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Pastor encourages others to use their talents



BLYTHSWOODNEWS

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BREAKFAST CEREALS HELP CHILDREN EXPOSED TO HEALTH RISK

GIVE AN ORPHAN BREAKFAST FOR A MONTH – **GIFT CODE DA5**

Children in a state-run care home in Romania enjoy a better breakfast thanks to gifts made through Blythswood Care's Gift Catalogue.

Nico, aged three, and her older sister and brother are typical of the children at Ilisua Orphanage. Their mother was left without support by the children's father who divorced her, but it is mainly because of their exposure to someone infected with tuberculosis that the children have been taken into care.

"Nutrition is especially important for these children," says Teodora Morar who works for Romanian charity Fundația Elpis in Dej. "The breakfast cereals that we provide with Blythswood's support each week give them some of the calories and vitamins they need."

The children at Ilisua also received gift-filled shoeboxes from Blythswood 2016 Shoe Box Appeal. "Their mother can't afford to buy them many clothes so the gloves, scarfs and other clothing were a great help," Teodora explains. "Because the orphanage has such a limited budget, it's useful when the children have their own toiletries. The gifts help the children to learn to be responsible for their personal belongings."



Exposure to tuberculosis sometimes causes children like Nico to be taken into protective care



Blythswood's Gift Catalogue is full of ideas that let you share the joy of helping someone in need. Go to blythswood.org or call 01349 830777

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul

SUMMER CAMP LET MATEI FEEL ACCEPTED

GIVE A CHILD A WEEK AT CAMP – GIFT CODE SC2

A week at a summer camp supported by Blythswood Care has helped to transform Matei into an open, smiling teenager, keen to participate in group activities.

The biggest surprise for the 14-year-old – and for his parents – was that he was even invited to go. Having learning disabilities and behavioural problems, he had been treated as a disruptive and uncooperative pupil during his years in a mainstream school. His record barred him from joining in trips and treats with other children.

It was only when he moved to a school for children with special needs in Marghita, Romania that he started to make progress.

“Matei challenged all my knowledge and skills as a psychologist and teacher,” says Lidia Micula, who has the boy in her class.



Matei (right) proved he could behave himself at summer camp

“The first year was very tough but with patience, love and consistency we built trust.

“Slowly he realised that it’s not a disaster when he doesn’t have the right answer but that we are there to help him. Once he started to relax he was more able to learn.”

At camp Matei enjoyed playing in the

water and joined in games with other children, proving wrong his parents’ fears that he would be unable to behave himself. “He was so proud to get a good report,” says Lidia. “He could see that he is loved and accepted and he realised that there is hope for him.”

REGULAR MEALS LET RUTH GO BACK TO SCHOOL

PROVIDE NOURISHING MEALS FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA – GIFT CODE OH4

By the age of nine, Ruth had stopped going to school and was working as a housemaid in the vicinity of Hyderabad, India.

The reason was simple: if she did not work, she did not eat. Her father was a heavy drinker who deserted the family, leaving them without support. Her mother worked as a labourer for low pay, insufficient to feed the child.

The result for Ruth was disastrous. Her education came to a halt and her health was affected too as she suffered from neglect, malnutrition and abuse in her employer’s house.

When someone suggested to her that the young child would do better in Dayspring House, a children’s home supported by Blythswood Care, Ruth’s mother didn’t hesitate. “She brought Ruth here herself and was impressed by the way the children live here,” says Pastor Samuel Babu who cares for over 40 children in premises provided by Blythswood.

At Dayspring, they enjoy a healthy diet based on rice, lentils and fresh green vegetables and including eggs, chicken and milk every week. Ruth is now in the eighth grade at school. Samuel Babu says: “Her health and education have both improved, thanks to the kind support of Blythswood Care.”



Ruth’s mother is pleased that her daughter, now 13, is able to continue her education

ONE-TO-ONE AT TK2 BEATS PREJUDICE AT SCHOOL

GIVE A CHILD AN EDUCATION – GIFT CODE R2

TK2, Blythswood Care’s after-school programme in western Romania for 11-15 year olds, has enabled a teenager with learning difficulties to reach the final year of middle school.

Without external support, Jenó’s home situation would have made his education impossible. The eldest of four children, he lives with his mother, uncle and grandparents. No one has a job and two of the adults have learning disabilities. Their home has no bathroom or kitchen.

At school, sympathy was in short supply. Knowing his family background, teachers discriminated against him on numerous occasions, disregarding his disability and humiliating him in front of his peers.

But with the benefit of one-to-one tuition at TK2, Jenó can read, write and do basic arithmetic. He knows his times tables and likes to play chess. His Blythswood tutors are confident that he is more than capable of fulfilling his childhood ambition of becoming a tractor driver.

“Without the support of TK2, Jenó’s reading and writing would be non-existent,” says Carmen Popa who has watched his development in recent years. “He would probably have resorted to stealing like he used to, to feed his younger siblings when they were hungry.

“You don’t need a driving licence to be a tractor driver, but with learning support Jenó is fully capable of passing the test. We are already speaking to farmers to find one who might be interested in taking him on.”



Talita Kum and TK2 help disadvantaged children in several ways

- Nutrition
- Tuition
- Hygiene
- Clothing
- Bible knowledge
- ID documentation
- Music and culture

Now 15, Jenó has far surpassed the expectations of his teachers and is looking forward to becoming a tractor driver

DANIEL CENTRE EQUIPS YOUNG MEN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

ENABLE AN EX-ORPHANAGE BOY TO LEARN SKILLS – GIFT CODE R1

Just seven months at Blythswood Care’s Daniel Centre has already helped Laci (19) to learn to live independently and to find employment.

From the age of four he lived in a state-run children’s home and was then placed in foster care with a village family who raised him to the age of 18. With them he enjoyed the benefits of living in a small community and making friends.

But although he finished 12th

grade at school he did not take sit the Baccalaureate exams and so left school – and the care system – without qualifications.

Child Services referred him to the Daniel Centre, near Cluj, Romania, last summer. With social skills already well developed he has made rapid progress, taking responsibility for cleaning and then for cooking which he had to learn from scratch.

Counselling from staff at the Daniel Centre helped him find a job in a printing shop in Cluj where he now works in the technical department.

“Laci is a good communicator and knows how to conduct



Laci has made rapid progress during his first seven months at the Daniel Centre

himself in an interview and at work,” says project manager Vladimir Popa. “He has

learned how to manage his time and money and is determined to make a better life for himself.”

SAFE DRINKING WATER HELPS THE WORKING POOR



A source of safe drinking water near to home makes a huge difference to the daily lives of women such as Durga who has to care for her sick husband

HELP PROVIDE CLEAN WATER TO THOUSANDS – GIFT CODE OH6

A well sponsored by Blythswood Care’s gift catalogue has changed the lives of low-income villagers in Andhra Pradesh, India.

The public supply of drinking water in Pavara is available only between 7.00 am and 8.00 am by which time the poorest section of the community, both men and women, are already labouring in the fields in order to survive.

This would leave these people dependent on drawing water from a lake which is muddied by the buffalos each evening.

But the well supplied by Blythswood in 2015 means that the women now do not have so far to carry water home to their families. And the incidence of water-borne diseases is greatly reduced amongst the people using the new supply.

POULTRY GIFT HELPS PENSIONERS IN RURAL BULGARIA



Yanka with her brother and husband: the gift of poultry has provided vital protein in their diet

PROVIDE REGULAR FOOD FOR A FAMILY – GIFT CODE DA2/ DA3/ DA7

The gift of poultry from Blythswood’s gift catalogue provides essential protein in the diet of pensioners living in Bulgaria.

Yanka, 68, and her husband Ivan, who is 70, look after her brother Stamo who has needed care all his life. Their pension entitlements equate to a little under £17 per week each, meaning that they have to watch how they spend every penny.

“They spend about 10 percent of their income on medicines,” says Zhani Slavcheva who works for Blythswood’s partner organisation in Bulgaria. “The rest goes on food, electricity, water and taxes.

“Like many older people here, they lost their savings as a result of the 2008 economic crisis and their children are not able to give them financial support.

“Blythswood’s gift of chickens provides meat and eggs which they otherwise could not afford to buy. They are very thankful for your help at this difficult time.”

MONTHLY SUPPORT HELPS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES SURVIVE ROMANIAN WINTER

FAMILY FINANCIAL SUPPORT – GIFT CODE DA8

M aria lives with her grandmother in Cluj County, Romania. To get to school, the ten-year-old must walk down the hill track that leads from their home through the forest to the road. At this time of year the journey is more difficult because of snow and wind and especially because of the dark.

Her grandmother goes with her each day and carries home whatever they need. Dependent on Romania’s modest welfare payments, it’s not easy for her to provide for the growing girl. Blythswood Care’s Basis Project gives vital, monthly support, providing non-perishable foodstuffs such as oil, flour, rice, pasta, pâté and sugar.

This is a significant contribution to their monthly budget and helps to ensure that Maria does not go to school hungry. Gifts of clothing from Blythswood are a big help to them too, as is the moral support of Basis worker Săndel Szitas who visits them each month, carrying the box of food to their little cabin in the woods.

Blythswood’s Basis Project helps 30 low-income families in and around Cluj, some of them living in very difficult circumstances



Time to go: Maria’s granny stands ready with the little girl’s coat as Basis worker Săndel Szitas concludes his monthly visit. The food he brings enables them to survive the winter

RESTORING SIGHT IN BURMA AND THAILAND

A CATARACT OPERATION – GIFT CODE OH9

A Burmese farm labourer experienced a rapid restoration of sight in January when one of his cataracts was removed at a clinic in neighbouring Thailand.

Sixty-six year old U Thaung Myint had suffered gradual loss of vision in his right eye over several years and last year his left eye became similarly blind: he could detect light, but nothing more.

His predicament affected his sister too as she had to reduce her working hours in order to

care for him.

At Mae Tao clinic in Thailand, surgeons from the UK volunteer their expertise to restore the sight of people who could not afford treatment while Blythswood’s Gift Catalogue contributes towards some of the costs involved.

The doctor who performed this operation says: “U Thaung Myint may not return to work again but at least he will be independent and his sister will be free to work full time.”



The farm hand from Burma experienced a rapid restoration of sight following an operation to remove cataract



BUCKET OF LOVE BRINGS JOY TO BRICK FACTORY FAMILY



A Bucket of Love, sponsored by Blythswood's gift catalogue brought joy to Boota and his family

BUCKETS OF LOVE – GIFT CODE BOL

Chick peas, dried milk, tea and sweeties – these were four of the reasons why Boota and his family looked so happy on 24 December 2016. The Bucket of Love which they received that day also contained a towel and soap, a water jug and six mugs and plates, a skipping rope and a hair brush. And of course the large plastic bucket itself is always a useful item for any family living in extreme poverty or caught up in a disaster. Boota is a brick factory worker in the Gujranwala district of Punjab Province, Pakistan. He was seven when his father started working there, and he has been there ever since. His father took loans on a number of occasions, especially for the marriages of his children. As the youngest, Boota stayed to care for his parents. Now with a wife and four children of his own, he remains trapped in the perpetual cycle of debt inherited from his father. Factory smoke aggravates the eyes of his wife, Safia, and the water causes her stomach problems. But the family, who identify themselves as Christian, were all smiling as they looked forward to Christmas Day.

MOSQUITO NETS REDUCE RISK OF STILL-BIRTH IN LIBERIA

MOSQUITO NET – GIFT CODE OH5

When Lofa's first pregnancy resulted in a stillborn child, she was traumatised. She and her husband Kaidy experienced a range of emotions – disbelief, grief, anger and guilt. Jobless and living in a swampy area of Liberia, prone to malaria, they were struggling to get enough food to eat. Lofa was three months pregnant when she became ill with the mosquito-borne disease. "I visited a clinic for treatment and the doctors said I was short of blood," she says. "They told me the placenta was not functioning properly to nourish the baby in my womb." Not long after the diagnosis, Lofa's baby was born dead. For the young woman it was a very difficult time. "A few months after the loss, I imagined I felt my baby kicking inside me," she said. "At such times I was afraid that I was pregnant again and that the same thing would happen again." In November the young couple moved to Monrovia and were given two mosquito nets provided by Blythswood Care. Lofa says: "Now I am no longer afraid to become pregnant."



Now that she sleeps under a mosquito net, Lofa is no longer afraid to have a baby



: Romanian fireman Pavel Buzgau and his wife Alina have been encouraged to serve the church in new ways

PASTOR ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO USE THEIR TALENTS

HELP SUPPORT A PASTOR IN EASTERN EUROPE – GIFT CODE CL3

Ten years ago, firefighter Pavel had a job transfer to the town of Dej, Romania. He and his wife were Christians, who had already been involved in church youth activities. But with the encouragement of a pastor supported by Blythswood Care they have developed their talents in new areas of service in a local church. "Initially I invited Pavel to help me in the youth work in our church in Capulna," says Calin Morar who coordinates the

missionary work and projects of Blythswood's partner organisation, Elpis Foundation, as well as pastoring a small congregation. "His wife is a trained musician and I asked her to help with the music ministry in our church. At the same time I encouraged him to start preaching and sharing with the congregation from the Word of God." Although he did not believe that God was calling him to be a pastor, Pavel had a desire to study theology and Calin has given him every help and encouragement to do so. "I pointed out to him that he could study while still

working for the fire department," Calin says. "God would give him opportunities to listen to his colleagues and to offer them advice, based on Bible teaching." "Now by the grace of God he is in his final year of theological education by extension. He travels to college just four times a year, for a couple of days, while he continue to work at the fire station. His colleagues tease him and call him 'the reverend' but at the same time they look to him for counsel and advice." Calin Morar is one of eleven pastors in Eastern Europe to be supported in part by Blythswood Care.

From the Chief Executive

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



Significance – isn't that what we all look for in choosing a gift for someone we love?

The gifts you choose from Blythswood's Gift Catalogue are doubly significant, making a difference to the lives of vulnerable children and adults, and renewing your commitment to the goals you share with your friend or family member.

Your gifts provide **education**. At TK2 Jeni has found the learning support he needed to achieve literacy, numeracy and self-respect (see page 3). Matei's special needs are met at a very special school and summer camp where he can feel loved and accepted (page 2).

Your gifts nurture **community**. The Basis Project ensures that Maria goes to school each day with something to eat (page 5). A simple mosquito net has taken away Lofu's fear of bearing a pregnancy to full term (see page 6). A safe supply of drinking water eases the burden of woman like Durga (see page 4).

Your gifts spread the **gospel**. Firefighter Pavel has been helped to a fuller understanding of the Bible and now shares his faith with his colleagues at work (page 7).

Every day your gifts are transforming lives in ways both simple and profound. Thank you for supporting the work of Blythswood Care.

James Campbell - Chief Executive



Time for school: Maria's grandmother helps her on with her coat before she heads out into the snow.

Basis Project helps low-income families survive the Romanian winter (see page 5)

'Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Yes, I do want to provide Christian care for body and soul

Here is my donation of £.....

(please make cheques / CAF vouchers payable to Blythswood Care)

I am a taxpayer. Please send me a Gift Aid form ☐

If you can give us your email address, it will allow us to acknowledge your donation without incurring postage costs.

Your email:

Please send me information on:

- ☐ Gift Catalogue ☐ Leaving a legacy
☐ Volunteering for Blythswood ☐ Blythswood Care support groups
☐ Having a speaker at our church/club/school

We also accept donations by (please tick):

- ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ CAF ☐ Charity Card ☐ Switch/Maestro or online at www.blythswood.org

Card number

Start date

Expiry date

Issue no.

3 digit security number necessary

Name on card

Signature.....

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) First Name

Surname

Address.....

Town..... Country.....

Postcode..... Tel no.....

Please return completed form to:

Blythswood Care, Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire, IV16 9XJ

Tel: 01349 830777 • email: info@blythswood.org

Standing Order

This cancels any existing standing orders in favour of Blythswood Care or Blythswood Tract Society but will be in addition to any standing order for child sponsorship.

Please DO fill in all details including your name and address in the form opposite. You can find all the bank details we require in your cheque book.

From: (Full name of Account Holder)

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To:

Bank PLC:

Bank Address:

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Your Bank Account:

Your Sort Code: - -

From my account please pay £.....

Every ☐ Month ☐ Quarter Until further notice

Commencing:

Please pay Blythswood Care A/C No 00140261 Sort Code 80-08-84

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Date

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