

Bible weekends and Turkey February 2006

We'd like to draw your attention to several Bible weekends arranged in Europe (God willing); we warmly invite you to come and fellowship with us and the local brethren and sisters:

RIGA, LATVIA: MAY 26-28 Theme: "The joy of Bible study"

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA: JUNE 2-4 Theme: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever"

IZMIR, TURKEY: JUNE 16-18 Theme "Bible basics in practice"

If you're interested in attending, please contact CCM at info@carelinks.net

Turkey

We're very happy to report the continued progress of the true Gospel in southern Turkey. We arrived in Izmir amidst the protests at the Danish cartoons of Mohammad, and inadvertently booked into a hotel just opposite the Danish consul in the city. After we'd done some baptisms, word somehow got out- and the Police turned up the next day to stop us continuing! This is just a small part of the problems faced by our new brethren and sisters here. The growing Moslem anger at the cartoons and the abuse of prisoners in Iraq makes it extremely difficult for Christians. Families turn against them, deep stress develops in marriages, employers fire them, teachers and examiners are clearly biased against them. It makes it all the more amazing that people still turn away from Islam to Christ. The brothers and sisters in this area definitely have their problems. One sister had vigilantes turn up and threaten to take away her children, after they heard she'd been baptized. We watched with our own eyes how a brother was followed around a town by Police clearly intent on making trouble for him. And yet... in the face of all this, the ecclesia reports another 7 baptisms, lively Sunday meetings for the breaking of bread, as well as midweek Bible study. By the time we had the interruptions from the Police, we were able to interview and baptize another four young men: MEYDARI, MUHAMMET, MAHMUT and DENIZ. They are from all walks of life. All are single, and face much pressure from their families to get married to whom they chose or have chosen for them. We pray for their strengthening in this hard aspect of their new discipleship.

There is now a fairly large number of baptized believers in South East Turkey, and as advertised above, we've located a venue for a Bible weekend, to which the local bre & sis and their contacts will hopefully come. We're hopeful of an attendance of up to 50 or 60. However, this simply won't be possible without your support. The likely cost would be around US\$2000, as those who convert to Christianity are nearly all left in poverty and unable to travel much or attend such a function. However we feel it is really important to provide them with a few days together, away from the oppressive society in which they live, so that they can spend time with each other and in serious fellowship around God's word. It will be a real oasis for them.

We really appreciate your support so far. We were able to provide toys and Sunday School material for children, donated from Holland; a laptop donated from Australia; and a Diaglott and some books by Br Harry Whittaker donated from England. We really do appreciate your support. Again we appeal for any spare laptops or other computer equipment which anyone has. They can be put to very good use in the Lord's work.



The laptop and some books with our very zealous brother Ger.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM