

Thank Offering Day

Sunday 22 April 2018

The Thank Offering day is always one of the great highlights in the WBC year. Personally, I love it, because it is all about generosity that reaches out to others.

No matter what the financial needs of the church happen to be each year, there is this one specific offering that expresses the sacrificial giving of the WBC family as we identify with mission work in the UK and overseas.

Proverbs 11.25 says *'Anyone who generously blesses others will be generously blessed. And when you refresh others, you will be refreshed yourself.'*

This is a great promise of blessing that is attached to faithful giving. As you bless others generously, you will be blessed.

Psalms 37.21 indicates how *'the righteous give generously'*. Generosity is not a one-off act but a lifestyle of generosity that impacts others through all we say and do.

wbc-ashford.org.uk

In fact, there are more promises in the Bible about giving than any other subject. Jesus talked more about giving than about the love of God. In **Luke 6:38** in the Message translation Jesus says *'Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting is the way. Generosity begets generosity.'*

I am writing this leaflet during Holy Week - the week where the generosity of God in the Lord Jesus is profoundly seen and can be gloriously experienced. As John 3.16 declares: *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.*

God wants his children to be faithful joy filled givers. Such giving delights the heart of our Father God.

It was C.S. Lewis who defined Christianity as 'a kind of giving'.

Easter celebrates our giving God. As Paul declares in 2 Cor 9.15 *'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!'*

On **Sunday 22nd April** we will celebrate the supreme giving of God through Christ in communion. In front of the communion table there will be a table that will receive the 'heap offering' where adults, children and young people will come forward with joy to

offer their personal gift to our glorious ever-giving God.

Last year the Thank Offering amounted to over £ 10,000 including Gift Aid.

Over the next few weeks leading up to the Thank Offering day would you pray about your regular giving to the church and also your gift for the Thank Offering?

In this leaflet you will see that we are primarily seeking to support the work in Romania. There is the strategic ministry in Carand where we want to buy a tractor in order to cut and supply timber to the village people.

There is also the ongoing ministry in Ploiesti, the town that I often visit and the Baptist Church where I preach. One further area is of the mission work in the UK through Scripture Union who are promoting their 95 Campaign to encourage evangelism among families and children.

Do take time to read about the ministries in this leaflet.

Let us look forward to Sunday, 22nd April. Do make sure you are worshipping with us bringing along your gift in the enclosed envelope. If you have children - do encourage them to give a gift in their own envelope. **Alan**

COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA



www.comactrom.com

Buying a tractor to support the community

Our mission is to provide support directly to the neediest individuals in the North & West of Romania. This is achieved through working with Danny and Sarah Ispas in the village of Carand. Danny is now Pastor of the local church we work through.

In 2016 a team from Willesborough went



out to help Danny and Sarah deliver food to the 37 families they support with basic supplies

and the team also helped by cutting wood and delivering it to the most needy in the community.

The community gets its wood from local forests and under new regulations cannot buy wood from other areas. Currently a load of wood delivered by the forest men costs £225 (and most families would need 2 - 5 loads through the year).

Given the current pension of £50 - £80, wages or even an average wage of £150 - £200, would mean using 3 - 4 months earnings just on fuel. And with the cost of living similar to the UK this is not an option, yet with winter temperatures dropping to -20 degrees centigrade lives are at risk. By using a tractor for the most needy in the community and collecting the wood, each load would reduce to approx. £100.



You can see what a difference this would make.

Danny and Sarah hope they can get a second-hand tractor for between £6 - £8,000 which they will use to collect wood. They are asking for our help to support them in showing the love of Christ to those in most need in the community by fetching wood from the forest for them.

PLOIESTI BAPTIST CHURCH

Since 1999 I have been visiting the Baptist Church in Ploiesti.

Over the years we have sought to support the ministry of the church and regularly given £1,000 from our allocations fund each year. Last year we did not do this - and it would be great to support them this year with a £1,000 to £1,500.

The minister of the church is my good friend Pastor Irinel Cazacu and hopefully he might be in the UK later on in the year and you will be able to meet him.

SCRIPTURE UNION – THE 95

This is the campaign of Scripture Union to address the deep concern that 95% of children and young people don't regularly attend church. 95% have no meaningful connection with church. For Scripture Union reaching those beyond the church is their number one priority. We have often talked about our vision of growing the church younger and we want to support SU in the leadership role they have in encouraging UK churches to share the good news with the next generation. www.the95.org.uk