

December 2014 Latvia, Ukraine

This has been an amazing week in terms of the synergy of many brothers and sisters coming together in order to do the Lord's work. In addition to Jim & Anne Barton (Canada), Hannah Aldersley (New Zealand), Maxim (Ukraine) and Marcus & Gwladys (UK), there have been Jon & Debs & Cardia Cwiecek (Erith & Walton ecclesias, UK) and Naomi Thurlow and Tamara and Zoe Johansen from Australia all working for the Lord in Riga. The UK contingent have now gone with Duncan to do fresh preaching work further afield in Ukraine.

Here's the Australian contingent at work distributing the soup:



Here's Marcus in his 80s and 20 year old Hannah preparing the soup:



Here's Jon, Debs and Cardia serving soup to Vladimir, who was later baptized:



Here are the same group again, distributing firewood and de-icing the pavements around the Bible center:



We've received hand knitted scarves from sister Hazel in the UK and here they are being distributed by br Max on Christmas Day [we did the Bible study and feeding scheme on December 25th as well], and here's br Max giving a baptismal address:



We're delighted to report the baptisms of VIKTOR and VLADIMIR. Both have quietly been attending for some time, read *Bible Basics*, and have finally taken the decision to devote themselves to the Lord who is continually taught and explained during the 1 hour Bible study sessions before the meal. Here are Jim & Anne and others with br Viktor; it's a tradition now to give the newly baptized a copy of the *NEV Bible* signed by those present at the baptism:



Here are some reports from our young sisters:

I've been extremely excited to come to Riga ever since I kept hearing the works Carelinks have been doing; I can see how passionate they are to help the those people for the Lord. Reading about the other good-willed volunteers who travel out, gave me a burning desire to serve our Father in the same way. Seeing and doing the will of our Lord made me realise that we don't live long and it matters a lot to God what we do throughout our life. To do what God asks should be like second nature. Getting to know God and having a relationship with him is one of the most important things on Earth. When I saw the people at the Riga meeting, I began to feel uncomfortable to know that I own possessions and a comfortable life that they may not have, however, it doesn't really matter because we are all one flesh, we are all a sinner and all equally sinful. I am so glad and grateful to God and Duncan to have this opportunity that I prayed and prayed for because it opened my eyes and heart. I have a renewed energy for God's will and I feel less useless because I have some guidance on how to help my Brothers and Sisters.

Cardia Cwicek

While writing this message, Duncan, Jon, Cardia and myself are sitting in a dingy cabin, 4 hours in to a 13 hour train journey to baptise Artem in Odessa, Ukraine. Artem has to also travel 6 hours on a bus to meet us as he lives in a hard to reach village on the border of Moldova. We have brought 2,500 leaflets advertising *Bible Basics* in Russian to hand out on the streets-any opportunity to do the Lord's work!

Yesterday evening, on the 25th, we witnessed the baptism of Vladimir at the hall. We all wrote messages in his new Bible which he gladly received after starting his journey with the Lord. It was wonderful to see the result of all the work of teaching and preparing soup!

Debs Cwiecek

Here are our sisters and Jon on the train- they were like that for 13 hours



Prayer Points:

- For the trip currently underway in Ukraine
- For our young brothers and sisters from the West to continue their zeal to serve
- For God's blessing on the newly baptized brothers Viktor and Vladimir
- For those receiving material assistance such as food and firewood to perceive God's love being channeled to them through the body of Christ, and to respond to it

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks