and young people to camps. They ran 12 different camps, providing for Roma children, Hungarian children, teenagers, youth, Down's Syndrome sufferers and a music camp.

Istvan writes, "The Camp for Gypsy Children in Harghita was great! The children were so well behaved

- it was unbelievable! Working with these mostly Gabor-Gipsy background children it was a real pleasure. We had many positive experience about this week. One of them was, that one night János Totos invited a child from each village to pray for their own locality. Then pastor János made another invitation, at this time for conversion. 17 children came forward, and remained back for prayer!"

Water for Christmas

Dearest friends,

On the 14th October we had the first snow this season in Sacele and Brasov, which means that winter is already knocking at the door and Christmas holidays are getting near. Unfortunately, Christmas and winter are not happy news for many of the very poor people and children living in Tarlungeni. For them it means having to endure cold, hunger and lack of very basic needs such as drinking water. Most of you know that the only source of water for some of the families and children is the nearby river. In winter the temperatures drop sometimes to -20 degrees so water becomes even less available.

Friends, we invite you to join our Christmas project this year: **Let's bring fresh drinking water to the children in Tarlungeni!** What a Christmas gift that would be, probably one you've never given before! Will you join us in this new and challenging venture, please?

Although it sounds simple, it is not an easy or cheap operation. We will have to bring the main water supply close to the homes and for this we need to work with a water company. I have already discussed the situation with a few local companies and the job can be done relatively quickly if we have the funding. If we move FAST the water can be available by Christmas!

The best price we have been given is: **£32/metre** of pipe!

This includes all the materials, labour and connection fees to the main water supply of the village. Our aim is to extend the water supply by 300 metres, thus bringing drinking water closer to over 200 children and their families and making it possible for more to connect in the future. Each family will still have to connect to the main individually, which will be a simple and cheap procedure.

Would you like to buy a few metres of water for these children? We have already received a donation which covers for **the first 10 metres: a great start!**

If you think you can help, please send your donation to The Cleaford Christian Trust, marked 'Water' If using BACS, email angus.cleaver@cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk please. I am sure that together we can bring water to all these families for Christmas!

Dear friends, please remember that Christmas is a time of giving and a time of receiving and I am sure that as we give out selflessly, we will receive much more in return! Thank you.

For the FAST charity, *Daniel Hristea*

We are now using **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.

The Cleaford Christian Trust

...caring about Romania...

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Prayer Points

Pray for wisdom and energy for the church leaders, wives, Sunday school teachers and evangelists.

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 they allocate resources to the various worthwhile projects presented to them for support.

Pray that we may all see the way God wants us to go in both the short term and long term life of the Trust, and that we may follow his will.

Thank God for the many children and young people who have been to camps this summer.

Thank God for the progress of church planting.

Pray for good relationships within churches with mixed backgrounds.

Pray for the staff at the Children's Hospital as they seek to stretch what little resources they have, and show us how we may best help that situation.