

DAMASCUS

NEWSLINE 4.09

How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?

Romans 10:14-15

'Let's phone him now!' said Adrian who is always ready to seize the moment. We were driving out of Emmanuel University on the outskirts of Oradea, Romania, aware that the Lord was opening doors for us. So we pulled over and Andy dug out the business card, handed it to Adrian and he called the number.

We had just met with John Popoviciu who is a senior lecturer at the University and is responsible for the Social Assistance department. We'd shared the idea of running a course for students that gave

them some insight into prison ministry and the needs of prisoners there in Romania. This idea had grown out of a previous visit that Andy had made in the spring of 09 with Chris Knight, chaplain of Lowdham Grange prison. We had visited the prison in Oradea as well as met with the prison visiting team led by Sister Florida. As we shared with Brother John, his enthusiastic response was followed by the suggestion to phone Gabriel, the

(Continued on page 3)

Below: (r to l) Adrian Giorgiov, Andy, Pastor John and his son-in-law, Zoltan outside the newly built Gypsy Baptist church in Oradea.



Dear Friends,


I know this is a busy time of the year, so I hope this edition of NewsLine provides you with an excuse to have a drink, sit down and share in the joys and encouragements of all that the Lord has been doing over the last few months.

When a few of us stepped out in faith nearly twenty years ago, we did not know quite where the Lord would lead us or what he would give us to do. Now as I edit this NewsLine I am amazed at how gracious the Lord has been and how he has given us so many opportunities to serve him. Where we are now is a long way from where we started.

Each of you has been involved with our work for all or some of those years either through prayer, gifts or on a team and we thank the Lord for all of you.

But most of all we thank the Lord Jesus. As the apostle Paul said to the Athenians *'In him we live and move and have our being'*, and without him none of this would have happened.

So as we move out of one year and into another, we're looking to do even more as the Lord enables us, trusting him to provide for all our needs. We'll be delighted to have you come with us!

Your friend, 

News Updates:

SAP & SAC programmes

By way of an update and an encouragement, we are now supporting 11 children cared for by PTSM Children's Home and 30 pastors through our partners in India and Rwanda. As you may expect, more support is needed, so if you would like to share in this particular aspect of our ministry (for as little as £25 per month) please get in touch with our office or check out details on our web-site. Ω

New Farm Chapel is an independent fellowship based in New Alresford, Hants. This is a recent contact and plans are to run The Growing Church teaching series down there next spring. The hope is that after the teaching and the small group sessions, the Church will be ready to get out into the community to share the Gospel of Jesus. Please pray for our involvement with them. Ω

Andy has recorded the Christmas message for the weekly **Bringing A Message** broadcast sponsored by BAM Gospel Trust. This will go out on 26th and 27th December to various parts of the world. Please pray for it to be effective. To find out more, or to listen to the message, go to www.bringing-a-message.org and click on 'Listen Again'. Ω



Helpful abbreviations: DT = Damascus Trust; CRC = Christian Renewal Church; PTSM = Plenty To Share Ministries; SAP = Support A Pastor; CRBS = Christian Renewal Bible School; SAC = Support A Child; EDoB = Episcopalian Diocese of Byumba; ITM = International Teaching Ministries; BAM = By All Means (Gospel Trust).

(Continued from page 1)

Head of Education at Oradea prison, to see if we could meet with him whilst we were visiting Romania.



Right: Adrian and Andy with Gabriel.



Although he didn't know we were in Romania, Gabriel, was both pleased to hear from us and keen to meet up. We managed to sort out a time and as we talked, Gabriel said that he was very keen to develop this idea. He also said that the prison governor had asked if we could visit the prison on the Monday. With some adjustments we managed to find an hour and spent a very profitable time with the governor, Gabriel and the prison chaplain discussing possible collaborations.

Please pray with us as we consider a return visit next spring to run a week's intensive course for the students as well as developing our links with the prison.

Far right: Adrian, John Popoviciu, and Andy outside the University buildings.

Over the four days we were in Romania, Andy and Mark Needham (who was on the team to Rwanda) led teaching times with students from the University

as well as some local Baptist pastors. We also did a brief radio broadcast on the Monday and discussed the possibilities of translating some of our booklets (& those of BAM) for broadcast.

A year ago we visited the Gypsy Church in Oradea. The building was not finished but the Church was growing. When we went back this time, the building was complete and in July they baptised 61 new believers! Back in January they had some 300 new converts, though only around 200 went through the discipleship course. However there is a real move of God amongst the Gypsies and it was good to share with Pastor John, his son and son-in-law. One idea we shared was to produce a CD/



DVD with songs and testimonies for distribution amongst the Gypsy community as an evangelistic tool.

We also spoke about the need for a teaching conference for church leaders. The gypsy community is somewhat isolated. Pastor John is the only full-time pastor for the Gypsy Church in the country. New leaders are emerging but with such a fast-growing Church, the need for good leaders is critical. Pastor John told us that he has been praying for someone to come and help run a two-day conference. It may just be that we can be an answer to prayer!

John reckons that there might be as many as 200 leaders who would come together, so please pray with us about this for next spring.

It was good to spend time with some of the Baptist Pastors on the Monday. Andy shared some teaching on the commission of Jesus in Matt 28. It seems that they would appreciate further teaching conferences. Again we ask for your prayers. Ω



Plenty To Share Ministry - India

At the end of October, a DT team visited our partners in India. The team was Robin and Hilary Swan and Pete and Heather Ellis. They spent two weeks with Plenty To Share Ministry visiting pastors supported through our SAP programme, spending time with the children who are supported through the SAC programme, as well as various other practical jobs. Pete and Heather share their reflections.

First, it's Heather.

'Once again we were very excited as we flew out from Heathrow, looking forward to catching up with our friends in India. Sam and his family in Chennai, Raju and Victoria and their children at Plenty To Share Ministry. We were also eager to meet the children that were now living in the PTSM extended home with them. As usual faithful Sam turned up to collect us from the airport in the early hours, smiling and looking after our every need. We stayed at our usual 'hotel' so no change there.

Our next trip was the overnight train from Chennai to Rajahmundry, again catching up with old friends on route (cockroaches and mice). This is where we missed Andy and his unique sense of humour!! Once we arrived at Rajahmundry and were collected by Raju at the

Far left:
Inside the
new Gypsy
Church
building.

station we hit the road running and didn't stop until we arrived back in England.

Mission accomplished for one more year!

We started with a very quick breakfast of omelette and chapattis and were encouraged to eat quickly as church was waiting. Also that day we attended two baptisms. In fact during our stay there were four baptisms, one wedding, a dedication of a new church building, nine filmed interviews with sponsored pastors, eleven filmed interviews with sponsored children, three visits to villages where we went from house to house praying for people, not forgetting the one day healthcare seminar which Hilary and I led. We had already prepared this together in the UK only to be asked on our arrival to include three extra subjects. In total eighty women and fifteen men attended and it was great.

Right: Moments from the Health Seminar.

Hilary shows how to use a nit comb on Heather.

Pastors' wives learn bandaging techniques.

Heather teaches the recovery position.

Bags with medical supplies wait to be handed out to the delegates.

The men serve the women with food!

Whilst the seminar was in progress, Peter and Robin were busy fitting a new water tank on the roof of the main building, as well as being Santa's little helpers - filling bags for the seminar delegates with various health /first aid goodies for them to take away. They also had to go and buy them first. Raju seemed very tired to us and on the day of the seminar had to attend a funeral of one of his pastors who died very suddenly.

It was a very busy trip with lots of work, laughs, blessings and great company.





when floods destroy their homes and crops, was a challenge to our faith.

Helping with practical things included putting a new water tank on the roof of the PTSM building to increase the capacity of water storage. With a busier campus, extra water is needed and with daily power cuts, the extra tank will help. We also supplied one church congregation with enough rice for a month because their local harvest was late and so they had nothing to eat. This is how critical things can get. The visits to the

Far left:
The opening of a new church building in the village of Kothakota.

And now from Pete:

'Yes, another visit to India and I was looking forward to meeting our friends again at PTSM. This year I wanted to be able to be involved more, and thanks to Andy this was made possible. One of my main responsibilities was to video interviews with each of the pastors and their families who are supported by the Damascus Trust SAP programme. Seeing what God is doing in their lives and hearing how their faith in the Lord Jesus keeps them going through the hard times such as



Left:
Job done!
The new water tank, on the left, in place and linked with the old tank.

To respond in any way you can either go to the 'Contact Us' page on our web-

I enclose a gift of £ _____ towards the work of The Damascus Trust to be used
 In India In Romania In Rwanda In the UK Wherever it is needed most. (please make cheques payable to **Damascus Trust**)
 I would like my gift to benefit from Gift Aid. Please send me the necessary forms.

Please send me further details about:

- Bible teaching series
- Support A Child
- Keep It Simple (Outreach)
- Support A Pastor

Teaching CDs:

- Please send me (____) set/s of Heaven & Hell.
- Please send me (____) set/s of Called to be Holy.
- Please send me (____) set/s of When Jesus Returns.
- Please send me (____) set/s of The Growing Church

(all CDs cost £16 a set including teaching notes. Please enclose cheques with orders payable to 'Damascus Trust')

Far right:
Children
from the
PTSM home
in their new
clothes.

village and branch churches were amazing; the believers really know how to praise the Lord, they were such a blessing to us.

The children at PTSM are a joy to see; well-behaved and well looked after by Revd Raju and his wife Victoria. They look great in their school uniforms, they are happy, and the love of the Lord is so evident in their lives.'



Raju's congregation was taken into hospital. Soon after the team got back we received this email from Raju.



Right:
The PTSM
children
making rag
dolls.

So it's a big thank you to Robin, Hilary, Pete and Heather for going out to India yet again.

Whilst the team were in India, one of the active members of

Mr. John Babu, who was driver died on 23rd November in the hospital with AIDS, we lost a faithful young man in our ministry, a good church member, I gave him Baptism in 1st January 2007. We are very much sad about his death. I lost a great help and service minded man in my work, he was such a faithful man. On 24th November, morning I conducted his burial

(Continued on page 8)

ite; send an email; phone our office or use the form below.

Booklets: Please send me a free copy of :

either Think & Respond **or** Promises of Revelation **or** Questions Jesus Asked

To RECEIVE NEWS-LINE & PRAYER DIARY BY EMAIL - please email us at info@damascustrust.org

To help us keep our records up to date and to save administrative costs, please let us know if you no longer want to receive 'News-Line' and / or the 'Prayer Diary'

Surname (Rev/Mr/Mrs/Miss): _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Post to: The Damascus Trust, 51 Clockhouse Way, Braintree, Essex. CM7 3RD

service. While I was conducting his burial service I bitterly wept. Please pray for his wife and two small children.



We had got to know Babu very well over the years and saw him grow as a disciple of Christ. He was their main driver as well as a help with practical things around the campus. He will be greatly missed.

Then more recently we had news of four more baptisms including the wife of an influential upper caste business man. He had already come to Christ but his wife was still a Hindu. However, whilst the team were in India his wife, Mrs Suryavathi, had attended one of the meetings. Soon afterwards, she accepted Christ as her Saviour and has now been baptised.

We praise the Lord for the way he steadily draws people to himself. Please pray for the ongoing witness of our pastors and their families. Ω

(Continued from page 9)

Bible Readathon in Cleveland

prayed and “reminded the Lord about the loaves and fishes” and the meal stretched comfortably to feed all 61!

We believe the Lord challenged us to be obedient – and having obeyed, we have been wonderfully blessed. In declaring our faith and the message of hope that God’s word offers to all. Two Churches have been brought closer together and we have all been touched in a very personal way by God’s love.

**Left:
John Babu
with Raju’s
son John at
PTSM
campus.**

It was hard work, but it was the most exciting and rewarding project I have ever been involved in. It will be a long time before the “buzz” dies down – and even longer before the ripples created cease to be felt in our Church and in our community.

Anyway, we couldn't have done it without you, so from the bottom of my heart, a very sincere thank you for your help!

Well done Christ Church, Eston and St George’s, Normanby! Ω

If you would like to run a Bible Readathon or find out more about it, then please get in touch with our office. Our Readathon CD gives you all the help you need to run a successful event.

Bible Readathon in Cleveland.

Back in August a lady from Cleveland asked us for help with running a Bible Readathon - cover to cover, non-stop, out loud. The rector of her church knows Andy and suggested she contact us, knowing that we had done one already. So we sent Carol our Bible Readathon CD and waited.

Then this last week we received this email from Carol.

Just wanted to let you know that we have completed the Readathon! Ran it last week and my whole Church is still absolutely buzzing!! In my previous job I was involved in some pretty high profile events but nothing as spectacularly awesome as the Readathon. God really blessed our efforts and so many of those involved.

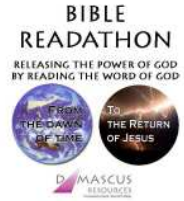
I am very grateful for all the help we received from Damascus Trust.

Starting with a launch event, St



Right: People join together to read out loud at the Bible Readathon.

George's Church positively hummed with the sense that something really special was happening! For 75 hours, individuals, groups, school classes took turns to read the Bible aloud from start to finish.



We gave every participant a small card - personally signed - and invited them to the finale which was to come together for the final readings followed by a short service of communion and a supper; Julian (the rector) and I had agreed that we would ask the whole Church to join in reading the final chapter, Revelation 22 and it was awesome!

The project caught the imagination of our Church, the media and local people. It touched the lives and hearts of so many who took part.

Testimonies given in Church on the following Sunday included stories of how people had been challenged to reconnect with the Church, how the Bible had become more alive to them, how God had spoken into their lives and situations through passages that they heard, even passages with which they were familiar. Our catering team told how they were faced with 61 people for a supper intended for 40 – they

(Continued on page 8)

Jarratt's Journal



Hola from the Lozoya valley in central Spain, where last week it was 30c and today it's - snowing. All part of living at 1,000 metres high!

We've been here in Alameda del Valle at the Christian retreat centre 'Cascadas' since mid-September. Before explaining what we've been involved in, we want to highlight some encouraging answers to prayers.

Firstly, we had tenants move into our house in Braintree in mid-November which both helps with the finances and means that the house will not be empty and deteriorating during the colder months.

Secondly, Emma's Spanish language classes are going well, and best of all she really enjoys her twice-weekly lessons with lively teacher, Javier, and classmates from all round the world.

Finally, we are thankful that Joseph has been allowed a place in the excellent nursery in the nearest town. There is a strong emphasis in Spain on pre-school nursery education and his teacher, Nuria, is professional and kind. These are just some examples of how God has answered our prayers, so thank

you for supporting us in that way.

Since September we have quickly become involved in a number of things. Work at Centro Cascadas is a mixture of routine caretaking of the three buildings and grounds and a number of larger projects like laying a path, re-painting one of the buildings and building a composting system. When visitors are using the centre we look after them as much or as little as they need, and are available to talk, walk and pray with them. Next weekend we have a special 'open house' event, which will include walks, Bible study, songs and chat in English for those who are learning the language, and time around the log fire in the evening. We are also planning a social event for the older generation of the village, some of whom are survivors of the Spanish civil war years, and who have painful yet important stories to tell.

As an extension of the ministry here we meet every Monday evening with a group of eight or so believers in a town half an hour's drive away. Jon has led worship for them with guitar, as they previously had no accompaniment, and has also led some Bible studies with them. It's good to have this fellowship! Some of these new friends have visited us for lunch in Alameda, and we have learned more about how they came to know Jesus as saviour. We also learn about the

struggles they face, particularly in the present economic climate where immigrants are even less likely to be hired for work, and when they have a job it's completely insecure.

