

## **ISRAEL-LEBANON CONFLICT SPECIAL APPEAL, August 2006**

The CCM team are fully stretched at the moment, and we hope soon to be sending you reports of 1) The rebuilding of Sister Nina's farm in Latvia [this is already well underway] 2) A new ecclesia in Finland and 3) Exciting Progress In Estonia. However, we're interrupting the flow of messages to make an urgent appeal for prayer and support for our suffering brothers and sisters in Israel at this time.

CCM workers have baptized over 70 brothers and sisters in Israel in the last 10 years, mostly Russian immigrants. Many of these are amongst the poorest in Israeli society. Around 20 of them live in settlements in northern Israel which are in the direct line of fire in the present conflict. Those settlements have some of the lowest property prices in Israel because of the constant threat of bombardment, and therefore they've attracted poor Russian immigrants. One sister even lives in the top storey of an apartment block, because the rent on the top floor is cheaper, given the risk of the building being hit. Despite maintaining contact with most of them in the initial stages of the conflict, we've lost contact with a number of them after the severe bombardment of the last few days. We are relieved to hear that our sister organization, the CBM, have accounted for about 3 brothers and sisters in the endangered area with whom they're in contact; we so appreciate this news. However the majority aren't in contact with the CBM and of those, we are seriously concerned for those who are single mothers or elderly and with no relatives elsewhere in Israel to whom they can move for the duration of the fighting. What contact we have been able to make indicates a serious need for relocation to safer areas at least for the duration of the bombardment, and financial assistance relating to loss of income, phone calls, and the many sundry expenses which accompany relocating and an interruption to normal life through spending most nights in bomb shelters, the elderly needing medication, difficulty in collecting pensions and medication, etc. In addition, several of those in need have nobody on the ground to assist them in their immediate practical needs.

We've therefore decided to make an emergency visit to them in order to assess need and provide immediate help. We ask for your prayers for our brothers and sisters, for those making the visit, and also for your financial support if you can. As the visit will be leaving within the next few days we'd appreciate anything you can send soon. Our donation details are at <http://www.carelinks.net/about/donate.htm>

One amazing thing has been the number of unbaptized contacts in Israel who have gotten in touch recently. We see in this a small indication of the latter day prophetic scenario which we expect- that Israel's suffering at the hand of her enemies will lead the Jews to accept Christ. So far as is possible, the planned trip will also include them and we are willing to assist them too in any basic humanitarian immediate needs as appropriate.

We wish to say that we are mindful of the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Lebanon too, although so far as we understand they are safe and have the support of their extended families.

A verse in today's Bible Companion readings seems appropriate: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with [us] in your prayers to God for [us]; that [we] may be delivered from them that are unbelieving, and that [our] ministrations which [we] have... may be acceptable to the saints; that [we] may come unto you in joy through the will of God, and together with you find rest. Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen." (Romans 15:30-33)

With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of CCM

