

## **Eastern European Winter Bible School Sponsoring Appeal, November 2006**

The CCM Bible Schools in Eastern Europe began in 1992 when we invited a small group of interested people from throughout the former USSR to study the Bible with us for a week. The ex-USSR spreads over 9 time zones, so it's really hard to get people together in one place. However, such meetings are important in order to create a sense of community and fellowship amongst those who have been baptized and who are seriously studying the doctrines of the Truth. The Schools have been kept going ever since, thanks to the generous support of Western brothers and sisters. However, the collapsed economic situation in the area means that we have to heavily subsidize many brothers and sisters to attend. Attendance reached a peak of 220 brethren and sisters. If we don't keep up these Bible Schools, the sense of community and fellowship amongst this widely scattered group of 1500 brethren and sisters will be seriously damaged, and despite rising costs, we feel we really have to ask for your support each year to enable this wonderful gathering to continue.

You might have seen the video that was being distributed that showed one of those Russian Bible schools. Now CCM are organizing not only the main Winter Bible School but also a few Bible weekends on a more local scale, and also sisters' weekends. We're grateful to Western brothers and sisters for coming over and assisting the local brethren and sisters with speaking at these functions, and we'd love to hear from any who'd be able to come and speak, or who'd just like to come over and share in this unique experience.

These schools may be the only time most of these Brothers and Sisters get together as they are so scattered, often in total isolation. Several young couples have met and are now married as a result of meeting at these Bible Schools; and many isolated brethren and sisters comment that they live 'from Bible School to Bible School'. There is a very warm and intense spirit of fellowship; but without your support, these gatherings can't happen. The Winter Eastern European Bible School is booked for January 12-19 2007, God willing, in Poltava, Ukraine. Speakers will include Bro Matthew Blewett (South Africa) and Dick Hillhouse (Australia). Sis. Janet Hillhouse will lead studies for sisters. We'd like to not only invite your attendance, but also to encourage you to consider sponsoring a brother or sister to attend.

You can see previous reports of the gatherings at Eastern European Winter Bible School Jan. 2006, Eastern European Bible School, January 2005 and Eastern European Bible School, January 2004.

There are reports of the sisters' weekends at Ukraine Sisters' Weekend February 2005 and First E. European Sisters' Weekend February 2005.

The total cost of these gatherings [excluding fares for speakers, which are met privately] is about GBP 10,000. We really do need your support. You can have a look at the brethren and sisters below who'd like to come and decide to sponsor one or more individuals, in which case we'll as usual ensure you get a note of thanks from them; or make a general appeal.

You can donate through PayPal or by cheques made out to '**Carelinks**' sent to

### **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

Carelinks, c/o Bro John Thatcher, P.O. Box 152, Menai Central, NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA

### **UK**

Robin & Jean Field, 4 Ellergreen, Burneside, Kendal LA9 5SD Email: stratagems@ukf.net

## USA

Carelinks is now a 501 [c] 3 registered charitable organization in the USA. This means folk in the USA can send checks / donations to 'Carelinks Christadelphian Ministries' posted to Brother Mike at: Carelinks, PO Box 820392 , Vancouver, WA 98682. USA email [pacificpath@msn.com](mailto:pacificpath@msn.com) . He'll send you a receipt, which will make your donation tax deductible.

If you have a PayPal account and would like to support specific brethren and sisters, you can do so at [http://www.carelinks.net/appeals/Bible\\_School\\_sponsoring.html](http://www.carelinks.net/appeals/Bible_School_sponsoring.html) .

Please pray for the community here as they grow in grace and the knowledge of their Lord and Saviour Jesus.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM

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Photo: Brother Albinas *Now Already Sponsored!*

Brother Albinas was baptized in 1992 and has faithfully attended Bible Schools since then. He is a school teacher, always with his Bible on his desk [see photo] and is a respected figure in the Eastern European brotherhood. A schoolteacher's salary is only enough to live off and he can't get to Bible School without your help. He needs 250 GBP

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Photo: Brother Andrej & Sister Tanya

Andrej and Tanya are a young married couple who attend Bible Schools regularly, but Andrej has lost his job and it's hard for them to come without help. They need 250 GBP.

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Photo: Brother Andrej [Izhevsk]

Brother Andrej lives in isolation in Izhevsk, Russia, where he faithfully breaks bread alone each week. His wife is terminally ill and he loves coming to Bible School once per year. He needs GBP 150

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Photo: Brother Andrej [Kazan]

Andrej is hearing impaired, but he and his wife simply love Scripture. He's pictured here at a previous Bible School. He hears everything OK if he sits at the front and uses his apparatus. He'd simply love to come- but the cost is about GBP 150

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Photo: Brother Boris

Brother Boris is a faithful attender who has brought several into the truth. Despite chronic heart problems he makes the long journey each year. He needs 150 GBP.

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Photo: Brother Georgij & Sis Galina

Georgij was baptized at a Bible School in 1992, and his wife Galina was baptized at a Bible School 2 years ago. They love coming, love the word and the hope of the Kingdom. They need GBP 220.

