

Latvia, Bosnia, Turkey, Pakistan, SEPTEMBER 2004

Bosnia

We're pleased to report that our appeal for clothing and drivers has been responded to, and we're in process of arranging clothing to be driven down to Sarajevo to support our brethren's humanitarian outreach there.

One of the brethren writes:

"The project is just fantastic and things are going to be better every day for some people. I have print out 300 copies [of our newsletter / magazine about the doctrines of the Truth and helping people] and distributed them on the street. Respond was amazing: people called asking how can they help, who we are, what do we represent and a lot more questions.

I told this one man that what ever we do, we do it in the name of God, So he was interested and he start asking questiones and we had a long converzation... The guy was a news reporter! We didnt know that, so day after that in local newspaper an article about us came out!!! Basicly was saying about who we are, and what are we trying to do. This is the line that i loved [by translation from Bosnian]:

"In our country in these 10 years not one organization (political or non-govermental) didnt start a project that would make sense like this one. We just hope that these young people will continue in what they do and may god help them"

Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! That was bingo!!! So next week we are going to visit the first family and we are going to give them food and clothes that we collected. We will pay a electric bills, and we also found a donation for heating for the next winter. This family is big, six members including kids and mother, the father died in the war. I am so excited about this. I received a "Gospel news" magazine and i really enjoyed it. I saw bosnian article. Umm i want to ask you this : if we would get you a pictures of as doing these and maybe some other photos plus our articles would it be possible to put it in next edition?

I have much more things to write to you my brother, but this is kind a long mail so i'll write more later. So many things is happening and i want to share everything with you

We want to register a little group here that would be called "bosnian christadelphians".

I am sorry if i am boring with all these ideas but i feel like God is doing this he wants as to work for him-- you know after baptisam of Renato , I feel so full of energy....

[We have more recently received news of a very disturbing nature concerning a very hard time one of our brethren is experiencing at the hands of a Moslem fanatic who has already killed several people. We assured our brother of our prayers and support as far as possible].

Pakistan

We continue great efforts for our brother K. It is so hard for him to escape from Pakistan to a country that is signatory to the Geneva Convention re refugee rights. A trip will shortly take place. We understand there is also an Iranian sister holed up in Islamabad, where she has fled with her two children. Hopefully Steve, Stefanie and Liz will soon be with her in person. We pray for their trip.

Latvia

Work continues here, with regular support being given to various needy ones especially the elderly. With rising prices due to joining the EU, a pension can only pay for the utilities on a flat.

Elderly people, especially those with no relatives, are in a desperate position, especially as they have to pay for all medical care. Single parents also suffer. Both of Sis. S's parents are in hospital, and we have to help her with the medical bills; plus she has two young children to support. She is already working 3 jobs, rising at 03:45 each morning to begin her first job. And there are many similar cases. A young brother who has a leg damaged in a car accident is supposed to wait many months for an urgent operation in the state system- and even then he would have to pay for it. To go privately would cost many times more. And so the problems continue. Brother Aijvars tragically fell asleep in the Lord when his wooden village home caught on fire in the middle of the night and he was burnt to death. We await with impatience the great day of the Lord's return. Several in Riga ecclesia are facing terminal illnesses and yet continue in the daily readings faithfully. Dear Sis Galina daily goes to the hospital to read the portions to Bro Leonid as he fades in and out of consciousness. It's a wonderful witness to the others there!



Photo: Remains of Bro. Aijvars' home

A visit was made to our isolated and very dear Sis Olga, who continues faithfully breaking bread on her own. We were able to provide her, thanks to your generosity, with an electric cooking ring [so she doesn't need to go to the woods and collect firewood to heat her stove in order to get hot water]; and also a collapsible bed as she had been sleeping in a chair.

We're delighted to report the baptism and receiving into our world-wide fellowship of several more: Sisters VEE, LIDA, ALLA, TANYA, TAMARA, SULA and Brothers GUNARS and SASHA. We have many more studying Bible Basics with us.



Photo: Brother Gunars being baptized by a local young brother

Turkey

Our Iranian refugee brethren, still living around the Iranian-Turkish border, are in a bad way. The UNHCR and the Turkish Govt. have changed their ruling on refugees, and some of them face deportation back to Iran, where some of them face death sentences. Others of them are to be deported to northern Iraq, even though this is not where they are from.

Both in these cases and in the case of our brother from Benin recently reported, it would appear that Canada is about the only country left who will allow churches to easily sponsor such immigrants; the other Western countries have hardened their positions recently.