



Why I'm a  
Life Transformer



Regular meals  
transform child who  
suffered malnutrition



Discovering what it  
means to help others  
at summer camp



# BLYTHSWOODNEWS

Number 69 Spring 2019

HELPING  
DISADVANTAGED  
CHILDREN DO  
WELL AT  
SCHOOL



Story on page 3



Lorimer

*“So simple but easy to do and another step in making a difference for someone with real needs.”*

## Why I’m a Life Transformer

**Lorimer Gray (founder of the Abernethy Centre and former chief executive of the Abernethy Trust) explains why he has committed to supporting Blythswood’s work by direct debit**

“It jumped out of the page when I read Blythswood Care’s supporter magazine. I could help by gifting an

amount each month.

So simple but easy to do and another step in making a difference for someone with real needs. Blythswood Care knows those who need help. I can respond by giving and praying specifically, plus I can encourage others to do the same. **Will you join me as a Blythswood Care Life Transformer?**”

**Will you give every month and transform a life? With a monthly gift, you can transform the life of someone like Maria.**

**Go online now: [www.blythswood.org/donate](http://www.blythswood.org/donate) or phone 01349 830777 and ask to chat to Mairi Ferrier.**

## Helping disadvantaged children do well at school

*Cover story*

**Learning for life, Romania – Gift code R2**

**An intelligent nine-year-old from a low-income family is developing new social skills at Talita Kum, Blythswood Care’s after-school programme in western Romania.**

“Maria is very smart and does her homework independently,” says Carmen Popa who helps to manage the programme. “She is good at maths, and loves to dance and to do crafts and colouring. She has a great memory and can learn to recite an entire poem in one day.

“Talita Kum has helped to improve her performance at school by teaching her how to relate to her classmates. She used to argue with other children and tell on them but now she gets along with everyone.”

School presents additional social challenges for children like Maria who belong to Jimbolia’s gypsy community. Their living conditions at



*Talita Kum provides a square meal, help with homework, access to hot showers, and a full cultural programme of music, art and drama for up to 40 children of primary school age. TK2 extends the programme to children at junior secondary, giving them the support they need to avoid dropping out of school.*

home are much poorer than average and their mother tongue is Romani rather than Romanian.

“The teachers and social workers help her by correcting her speech,” Carmen says. “When we

took her on summer camp, we could see that it was difficult for her to be away from her parents but after the first night she was quite happy. It was good experience for her to learn to enjoy a time away from home.”





*Blythwood's Daniel Centre provides young people like Cipri with mentoring and support*

## DANIEL CENTRE PREPARES QUICK LEARNER TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP

**Believing in young people, Romania – gift code R1**

**A young Romanian who spent six months working in the United Kingdom is being helped by Blythwood's Daniel Centre to establish an independent lifestyle in his native country.**

Cipri is blunt when asked why he chose to leave Barnsley where he worked in a warehouse. "I didn't like it," he

says. "People just went to the pub."

Learning to budget and handle money is one of the life skills taught at the Daniel Centre, and one that chimes with Cipri's desire to improve his own situation.

Since returning to the city of Cluj he has found a job in a well-known fast food outlet. After just three days of on-the-job training, he is working for

48 hours per week, cooking and serving.

Like many of the other boys who have passed through the Daniel Centre, Cipri was brought up in Romania's care system. He was just two when his stepfather left him at an orphanage. At three he was placed with a foster family who gave him a stable upbringing and who continue to play an important role in his life, welcoming him back for Christmas.

"The Daniel Centre caters for the individual needs of the current generation," says Balazs Csiszer, executive director of Blythwood Romania. "These have changed. Some kids still need intensive intervention. Cipri already had a broad range of life skills when he joined us last summer. We are training him to be more assertive."

"He also benefits from our low-rent accommodation. This is enabling him to save money."

Cipri's ambition is to go to college to study computer programming. There are job opportunities in information technology in Cluj, Romania's second city. Already he has proven himself to be a fast learner as he acquired a working knowledge of English in just six months. "When I went, I only knew one word," he says, when asked about his time in Yorkshire. What was that? "Okay".



## Sewing course enabled teenager to start her own business

*Loveness in her workshop: "I am able to pay the rent"*

**Sewing skills, Zimbabwe – Gift code DA4**

**An eight-month sewing course funded by Blythwood Care's gift catalogue has enabled a young woman in Zimbabwe to set up her own business.**

Loveness, now 19, had inherited a sewing machine from her mother, who is no longer well enough to use it, but she lacked the necessary skills to earn a living from it.

And her prospects of finding other employment were poor as unpaid school fees meant

she was unable to collect her 'O' Level qualifications.

"Loveness was still in primary school when her father passed away," says Stephen Damuputirai, director of Harare Shelter. "Her mother and brother did their best to support her and with their help she got as far as form 4."

"Someone told her about our free sewing course and she joined us last year, becoming one of our top ten graduates."

To take her photo for Blythwood News, Stephen

called at the small workstation which she rents in a Harare business centre. She told him:

"My life has changed as you can see. I am making uniforms for schools and am able to pay my rent."

"My aim is to open my own shop and to continue my education."

Stephen says: "We are pleased to see her progress in such a difficult business environment. She and our other graduates join me in thanking you for supporting the sewing course."



**"You could have passed Harry off as someone else's problem. But you didn't."**

**Fundraising manager Jamie McIntosh reports back on Blythswood's 2019 Family Appeal**

We recently told you Harry's story.

Harry isn't like other children. The flat where he lives with his Mum and Dad has no heating. There's no food in the cupboards. Harry feels very sad and very small. And he is small – he's just five years old.

You could have blamed Harry's Dad. But he struggles with mental health issues.

You could have blamed Harry's Mum. But she works and does

her best to provide for the family.

You could have passed Harry off as someone else's problem. But you didn't.

**You didn't blame Harry's parents. You didn't pass Harry off as someone else's responsibility.**

When Harry's Dad came to our Foodbank, he was uneasy. But when he sat down with a cup of coffee, he felt listened to – not judged. Things changed.

Harry's Dad left our Foodbank with food for three days. We gave him toys so Harry has something to play with. Harry's

Dad said, "I'm blown away that everyone here is so nice, and the food you've given me is such a help. I can't thank you enough."

We're amazed by the response to our Family Appeal, which will help children and families like Harry's. When someone turns to us for help, we can give emergency food, a listening ear and put them in touch with other support organisations.

**You could have blamed Harry's parents or passed him off as someone else's problem. You didn't. For that we want to truly thank you.**

**You can still donate to Blythswood's Family Appeal – go to [www.blythswood.org/harry](http://www.blythswood.org/harry)**

## VITAL HELP FOR FAMILY IN LOW WAGE HIGH RENT TRAP

**Fund a family, Eastern Europe – Gift code DA12**

**A monthly food parcel from Blythswood's Basis Project is a lifesaver for Liana as she struggles to provide for her two children.**

The family of three struggle to make ends meet as Liana works in a low-waged cleaning job but faces constant rent increases in Cluj, Romania's second city.

"We are witnessing a widening gap between rich and poor," says Basis worker Agnes Csiszer. "The ever-increasing cost of housing has become a real problem for people on low pay."

Working on the minimum wage, a full-time employee earns the equivalent of about £400 per month but takes



*Constant rent increases make life difficult for families like Liana's*

home only £245 after tax and deductions, while a basic studio flat commands rent of £200.

Liana's own childhood experience of being rejected by her mother and brought up by grandparents has left her fiercely protective of her own two children. She is divorced from their father, who makes no contribution for

their maintenance. "In this picture, Liana appears to have her eyes closed but really she is trying to hide her tears," Agnes says. "She really appreciates Blythswood's provision of food and clothes." The Basis Project provides basic foods such as rice, oil and flour to 30 low-income families in and around the city of more than 300,000 people.

### Our Fundraising Guarantee to you

Fundraising is the lifeblood of many charities. We could not fulfil our charitable mission without the support of generous, thoughtful and committed donors. We must balance our responsibility to the people we help, with our responsibility to donors.

That's why Blythswood Care has registered with the Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel - we've committed to its Fundraising Guarantee. This is not compulsory – it's a voluntary commitment to excellence in fundraising. Look out for the Fundraising Guarantee logo or go to: [www.goodfundraising.scot/fundraising-guarantee/](http://www.goodfundraising.scot/fundraising-guarantee/) to find out more.