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Photo: Brother Ivan

Ivan lives with his sister wife and 6 children in far northern Russia where he preaches the word well and has made some converts. He has little to do in the long Winter and loves coming to Bible School. He would need about GBP 250

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Photo: Brother Jacob

Brother Jacob is from a Jewish brother and lives in Kyrgyzstan. He lives in a totally unsympathetic environment which is even hostile at times, and Bible School is the only chance he gets to meet others of like mind and have a spiritual oasis. It would take him 3 days travel each way to get there. Cost: GBP 250

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Photo: Brother Justas

Brother Justas is in his early 20s and attends Bible Schools with his father. He doesn't get to see many other young people and we really encourage the young people to attend and find fellowship and friendship with each other. He needs GBP 250 to be able to attend. Brother Nikolay Brothe Nikolay [right] has converted a number of people in Tallinn, Estonia, and would love to attend the Bible School to meet with other brethren who've also developed small ecclesias. He needs 300 GBP for the very long journey.

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Photo: Brother Sasha & Sister Lidija

Sasha and Lidija are a wonderful husband and wife team who have developed an ecclesia in their home in the Urals. Sasha gives talks at Bible Schools and Lidija is a great example to us all. They need GBP 350 to both come.

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Photo: Brother Valerij

Valerij lives in the far north of Russia in a small village. He has no chance of fellowship apart from the Bible Schools. He faithfully attends whenever we can fund him. He walks with a stick and it takes him 3 days each way to travel but he eagerly comes. Cost: GBP 200

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Photo: Brother Viktor & Sister Galina

Brother Viktor recently married Sister Galina- they're a wonderful older couple, full of joy at having independently found the pearl of great price. You can see in the photo Br Viktor playing his accordion. It costs GBP 300 for them both to attend.

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Photo: Brother Viktor [Kazakhstan]

Brother Viktor worked at a facility in Kazakhstan where we once held a Bible School, and this is what sparked his interest in the Bible. Having studied Bible Basics he was baptized and has faithfully attended Bible Schools wherever they are since then. It takes him 3 days each way to come and costs GBP 280

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Photo: Brother Viktor [Russia]

Brother Viktor just this Summer baptized his wife [see photo] and they'd both love to come to the Bible School to meet with other brothers and sisters. There will be many there also in their 60s. Small pensions make such travel impossible for them unless we help them. Cost: GBP 300

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Photo: Children from Kazakhstan and Ukraine

Many of our sisters are single mothers and one by one their children are being baptized. We want to encourage the younger children to come to Bible School and form friendships with other young people who also love God. There are at least 10 young people from Kazakhstan and Ukraine who'd like to come- costing around GBP 200 each

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Photo: Children from Moldova

There are three children from Moldova who'd like to come to the Bible School- cost GBP 400

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Photo: Children from Russia

There are 5 children from Russia who'd like to come to the Bible School- cost GBP 150 each.

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Photo: Sister Anastasia [Kazakhstan]

Elderly sister Anastasia faithfully comes to Bible Schools and as you can see from the photo, loves reading the Word despite her awful cataracts. Her son is baptized. It costs GBP 300 each for them to come.

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Photo: Sister Danita and children from Belarus

Sister Danita is a victim of Chernobyl radiation but whilst she has strength she'd love to come to the Bible School. She's good with children and you can see her teaching children from the CBM Sunday School lessons. Cost: 200 GBP- and she'd also like to bring children with her if we have funds.

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Photo: Sister Irma

Sister Irma, far right in the photo, lives in Latvia where she is a faithful attender of the ecclesia. She loves going to Bible Schools and counts those she knows from going there as her closest friends. Cost: GBP 250

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Photo: Sister Lena & Brother Vitaly

Sister Lena and her fiancée brother Vitaly were both baptized at different Bible Schools, as was Sister Lena's mother, Sister Galina. Going to Bible Schools has become part of their spiritual life and it's a joy to help them come, indeed Bible Schools have played a large part in the spiritual life of this family. Cost for both of them would be GBP 200

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Photo: Sister Luba and her son Zhenya

Sister Luba works hard selling books all day on the street. She faithfully attends Bible School with her son when she can. She wants to come this time but it costs 250 GBP for both of them.

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Photo: Sister Ludmila [Russia]

Sister Ludmila has never been married and lives alone in her 70s in a remote house at the edge of a village in Russia. She reads Scripture constantly and has found her true family amongst brothers and sisters in Christ. It costs GBP 200 for her to come.

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Photo: Sister Ludmila [Ukraine]

Sister Ludmila and her son brother Stas were both baptized at Bible Schools. A school teacher, sis Ludmila is always in her element commenting on the daily Bible readings during the readings session each morning at Bible School. Cost: GBP 100

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Photo: Sister Raisa

Sister Raisa recently lost her husband and enjoys fellowship with the many other sisters of her age at the Bible School. Her daughters and grandchildren have all been baptized due to her faithful example. Cost: GBP 150

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Photo: Sister Sofia

Sister Sofia was baptized at a Bible School- you can see her rejoicing here afterwards with the visitors from overseas. She is very frail but very faithful. Bible School is the only chance she gets to meet with her brother in the flesh Boris. Cost: GBP 120

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Photo: Sister Valentina [Russia]

Sister Valentina and her mother, who's also baptized, have been faithful attenders at Bible Schools for many years, and Valentina likes to bring her young daughter too if we can fund it. Cost: GBP 450 for all the family

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Photo: Sister Vera [Moldova]

Sister Vera attends the Chisinau ecclesia in Moldova and is always thrilled to meet other sisters who read the Bible by the same plan as she does and with same understanding. Such Schools are her only chance for wider fellowship in the body of Christ. Cost: GBP 140

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Photo: Sister Zoya

Sister Zoya recently had the joy of seeing her daughter baptized, and she lives as she says from Bible School to Bible School. Cost: GBP 70