

Winter heating / Albania, October 2006

With the snow already coming down in Eastern Europe, we're pleased to inform that we've already started distributing Winter heating assistance to those in need. In all cases there is deep and genuine thankfulness that others in the body of Christ have thought of their need and taken the initiative to help them. We believe the ripples of grace are spreading ever outwards through this work, as well as meeting a very real need. We're also very grateful for all the clothes we receive to give out, and most of the bre & sis in the photos below are wearing what you've sent over, as the donors will recognize!

Wherever we've gone, we've distributed blankets and quilts lovingly made by kind sisters in South Africa and Australia.



Distributing a blanket to a deaf sister in a rural area

Distributing a blanket and heating assistance to bedridden sister Aleksandra in



Riga

Marcus & Gwladys and David & Rosemary Bonner breaking bread with our



sister

We've also given out a lot of firewood, and in the Baltics we've managed to do this in most cases before the snow comes down. Sister Olga is now 80 and terribly worried she'd have no strength to gather firewood this Winter. We filled up her shed with it, and she insisted on helping unload it. She has a very lively mind, and is in touch by letter with many brethren & sisters, as she knows English. She studies Scripture carefully and at length each day, despite the problems of being elderly and alone in a small village and having rising damp coming up in the walls.



Sis. Olga.

One sad case was of a brother and sister who are both invalids, living in a village. They are so weak they can't gather firewood. So they have pulled down their old barn and prepared the planks for use as firewood this winter. You can see it in the background in the photo below,

where Marcus is delivering them some compressed wood [long burning, high heat] firewood. They have one small bed / sofa for one of them, and the other sleeps on the floor by the oven.



Sister Liliya and two other sisters are living in the women's shelter, but they're only allowed in there for a week or so at a time. Sis Liliya now has a job in a warehouse and is allowed to sleep there- but it's stone walls and concrete floor with no heating. We got her a heater, cooking rings, some bedding and blankets.



Sis Liliya

We're also pleased to report that three Carelinks co-workers from the UK were able to make a pastoral visit to the brethren and sisters in Albania recently.

They report:

"Thanks to God we have been able to make a visit to Albania and spend time with our brothers and sisters in Pogradec and Tirana. We were able to enjoy their hospitality and fellowship together and were reminded yet again of the wonderful hope we have in Christ, despite the difficulties we have with language. They were very pleased to see us and send their greetings to the brothers and sisters in other countries".



With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM