

# WHITE CROSS MISSION

A Charitable Trust Registered in England No 1021176



Dear Friends

Spring 2004

52 Gwel-an-nans, Probus,  
Cornwall TR2 4ND

Many of you have asked that we produce this in a larger font in order that those who have reduced sight may be better able to read it. I hope that this is large and clear enough. Please let me know if you still have difficulties.

So much has happened since our last newsletter that I'm not too sure where, exactly, to start.

Perhaps I'd better start by explaining why it's been so long since the last one - blame our youngest daughter - again! She had *another* premature baby in October! Jessica has progressed in leaps and bounds and is almost the same weight as older sister, 19 month old Zara (our tiny miracle baby). As Louise was so very ill this time I spent a great deal of my time looking after Zara. Not a hardship for me I can assure you. Pat, too, has a new grandson. Yan Carlos was born last August to Philip and his beautiful Cuban wife, Leydi. Pat also enjoys a lot of time with Yan. Our own happy families make us more determined to ensure that our Romanian children have a happy home life too.

We were very fortunate, last November, to have the opportunity to purchase a Ford Transit van from one of Pat's parishioners

at well below the going rate. Thanks to our dear friends in Paignton we had sufficient funds just at the right moment. With a few additions we have been able to convert this to a suitable minibus. It was such a coincidence that, as Jeff and I were on our way home to Cornwall from Newton Abbot in Devon, after purchasing a good set of coach seats for the bus, we stopped for a cup of tea at a well-known Garden Centre just outside Plymouth, & bumped into the dear couple who had donated the money for the purchase of the bus! (Thank you S&BF) We had a few more windows installed and a searchlight on the roof, that really came into its own as we climbed the mountain from Borod to Remeti. This was aimed at the right hand edge of the road, which has no markings or lighting thus ensuring that we steered clear of the sheer drops along the route.

I am pleased to report that our subsequent trip to Romania in this bus was a real success.

Liz, Jeff and I left Cornwall on a blustery Wednesday morning in late February. Our main cargo was the 50 metre (or it may have been 60 - I wasn't going to unfurl it to measure!) of good quality polythene, destined for Casa David. This will be the largest polytunnel in the area, and we are more than hopeful of being ahead of the market with tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines etc.

It was with some trepidation that I decided not to bother with the usual paperwork, as I had been reliably informed that Romania

Andrea (L) & Ramona, of  
Casa Trandafir



***It is with great sorrow that, as I write this, I have been told of the death of a very dear supporter.***

***Steve Freer of Paignton, Devon, leaves a legacy of love and commitment.***

***Our love and prayers go to Bett and their family.***

***He was ready when his Master called.***



that the article had been published just a couple of weeks prior to our visit. At this point I would like to welcome all those, who responded as a result of that article, to the White Cross family & say that if you haven't yet had a thank you for your help you will do so soon. The response has been overwhelming.

We really now have to concentrate on making these farm homes self-sufficient. Our biggest asset so far has been the tractor. But, with the amount of land we have on our combined farms, we need a lot more equipment. The largest and most expensive of which is a combine harvester - around £25,000 for a used one purchased in Romania. We also need smaller items, such as a mechanical rake, with much lower purchase prices.

When we visited Casa Sf Nicolae we were thrilled to see that Popa had purchased a small electric mill. Since then we have received a single donation, as the result of the article in the Daily Mail Weekend magazine, that has enabled us to purchase a similar mill for each of our farm homes. Thank you so much L&GB.

The most difficult part of returning from Romania is deciding which of our children to concentrate on when writing a newsletter. This time I really feel that it must be Craciun. His ears are really so bad that we must now treat it as an emergency. It is just our luck that, as we need to obtain a medical visa for Craciun to come to UK, all the problems with forged documents are now in the news every day & the British Embassy in Bucharest has stopped issuing all visas for Romanians. Perhaps we can persuade a surgeon from UK to go to Romania - we will do our utmost to commandeer an operating theatre there for the purpose!

Romania has joined NATO. What that means in real terms I'm not sure - I suppose we are no longer at threat from a nuclear attack from the East. Romania hopes to join the European Union in 2007. Dr Mariana doesn't think that they

will ever be ready to comply with, for example, the strict health and safety regulations that are presently law in member countries.

In our last newsletter we told you about the Lada that we bought to make our trips up and down the mountains easier. In September Pat, Jeff and I drove over the mountains to Baia Mare and back. In our Russian made Lada, with smoke billowing from the exhaust, we felt really Romanian. However, as we approached the Bihorean mountains we seemed to lose power, and the brakes seemed not to want to respond. Typical, we thought. We'll leave it to Popa to sort out. And he did. Oh, yes, another new word for me, this time in Romanian - the Romanian for exhaust is *toba!* But, during this last visit, after a half day's drive the same thing happened again! Jeff thinks that it may be the carburettor - so we hope that the problem will be resolved before any of us needs to use the Lada again!

Wishing you the blessings, joy and hope of the Easter season.

*Jenny*

*The mill at Casa Sf Nicolae. As you read this, one will be installed at the other four farm homes thanks to L&GB.*



### **WHITE CROSS SPEAKERS**

If you belong to an organisation, such as a Rotary Club, or church that would like to know more about the work of the White Cross Mission please let us know. It may be possible for us to arrange a speaker to come along and give you a personal account of our work.

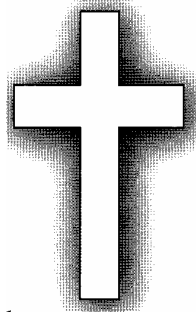
If you are outside the county of Cornwall we may be able to arrange for a former volunteer from your area to come to talk to you.

Alternatively, a Trustee or Director is always willing to talk to anyone who will listen!

## ORDER OF SÂN LAZAR

Thank you to all who came to the inauguration service at St Enoder Church on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The sense of family and fellowship was so real. Bishop Bill Ind, Bishop of Truro and White Cross patron welcomed all present and affirmed the commitment to prayer that was being made by everyone.

This order exists to bind all our many friends together, so that our prayers may be better directed and will cover the children and workers with a mantle of protection. Finding ways to lead these children, once incarcerated in the *Cemetery of the Living Dead*, into a life full of light and overflowing with love is difficult. To paraphrase the words of Jesus, we believe that '*This can only be done by prayer.*' (Mark 9.20)



If you would like to join the Order of Sân Lazar please sign and date the following commitment & return, with your £10 (to cover cost of prayer card, badge & first year's newsletters) to the address on the front page

Tel: 01726 884344

Email: [wcm@whitecross.org.uk](mailto:wcm@whitecross.org.uk)

[www.whitecross.org.uk](http://www.whitecross.org.uk)

If you need further details before making the commitment, please contact this office.

### **A COMMITMENT**

- I commit myself in the service of God, to remember in prayer all the children of the world who are frightened, hungry or in any kind of distress.
- I undertake to remember in my prayers the work of the White Cross Mission, its workers and the children in its care.
- I promise to support the work of the White Cross Mission as it strives to bring hope and create opportunities for the children damaged by years of imprisonment and neglect.
- In all of this I seek the strength of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who put his arms around the little children and said 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'  
(Mark 10.14)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ £10 enclosed

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO YOU PAY UK TAX?** If yes, you can add 28% to your gift by ticking this box

*I want White Cross Mission to treat all donations I make as Gift Aid donations until further notice.*

Please print full name: \_\_\_\_\_