

## External Ministries Newsletter 2

As we move through the dreariest time of year here is some news from some of the various ministries which CCW supports which hopefully will brighten up your lives!

### TEARFUND CONNECTED CHURCH: Sagoal in Nepal

Plans for a trip to visit our Connected Church are progressing positively. Contact has been made with TearFund and we are awaiting confirmation that the Sagoal team are able to accommodate our visiting in September this year. TearFund are also planning to send someone with us to act as a liaison with the Sagoal Team. Five people from CCW have expressed a real interest in going and the plan is to also spend time in Kathmandu at the Anandit Fellowship. The link here is through Pastor Milan who Glen and Val met at the Ichthus Leaders Conference in Croydon in January 2017. That group run a host of community initiatives to support people in that city including a Christian Guest House. Campbell and Glen both feel that God is behind this and that unlike last year there is real momentum with doors opening to facilitate the visit which is intended to not just be a sightseeing tourist trip (though we do intend to see some of the countryside and mountains) but to enable us to get involved with the ministries and to meet, listen to and support those working with the people of Nepal. Please speak to Campbell or Glen ASAP if you are at all interested in joining us.



Raj Kumar Programme Manager for Sagoal

**Sagoal are working with local churches, to help them challenge stigma and become agents for positive change in their communities.**

**Local government is listening and providing the services those living in poverty so desperately need.**

### Wrexham Feeding the Roofless

This activity is still going strong! ChristChurch continues to be responsible for the 4th weekends of January, March, May, July, September and November and other local churches are responsible for the other weekends.

Feeding the Roofless involves making 45 sandwiches on both Saturdays and Sundays and then serving them, other items of food and hot drinks from Trinity Church Hall.

Volunteers meet at my home to make the sandwiches. Usually 3 or 4 people are sufficient for this activity. We then drive to Trinity Church to set things up and meet other volunteers who are helping with the serving. We now need at least 5 volunteers to serve each day of whom at least one should be male. For many years the serving was done in the Market Street car park but when this was no longer available, Trinity Church gave permission for the serving to be done every weekend from their church hall. We have been using the hall since July last year and it seems to be working well.

Recently, all the participating churches have reported a slight drop in the number of clients but it is too early to know whether this is permanent or just a 'blip'.

Thankfully, we now have enough volunteers to fulfill our commitments. Some are from ChristChurch, some are from other churches and some are people who have an interest in helping this client group. More volunteers are always welcome and people can volunteer to make sandwiches and serve or just to make sandwiches or just to serve. Most people do 2 or more of the 6 weekends and usually only one of the days ( i.e. Saturday or Sunday ). If you want more information about volunteering please ask Elaine Mathieson.

## Street & School Pastors

Ascension Trust, the umbrella charity for Street & School Pastors, has been running for 25 years & Street Pastors for 15 years now. A variety of celebrations are planned throughout the year to mark this achievement. Wrexham Street Pastors is just about to begin the process of identifying & training a successor for Gareth so that he can hand over the reins in spring 2019.



The team has been boosted by numerous new faces and the YWAM DTS students will also be involved over the next few months.

School Pastors continues at Rhosnesni through a challenging season as we have lost a number of our volunteers and there has been a lot of transition and high turnover of staff. This has impacted on the school in a number of ways which impact our presence and ministry there.

### Prayer Pointers

- The right person to take on the Coordinator role for Wrexham SP
- Enthusiasm, energy & continued vision for the volunteers
- Peace and assurance for ALL the volunteers through the succession period
- A liaison person to be identified at RHS for School Pastors
- More School Pastor volunteers

## Good News Foundation Hungary



We plan a slightly different approach this year to help make the task of translation easier & to allow more time for the GNF team to interact with the different visitors who will be ministering. The various visits have therefore been staggered.

Gareth will visit in early March for 5 days and again in late September with a team for 9-10 days to do street & school work. He will work in, & with, both Orgovány & Izsák churches.

Russ will visit for one week in April and return again in October for a month with Lesley. They will mainly be based in Orgovány.

Moira will visit with a small team to focus on Prophetic Art in May.

Please let Gareth know if you are interested in joining the September team.

### Prayer Pointers

- For us all to quickly adjust to the new rhythm and pattern
- Continued impact and lasting fruit through our visits and ministry
- Deepening of relationships in both Orgovány & Izsák

## FUNDATIA INCREDEREA

It is now over 3 months since Campbell, Glen, Frank and Val visited the FI team in October last year. A new travel route was tried out flying directly to Cluj in Romania from Luton rather than going via Budapest. Although only 82 miles apart the road is somewhat twisty and having been picked up by Nelu we had only gone less than 20 miles when the FI car broke down. An interesting time was then spent by the roadside in a small village waiting for the low loader to arrive to pick us up and after squeezing into the back seat (all 4 of us) we endured a somewhat nervy trip to Oradea but arrived in one piece! For our visit it was amazingly bright, sunny and over 25C most days and staying in a hotel just round the corner from the FI office, and indeed looking directly at the back of it, made it easy to meet up with Ligia and the rest of the team. Since our visit the Primaria (Council) has been 3 times to try to fix a leak in the roof and it seems to have finally been successfully repaired with no more damp patches inside the office! We were able to meet up with all the team and we challenged them to tell us what God was saying to them about their lives and their work with FI. This facilitated our discussions with them and we were able to pray. We witnessed Nelu and Christina in action at the afterschool club and the children's club and were also able to quiz Tomi and Cristi over the counselling work and catch up with progress regarding Tomi's doctorate. He needs to complete a presentation to a group of academics which has been delayed until early 2018.



This picture shows Val with Himina, a young woman from a very troubled and impoverished home environment. She appeared really unhappy and found it difficult to mix with her peers but was regularly coming to the FI afterschool group and the Sunday evening youth group, a group we met up with during our visit. Thankfully she engaged well with Valerie.

Christmas was a busy time for the FI team with a visit to a Special School for children with mental or physical problems called "the joy of a Special Christmas"! As well as singing carols presents were given out to everyone and the children were extremely happy to know who they received the card from and of course they also enjoyed the gifts. The students had prepared gifts of Christmas tree decorations made from plaster moulds and the delight of the children with handicaps was clear for everyone to see. There was also a Christmas Party at our Foundation, where the children's parents were invited to listen to carols which their children prepared for them and it was a special time. High school students brought food bags for the needy children at the foundation and volunteers from the Ambulance Service in Oradea who brought food, fruits, clothes and footwear to the needy people.



### Current news

Ligia is recovering well from surgery at the end of January and is now back at work in the FI Office. She sends her best wishes to everyone at CCW and gives thanks for all the prayers which supported her through the last few weeks. Plans for this years summer camps are already in full swing with the children's camp planned for July 30<sup>th</sup> till August 4<sup>th</sup> in a place called Codru (where Katrina March went) and the teenagers camp possibly July 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> at a place called Tabara Casa Luminii / The Lighthouse Camp. Nelu and Christina are going to visit this week to check it out for suitability. The FI car was repaired while we were there however we have been informed this week that the problem has recurred and more work is needed bringing with it more costs of over £120.



## MARTINA AND TONY:

A Christmas day walk in the park

Extracts from their Christmas newsletter:

It's been a year of things starting to take shape. When we got married last summer, there were a lot of things to get used and adjust to, and a lot of uncertainties of one kind or another, such as issues with family and health, and living in an unsettled country. Although we both feel called to the same country we were involved in different ministries that hardly seem to overlap, Tony working with refugees and the Arabic fellowship, still trying to find his niche, Martina on the other side being much more settled in working with Turkish women, mainly in counselling/prayer ministry.

We established a habit of **praying together** regularly and started passing on prophetic words that we received, finding out that people were blessed and very appreciative.

In September we took part in our church conference. The visiting speaker had a strong prophetic ministry, and Tony received a word about **building discipleship relationships** and being a significant part in these people's lives. Since then he met a number of young men with an open heart, either open to faith or needing to grow in it.

Martina has settled back into seeing people regularly after the summer break. Increased prayer has made a difference, as a lot more of the ladies who approach her for help are in a place where they are both willing and able to look at their issues and start working on them. Meeting with them for counselling and prayer ministry will make a difference in their lives, how they see themselves, and in their relationship with the Lord.

The **English Speaking Club**, a meeting point of locals, refugees and native English speakers, is a good place for Tony to get together with people in a relaxed atmosphere. Tony has the opportunity to express his point of view. Some show curiosity about our faith, and Tony was able to invite them to this year's Christmas celebration - for some the first time in a Christian meeting which took place in a hotel on Christmas Eve. It was an enjoyable and a meaningful time with one highlight being the children of the Arabic fellowship performing Christmas carols - we did not come expecting to hear Jingle Bells in Arabic!

We've been greatly encouraged by seeing the Lord at work in our immediate surrounding, the country and the whole region. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support in so many ways. We couldn't be doing what we are doing here without people backing us up at home.

## TONY ON FACEBOOK: recent posts

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>** Aware of "shifts" in emphasis this year both with myself and others... From making many connections, emphasizing outreach, sowing seed and working hard. To emphasizing seeking God, hearing Him and proclaiming what is heard as effectively as possible, building relationships that really lead somewhere and relying on prayer and His power rather than effort. Though the latter things were done before and the former have not been dropped yet the stress is definitely changing. After 6 years in Turkey my language remains staggeringly mediocre. I can handle daily life and opportunities to share with English speakers are great, but there is much I want to say to many, but can't, so please join me in praying that the 16 hours per week that I will spend studying from now for a little while will prove effective in really breaking through to effective communication here.

**January 4<sup>th</sup>** There are 3 New Testament sacrifices: Your life, your lips and your loot! (Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13: 12,15: Food for thought and spoken many years ago at CFNI, Dallas, Texas by a visiting speaker. The language school seems to be a really good learning environment and I want to make all I can out of this going from B1 to B2 within a short time and aiming to reach C1 within a few months (don't worry if this isn't clear, its about learning to communicate well!) Took an assessment test on joining this morning and found my Turkish is at intermediate level (B1) disappointing, but. at least I know the truth and can move on from here!

**January 26<sup>th</sup>** In the last 10 days have sat with an older couple who have been here for years and drawn from their wisdom, had coffee with someone at a similar place to me and let "iron sharpen iron" and continued assisting younger ones to grow. ALL of us, whatever our vocation, need this balance of inspiration from ahead, mutual encouragement with those alongside and establishing the path for those behind. This is especially true for us who may focus too much on what we have to offer and miss so much that God wants to get through to us. We are all lifelong learners.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** Good time sharing experiences with a Muslim taxi driver...and listening to his, also signed up for another month of language, understanding much more of what's going on around me and feeling freer to converse, but still a way to go.

## YWAM news: Sarah Opper

Since our last update in September we've been pleasantly busy with many different things. We each have many different ministries that we participate in as we live our personal missions calling to be here in Wrexham – from the foodbank, pastoral family ministry, hospital visiting, mentoring or coaching, loving immigrants, and preparing for the Discipleship Training School.

As a team we've been working on clarifying our vision/goals which has been a really good process and we hope will continue to produce unity and clarity amongst us. We are also reading the book "Daring Greatly" by Brene Brown together and that has been to positive effect on our intimacy. Please pray for heavenly strategy, wisdom and unity for our team in the coming months.

Our building, GyG, was paid off last summer and the deed has now been transferred from our old charity to our new charity. When we first moved into GyG in November 2009 we had a promise from God using the Feeding of the 5000 in John 6 and we've seen God multiple the little bits we've each brought. And now we're in the most-exciting season of discovering what is "in" the 12 baskets leftover! We're thankful for all of God's blessings.

And most exciting, our newest DTS started at the beginning of February with five trainees from England, Sri Lanka, America and Zambia. This brings our team up to 17 (plus kids) representing 7 nationalities! We're having fun learning and settling in together. Please pray for cross-cultural interactions, revelation through the experiences and Jesus to be glorified through it all.



After a very hectic Christmas period which brought us 4 months food donations, around 8000kgs, in 1 month (and facilitated the preparation of 340 Christmas hampers) things have settled down a bit in the warehouse. Thanks to the Tesco blue token scheme we received a grant which allowed us to install heaters into the building which although is not tropical it is now much less chilly for our volunteers to work in. We have also received some very generous financial support from individuals, businesses, Acton Community Council and other groups in the town as well as a significant grant through Comic Relief which will help cover our month to month costs for the next 6 months. The number of clients fed this financial year looks to be similar to last year however in January 2017 we redeemed 150 vouchers and in January 2018 we dealt with 205 vouchers and the rollout of Universal Credit does appear to be impacting on people. We have also been running an Eat Well Spend Less Course for the Family Friends group at the Salvation Army and the course leaders (including Glen and Val) have had a positive experience with the 5 ladies who have taken part.



### Prayer pointers:

- That our application for funding to employ a warehouse manager and a Foodbank Project Manger will be successful
- Plans for the warehouse building will come together and prosper
- Donations and offers to volunteer remain buoyant and we can fill all our rotas