Regular meals give the children at Dayspring the energy they need to study and play

*"Thanks to your support, these children are doing well."*

## Regular meals transform child who suffered malnutrition

### Feed forty children, India – Gift code OH4

**Aravind's father and mother were low-paid labourers, paid by the day with no promise of work tomorrow. They didn't have much, but they had enough to let their little boy attend the village school.**

But the day his father drowned, Aravind's life changed for ever. He could no longer go to school. With no regular income, his mother was unable to feed him properly and his health began to suffer.

"When his mother asked if we could take him in, he was weak and exhausted," says

Pastor Samuel Babu, who runs Dayspring House near Hyderabad with support from Blythswood Care.

Now, more than three years later, Aravind is a bright and energetic 11-year-old, who enjoys sports and who is doing well at school.

Regular and nutritious meals funded by Blythswood's gift catalogue have been an essential part of Aravind's transformation.

Breakfast consists of one of four dishes traditional to that part of India: upma (a savoury porridge made from semolina), idli (a savoury rice cake), khichdi (rice and lentils) or

pulihora (rice with tamarind). Lunch and dinner consist of rice and vegetables. Once a week the children eat chicken, and milk and eggs are also part of their diet.

"We have a cook who prepares food fresh and hot for the children every day," Samuel explains. "Thanks to your support, these children are doing well."

At present Dayspring House is home to 33 children aged from four to fifteen. From time to time Aravind visits his home village or his mother visits him at Dayspring. His ambition is to become a doctor.

## YOUR GIFTS BOOST DIET OF CHILDREN IN CARE



Children at Ilisua: a healthy diet is especially important for those who may have been exposed to tuberculosis

*"They have three meals and a snack every day, which is more than their parents could ever provide at home."*

### Bring them breakfast, Romania – Gift code DA5

**lasmina likes the mornings when there is milk and cereal for breakfast – especially when the cereal is chocolate flavour.**

The nine-year-old girl is one of 64 children currently being looked after at the state-run children's home in Ilisua in northern Transylvania.

Many have been removed from their families to protect them from exposure to tuberculosis. For children like these, nutrition is especially important.

"Six of lasmina's brothers and sisters are with her in the orphanage," says Teodora Morar who works for the Elpis Foundation, one of Blythswood's partner organisations in Romania.

"Their parents sent them there knowing they would get better care.

"They have three meals and a snack every day, which is more than their parents could

ever provide at home. "The manager and staff at Ilisua really appreciate all the help and financial support the home receives from Blythswood," Teodora says. "It helps them to offer the children better food, rich in vitamins, protein and calories. This is very important."







## JUST WHAT HE NEEDED

**Presented with a box of gifts from Blythswood's 2018 Shoe Box Appeal, a homeless man living on the streets of Sliven, Bulgaria, discovered items that were immediately useful to him.**

"Encho was overjoyed with the contents of his box," says Danny Muschate whose church in Inverness processes all the boxes for Bulgaria. "He was especially pleased with a tin mug that he can use to heat drinks on an open fire.

"He was also really delighted with a wind-up torch and with some new socks to keep himself warm. Without a doubt, this box was meant for him."

Blythswood's 2018 Shoe Box Appeal produced 107,073 boxes that were distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania,

Serbia and Ukraine.

Blythswood's chief executive James Campbell says: "I want to thank everyone who filled a shoebox for Blythswood and all the volunteers who helped us process the boxes. Your generosity brought joy to children and adults living in poverty."

*A tin mug is especially useful to homeless men like Encho*

## MOSQUITO NETS MEAN BETTER HEALTH FOR WHOLE FAMILY

**Mosquito net, Africa and Asia – Gift code OH5**

**Joshua is just one year old and insists on being held by his parents or his grandma all the time. And maybe that's understandable as the family of four have been living in a small make-shift tent since their home was completely washed away by the monsoon flood which hit the Indian state of Kerala last summer.**

"They live right beside the lake in Kumarakom," reports Sam Vadavana who delivered aid to the family in August. "It's a breeding ground for mosquitos and baby Joshua was frequently sick and irritated because of mosquito bites and the malarial infections that follow."

Sam explains that the young mother works as a housemaid and her husband as a fisherman. They could not afford to buy a mosquito net for themselves and as a result the baby was suffering.



*Mosquito nets are a life saver for flood-hit families at risk from insect-borne disease*

When Joshua's mother fell ill with dengue, another insect-borne disease, she was unable to work, and this further reduced the family's income.

"Blythswood provided this family with a mosquito net during the flood relief

operation, when the epidemic of diseases was at its worst," Sam says. "Similar provision by Blythswood has brought relief to many families like this. Joshua's mother is so happy to see the baby active and cheerful, sleeping better and with fewer episodes of sickness."





*Andreea volunteered to entertain the younger children at camp*

## DISCOVERING WHAT IT MEANS TO HELP OTHERS AT SUMMER CAMP

**Children's camps, Eastern Europe and Pakistan – Gift code SC2**

**One week at a summer camp for young people has given a 14-year-old girl the vision to volunteer and help others.**

Andreea was inspired by the example of the team of volunteers from a school in

West Lothian who helped run the camp Vladesei, a rural campsite in northwest Romania.

"Andreea participated in every activity," reports Teadora Morar who works for the Elpis Foundation. "She enjoyed the fellowship time in the morning, the Bible lessons and the games.



**95,000 children and young people given a much-needed**

**break away from home at camps (since 1992) valued at £1,950,000**

"When she learned there would be a camp for younger children the next week, she volunteered to come back. She did a great job as a helper and came back for a third camp with volunteers from Inverness and Dej."

Teadora says that Andreea's home situation does not give her much opportunity to interact and socialise with other children. "The first week at camp made a big impact on her life," she says. "As a result she had the opportunity of spending three weeks in the company of Christian people, hearing the gospel and seeing that there are different ways to have good fun. She discovered what it means to help others and to make herself available to meet their needs."

During the summer months, the Elpis campsite catered for about 80 children a day, giving young people like Andreea life-changing experiences.

*Your gifts through Blythwood's Gift Catalogue help broadcast gospel messages and health advice in Kirundi, French, Swahili and English, reaching listeners throughout Africa's Great Lakes Region*



**Broadcast the Bible, Burundi Congo Rwanda Tanzania – Gift code CL7**

**An early-morning Christian radio broadcast supported by Blythwood Care has been the means of saving a troubled marriage and providing domestic security for three young children.**

Nzoyisaba had been repeatedly unfaithful to his wife. Eventually she decided to take revenge by doing the same thing herself. Their home in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital city, became a very unhappy place and the aggrieved husband started drinking heavily.

The father of three children even visited a witch doctor, paying him to put a spell on his wife. When this seemed to have no effect, Nzoyisaba planned to take his own life.

It was only then that he started listening to a 5:30 am radio programme in his native Kirundi. Kanguka (Awake) is broadcast six days a week by Radio Ivyizigiro (Hope), a Christian radio station run by World Outreach Initiatives, Blythwood's partner in Burundi.

"The broadcast came just in time to save their home and marriage," says Delphine Ndayikeza who advises the organisation begun by her late husband in the 1990s. "After a few days of listening, he and his wife decided to repent together.

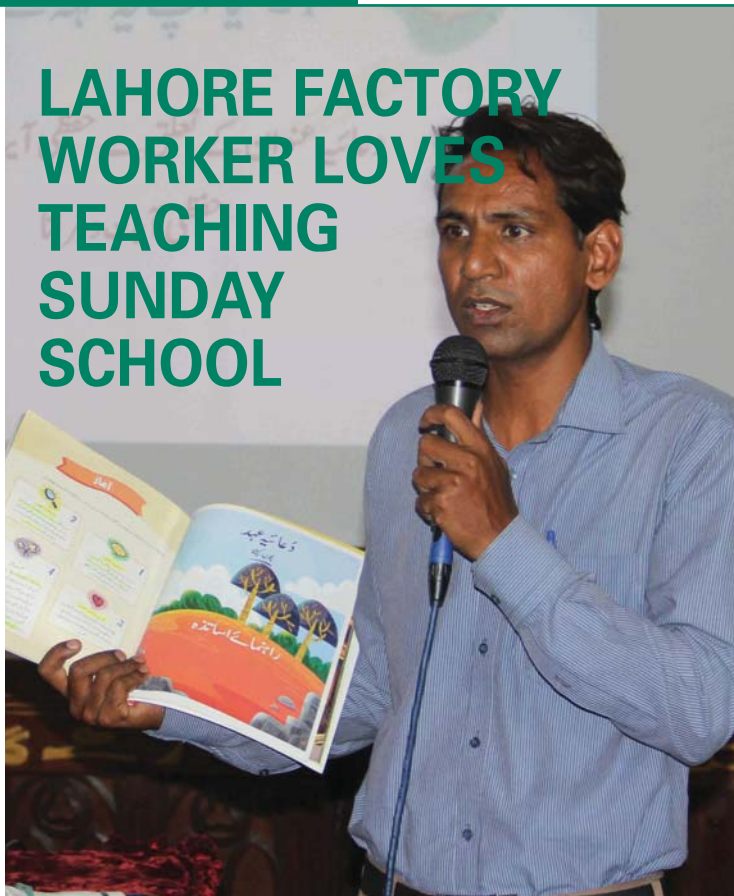
"They confessed their sins and they forgave each other. Now they have found new joy in living together. Glory be to God!"

