

Bible Weekend Appeals And Estonia, May 2006

BIBLE WEEKENDS

We're deeply appreciative of the response received for various welfare appeals; but we'd like to put before you the spiritual and fellowship needs of the large numbers of people who've been baptized recently in Eastern Europe and Asia. Many of them live far from others of their faith, are struggling with many issues in their lives, and in some areas are living in societies and families which are Islamic or otherwise totally opposed to their faith.

Spiritually, it's a hard life; and it's even harder to develop solid ecclesial life in those circumstances. But this is our aim.

We believe that the Lord Jesus not only reveals Himself through His word, but also through His body, which is the ecclesia. The body builds itself up, edifying itself in love, nourished by that which every part supplies to the whole.

Faced with these Biblical facts, we feel it imperative to encourage these various converts to meet together as far as possible. In this way, as we've seen from the Bible Schools in Russia and Ukraine over the past 15 years, relationships form, individuals realize they're not alone in their struggles, and isolated believers become inspired from the examples of others to in their turn develop small groups in their own areas. And so we're making a special appeal to you to fund brothers or sisters to attend Bible weekends this Summer.

Without these opportunities for fellowship and bonding into small groups, much of the hard work done in preaching and baptizing runs the risk of coming to nothing, or at least, not resulting in the development of local ecclesias. There are two such weekends we'd like to bring to your attention. As happens with the Eastern European Bible Schools, we'll assign your donation to an individual, and give you feedback and a photo and letter of thanks from them for it.

TURKEY

We've pointed out to you over the years the various persecutions and difficulties endured by our brothers and sisters in this Islamic country. We especially would remind you of the difficulties of the home groups in southern Turkey- here's a file photo of the scars on Brother H after a gang of Moslem youths attacked him after his conversion, using their cigarette lighters to heat metal and brand him with a cross sign, whilst other members of the gang pinned him down:



Now this is only one of a whole host of such sufferings we could bring before you- but nearly all our brothers and sisters are facing problems of rejection by their families, especially the younger ones who refuse to marry Moslems, problems in employment, etc. Our idea is to gather them all together for a weekend of intense Bible study and fellowship. Because of problems with those who'd love to disrupt or target such a meeting, we've had to arrange it at resort hotel in a tourist area, where such difficulties are less likely to occur. The expected cost per person to attend will be about \$100 US. Owing to low-paying employment and other related issues arising from their persecution, most of our brethren and sisters can't afford to pay for that. About 35 brothers / sisters would like to attend, but that will depend on how many of them can be sponsored by you.

You can donate by PayPal online at www.carelinks.net/carelinks.html ; or you can post a cheque made out to 'Carelinks' to Carelinks, FAO Br. John Thatcher, PO Box 152, Menai NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA; or if you're in the USA you can make a tax deductible donation to 'Carelinks Christadelphian Ministries' and send to Brother Mike Warren.

MOLDOVA

We've reported over the years the growth of this group, which now number about 60, mainly sisters, meeting in various homes. They've requested us to come down and run a Bible weekend again and we are happy to assist in this. Previous such weekends have been a great success. Usually about 30 attend, and the cost of one person attending averages out at about \$70. Our brothers and sisters are mainly elderly or working long hours for low pay; these gatherings are a real lifeline for them. Enthusiastic discussion of the daily Bible readings takes place each day- here are some photos of previous such gatherings



Moldovan Brethren continuing Bible discussion after the sessions have ended



Sisters enjoying similar discussion



Moldovan Sisters in one of the study sessions

Again, you can donate to sponsor attendees by PayPal online at www.carelinks.net/carelinks.html ; or you can post a cheque made out to 'Carelinks' to Carelinks, FAO Br. John Thatcher, PO Box 152, Menai NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA; or if you're in the USA you can make a tax deductible donation to 'Carelinks Christadelphian Ministries' and send to Brother Mike Warren.

Our funds are rather diminished at the moment, so we'd really appreciate your support for these brothers and sisters if at all possible.

ESTONIA

Whilst writing, we're delighted to report the continued dynamic growth of the ecclesia in Tallinn. The ecclesia invited us up there again to witness another baptism, and we thoroughly enjoyed breaking bread with them and further assisting their progress in getting registered with the Government.



ERIK about to be baptized by Brother Mark- after 5 years study of Bible Basics in English and Russian. When he got the Estonian edition recently, this helped him make his mind up, after being able to read it through again in his native language



Four dynamic brethren at the breaking of bread in Tallinn

We really do appreciate your prayers and support

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM