

## Iran

Hi all Here are some urgent prayer requests and also some good news from Latvia and elsewhere.

1. You will recall that our br B and Sr M are still in hiding in Iran.

We have received a rather garbled message that says that Br B has been arrested by the Police and was sentenced to 25 lashings. This is a serious thing for his physical health quite apart from his already fragile psychological condition and we seek to lift him up in prayer. We are frustrated that our contact with him is limited and intermittent.



We produce a photo, NOT of our brother, given to us by another Iranian brother, of the results of the 24 lashings punishment as inflicted upon someone else. We don't know who it is of nor where it was taken. We reproduce it in order to serve as a focus and stimulus for prayer.

2. Our one brother in Tunisia is in difficulties because of his faith, as he explains in a message just received:

“Dear brother ; unfortunately my mother was founded the place when I was hide the books [i.e. Bible Basics and his Bible]; but the problem that it is my mother was recount all the story to my father by using the telephone (he is on Algeria now) I'm afraid that when my father 'll back to Tunisia it 's possible that he will call the police or he will kick me from the house ; really I don't care about that ; because I know that I'm on the truth and they are on the dark-wrong”.

I have assured him of your prayers. If he is indeed thrown out of the home we will have another case for major support. Especially though, remember the huge psychological burden of being so betrayed and persecuted by your own family. He has just written to say that he has dug a hole and buried his books in it.

3. Cindy and I have just returned from an exciting few days in Eastern Latvia. We began by visiting the housing project to pick up one of the wheelchairs which our beloved brother Mark Greeves, whose huge amount of work for the Latvian brotherhood we pay tribute to, had brought over from England this Summer. Sis Larisa and Cindy got it ready and then we drove about 200 km to our dear sister Lidija.



*Photo: Loading up the wheelchair at the housing project*

She is totally housebound, crippled with chronic osteoporosis, needing blood transfusions every 6 months, kidney problems, and now going blind in one eye. Her two baptized sons, also weak in health, do absolutely everything for her. She sings their praises constantly and it is clear that they really are 'good boys' and fine brethren. They read daily together and break bread weekly. Hot water has been cut off to their flat so they have some difficulty washing her. They weren't expecting us and burst into tears when we arrived on the doorstep with a wheelchair.

Her dream is to be taken out for a 'push' by the boys before the snow comes down, and it seems we were just in time.

They live in a block up 5 flights of stairs, so transporting her down the stairs is difficult without a wheelchair. They had previously been using an old office chair on castors as a 'wheelchair', but this had now broken. She will now be able to get around the flat independently and the boys will be able to take her out. They are in deep poverty and the boys only managed to get temporary jobs over the Summer harvesting potatoes and this is now finished. We have given them welfare and now were able also to give them some vitamin and other tablets.



*Photos: Outside the flat with the wheelchair; Housebound Sis Lidija with the new wheelchair- Cindy is showing Br Sergej how to assemble it. You can see the office chair that once served as Sis Lidija's transport, it is facing her bed with food on it; Sis Lidija with her vitamins, courtesy of Now Foods.*

From there we went on to the Kubuli ecclesia, where Sis Valya is lying in hospital and Br Petris is still sick from tuberculosis. We gave some welfare, concerned very much for the effect of his parents' illness on their son Kaspars, recently baptized on the visit by the Parkers and Johnsons. We went on to the Gobusala ecclesia, where we found Sis Svetlana doing well after having given birth to a son. When the Parkers and Johnsons were over and we visited her soon before her delivery, funds were given to enable her to have the baby in a hospital.

She recounted all her problems with giving birth and it was apparent that if she had given birth at home, as she did previously and would've had to do without our aid, the life and health of both her and the baby would have seriously been at risk. They live very far from any decent road let alone hospital. We were happy to spend time with her mother Sis Nina and to interview and baptize a friend of Sis Nina's, NIKOLAJ, who had completed Bible Basics. We gave more welfare re. medical expenses and distributed vitamins etc. around the family.



*Photo: Sis. Svetlana, vitamins and new baby*

Our last stop was Rezekne, where we were again well entertained by our inimitable sister Anna, and had the pleasure of interviewing and baptizing another two Bible Basics contacts, NINA and VITALY.

4. We've received news from our bro. H that he has been able to baptize another 2 Iranians, sister Y and sister A. They are sisters but the father/husband is totally against their conversion and they need our prayers.

We've also received news from Liz, Ben and Abi in Albania that they have baptized 4 people there, for which we give thanks. They're still down there.

Further, the group in Azerbaijan report that since we left they have interviewed and baptized another 4 people, including a Jewess: Zejnab, Lejla, Rakhib and Asiman.