Delphine adds that the children are aged ten, seven and four.

**'NEW JOY IN LIVING TOGETHER': GOSPEL BROADCAST TRANSFORMS TROUBLED MARRIAGE**



## LAHORE FACTORY WORKER LOVES TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL



*Jabran now trains others to teach Sunday School*

### Train a Sunday School teacher, Pakistan – Gift code CL5

**When Jabran's six-year-old daughter came home with a Bible story book, the factory worker loved it. He read it to his little girl again and again and wondered where he could find more books like it. A pastor told him about training for children's workers available in his area and he decided to join the course.**

"His reason for coming was really to get more books for his own children," says Sohail, who organises the programme for Sunday School teachers, run by Blythswood's partner organisation in Pakistan. "But God set him on a new direction.

"He became Sunday School teacher in his own church, and then a trainer of other teachers. Now he is not just helping his own children but is a blessing to 21 churches in his area.

"His passion for this work is increasing every day."

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD REACHES ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE

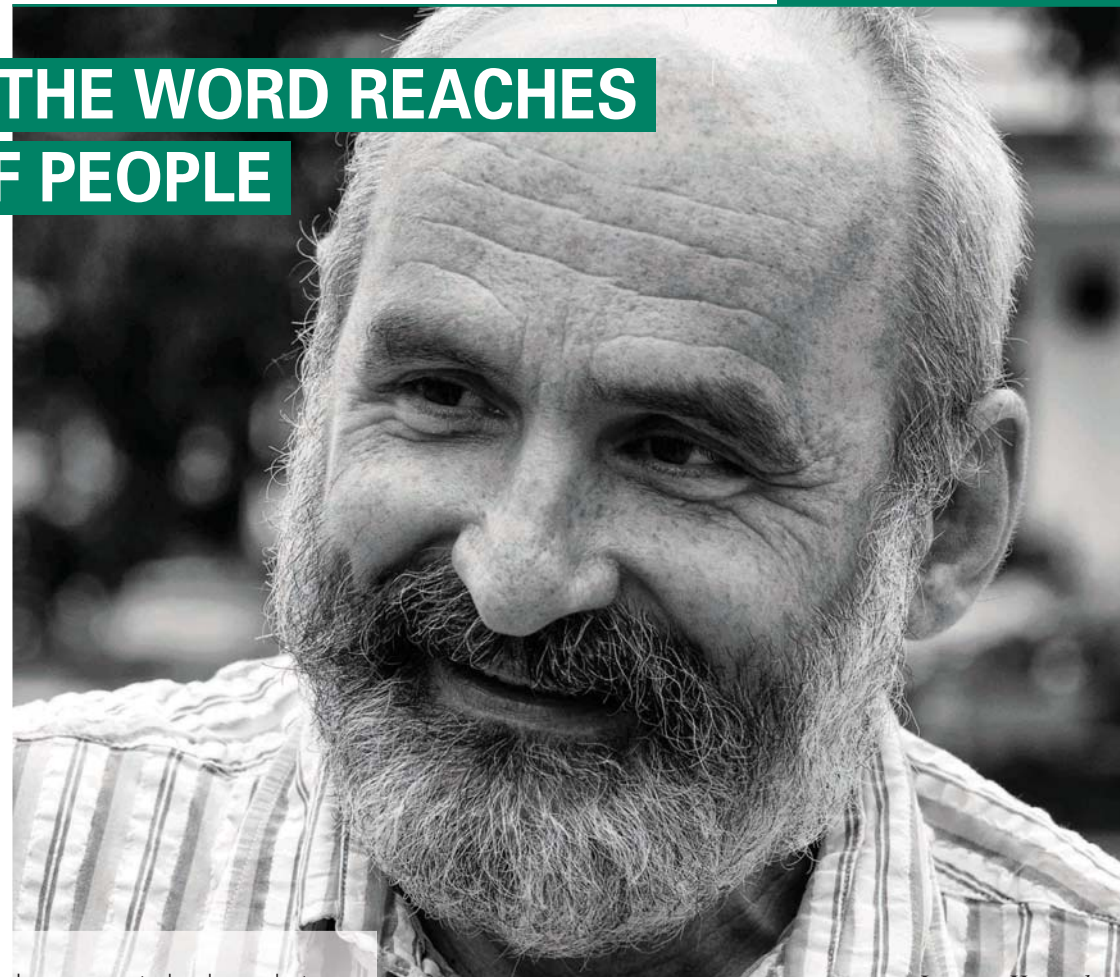
Maintain a ministry,  
Eastern Europe –  
Gift code PS1

**Blythswood Care supports the ministry of several Christian workers in former communist countries. Rev Levente Horvath outlines his wide-ranging work in Transylvania, Romania.**

Once a week I visit Bonus Pastor Foundation's therapy centre in the remote village of Ozd to give pastoral counsel to those going through the course for men with harmful addictions. Sometimes I spend hours with just two or three clients. I also run a Bible study for them usually on a Wednesday.

Back in Cluj I run a support group for recovered addicts and their family members. We take a book of the Bible and see how it applies to addiction co-dependency. Sometimes it's best to have separate groups, one for former addicts and another for co-dependent spouses or other family members.

In my denomination [the Hungarian Reformed Church] I undertake pastoral counselling for pastors who are going through difficult times. I do this as part of a team of 23 pastors and professionals who are able to offer help.



*Levente Horvath*

I am eager to lead people to Christ and I am eager to disciple them too. And I find it's mutual: they are also discipling me. Our discipleship course is called the Kinship course. To be adopted as a son of our Father is a vertical relationship but the horizontal relationships have to be sorted out as well, with our kin in the great Family of God. It's not just for addicts but for every member of the church who wants to grow in following Christ.

I teach missiology to post-graduate students at the Hungarian Reformed Theological Seminary in Cluj,

and also to anyone considering a call to ministry among addicts and their families. In this connection I'm grateful to Blythswood for supporting me while I was a student at Highland Theological Seminary in Scotland and at the University of Wales. In retrospect I can see now how much that laid the foundations for me to become a visionary and how it empowered me to train and equip others in missional work and mercy ministries among poor people.

This morning when I read "In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy" (1 Peter 3:15) I

realised that a mature Christian does not draw attention to himself but waits for the appearance of his Lord. "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:3,4)

*Once a year Levente runs the Kinship course in English for international participants. For more information go to [kinshipcourse.wordpress.com](http://kinshipcourse.wordpress.com).*



# Your gifts are helping to transform lives

**It's natural to want the best for your own children. Jabran wanted to get good books for his daughter. You can read on page 14 how God used that desire to train him to be a Sunday school teacher – and one who now trains others. Your gifts support this training.**

the gospel. How amazing is the grace of our Lord and Saviour to all who seek him.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*



**James Campbell**  
Chief Executive

Education is one key objective of Blythswood Care. Helping the poor in our communities is another. Discover how Agnes helps some of the poorest families in Romania with your gifts to Blythswood's Basis project (page 7).

Conflict in families is heart-breaking. Nzoyisaba was suicidal before he and his estranged wife heard a gospel message that transformed their home and their hearts (see page 13). Your gifts paid for that gospel radio broadcast.

Stories in this issue of Blythswood News demonstrate how lives are being changed – by education, yes, and by community projects too, but ultimately by



*Mosquito nets were a vital component of aid given to flood-hit villagers in Kerala last summer (see page 11)*

**Blythswood Care, Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire IV16 9XJ**  
**Tel. 01349 830777 [info@blythswood.org](mailto:info@blythswood.org) [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org)**

Blythswood Care is registered with and regulated by Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR): SC048001 and a company limited by guarantee: 583493. Registered under Data Protection no. Z7689978. Blythswood Care is a member of the Evangelical Alliance. Printed on paper manufactured from sustainably managed forestry, using vegetable based ink. Please pass it on once you have read it, or recycle it. Blythswood aims for good stewardship of God's earth and reflects this in the selection and disposal of all materials used in the organisation's business.

