

Belarus and elsewhere February 2005

CCM are pleased to announce that we've added a number of audio talks to our website www.carelinks.net. We're trying to put up Bible talks in languages other than English so that we can help our many non-English speaking brethren and sisters who now have internet access. Do contact us if you have any talks available for upload in MP3 format.

Our preaching and pastoral work in Belarus continues. A visit was recently made, driving 1400 km around the country over treacherous, icy roads, with our guardian Angel surely delivering us on many occasions. Once when crossing a narrow bridge at speed, with a truck coming the other way, the truck skidded on ice and came within centimetres of crushing us against the parapet of the bridge. These repeated experiences make us not blasé to God's care, assuming on it, but rather more aware of how we live in and by His grace, and are given life to serve Him with.

It was a pleasure to baptize YURI, whose mother and older brother are already baptized. Recently, we've been working at getting greetings immediately to our newly baptized brethren through mobile phones. Straight after the immersion, we text a set of brethren and sisters around the world, who then call the mobile number, and say a few words of greeting to the newly baptized. So it can happen that someone is baptized and then within minutes they are getting calls from Australia, UK, Europe, North America, etc., welcoming them into their new world-wide family. CCM try hard to give those baptized a sense of belonging to the world-wide community, and this is a nice way to do it. Here's a picture of Br Yuri, being thus greeted by Steve & Robin, less than a minute after his immersion:



Photo:

bro Yuri receiving instant greeting and encouragement straight after his baptism

Driving on over endless black ice, we found many of our brothers and sisters in northern Belarus in good spiritual shape, although suffering from the cold Winter and the delay in the Government paying wages and pensions. We gave help where we could. Sis Nina's family haven't been out of their tiny village for over a month. We had to leave the 4WD and walk the last bit to the home, the drifts of snow were so deep. They have the geese living indoors with them, which means they have eggs to eat but not much else.

It was then our pleasure to drive on and baptize LUDMILA, a retired music teacher, whose children and grandchildren are also interested in the Lord's message.

To God be the glory. Please do continue praying for us and for those suffering in Eastern Europe from this very cold Winter.

Your brothers and sisters of the CCM