Recently through nursery Emma has made contact with a family who are both Roman Catholic and evangelical in their theology. They say they represent a modern form of Jesuit expression; they have no priest, but meet to study the Bible together as a home group in the local town. We've not encountered this before, and it's great to be involved with Paco, Tania and their family. We look forward to finding out more about them and their faith in God.

What's happening next? We will be back in the UK from 14 - 28 December, and then back to Spain for a few days of Bible distribution and mission in Teruel province (north-eastern Spain), then back to Cascadas until the end of March. At that point we will move down to Andalucía to begin work with the various churches of Fellowship of the King. For starters, we'll be helping to lead a brand new church group made of a few Spanish families. There will also be teaching and pastoral work across other churches, and work with a large Spanish and immigrant youth group in Salobreña. We will also continue to build relationships with our neighbours in Guajar Fondon,

the village where we'll live.

So, following the rush of preparing to leave the UK, and the ups and downs of adjusting to a new culture here, this autumn has been a good one in Spain. We have enjoyed visits from both sets of parents (Joe really enjoyed seeing all his grandparents!), have had some lovely weather and opportunities for recreation in beautiful mountain surroundings.

Please pray for:

- The small and dispersed groups of Spanish and immigrant Christians
- The development of meaningful relationships between the Catholic Church and Evangelical Christian groups.
- That we would continue to make a positive difference at Cascadas, and that we would hear from the Lord more about the shape of future ministry with Fellowship of the King.

Thank you for your prayers!

Jon + Emma

Jon, Emma
and
Joseph

Ephesians
3:20-21



Right:
Jon, David
Jarratt, Juan
Angel (local
Christian
worker), Jo
and Emma.

Think about it - respond to it

May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him. Hebrews 13:20-21

These words are taken from the benediction at the end of Hebrews. The main theme of Hebrews is the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ and his sacrifice for sin. Now the writer concludes by making all that God has done through Christ relevant for the individual.

First, God is the 'God of peace'. We have turned away from him. We have gone our own way. We have become enemies of God. Yet through the death of Christ, God has made it possible for us to be reconciled with him. Through Christ we can have peace with God and forgiveness for sin.

Next, this God of peace wants the very best for us. 'Equip you with everything good...' This could be understood as if God is giving us a whole load of tools that we have to then sort out and use. It is better translated as 'make you perfect (complete) in everything good.' This is the work of God in our lives. It's not

about us being the best that we can be for God (we'll never get there). God wants us to be the best that *he* can make us! Our part is to let him.

Then this 'perfecting' in us is for two purposes. The first is that we might do his will. When God first made Man it was for Man to do his will - not as robots, but in a loving partnership. That partnership can be restored through Christ and we can be involved in God's eternal plan, fulfilling his will in our daily lives. Romans 12:1-2 reiterates this reality.

The second purpose is that our lives might be the means of God bringing glory to himself. As our lives are transformed into his likeness, not only is this a witness to the power of God in us, but it is 'well pleasing' to God. He delights in us as his children when he sees us becoming the best that he can make us. Ready for a new heaven and earth, the home of righteousness.

Keep going, keep living, keep letting God have his way in your life. Ω

Damascus Trust was established in 1990 to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people everywhere. It aims to enthuse local Christians in their love for Jesus, enable the local Church to reach out into the community and seeks to establish evangelism as an ongoing aspect of Church life. As a charitable trust, the Damascus Trust relies on gifts and donations. All gifts from those paying tax can benefit the Trust by using Gift Aid for both one-off or regular donations. For more information, please request the leaflet 'Four Ways to Give'.

Bank details:
Lloyds/TSB
(Leamington Spa) Sort
Code: 30-94-
93 Acc.
number:
7425352

THE DAMASCUS TRUST
51 CLOCKHOUSE WAY
BRAINTREE ESSEX CM7 3RD

T/F +44 (0) 1376 342 529
E INFO@DAMASCUSTRUST.ORG
W WWW.DAMASCUSTRUST.ORG

DIRECTOR
ANDY PAINE

THE DAMASCUS TRUST
IS A REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER 1013236

