

Winter Welfare, Arab world unrest February 2011

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Corinthians 11, and there's an MP3 about this chapter relevant to the breaking of bread at <http://aletheiacollege.net/bbread.mp3>

WINTER WELFARE

Temperatures continue very low, -30 at night and -20 day time, in much of Eastern Europe. We really, really appreciate the various donations and provisions of socks, clothing etc., we're distributing these things most days. We can only give a few examples in this report of the many who are being helped. Some Russians in Latvia receive as little as 7 Lats- 10 Euros- per month from the Government. Their situation especially in Winter as awful. We have recently enjoyed the company of brother Martin from Denmark and sister Astrid from Holland, and they've been shocked at understanding the real plight of the large and growing underclass of Eastern Europeans, especially Russians who are stranded outside Russia after the breakup of the USSR without full documents. We visited brother Y & sister R, they aren't in a night shelter but live in one room. Yuri lost his job at the end of December, the electricity, heating and now water has been cut off. They walk around all day wrapped up in thick clothes [many of which we've given them], but just standing in their room for 30 minutes [they only have one chair], we were ourselves shivering and feeling the awful damp. They had totally no food, and we were able to provide them with something, but the long term need remains. And they are far from the only ones. Those in the night shelters at least have somewhere warm to sleep at night, but they are on the street all day. Sister Ksusha is about to give birth any time now, to a baby with much water in the head. We've set her up as far as we can and are trying to be as upbeat as possible, in faith, giving her baby clothes etc.- as well as taking food round to her. She has so very little. The baby has a 80-90% chance of dying during delivery. Here she is at meeting just last Sunday:



Then there's sister Valda, who needed a cataract operation- despite having worked for 20 years as a bus conductor, pensions are so tiny she's forced to live in a night shelter and without financial assistance would've been quite unable to have the operation. Here she is at meeting last Sunday, enjoying one of the many meals we continue to provide:



Our main cook, brother Vladimir, continues to move towards blindness and is the more zealously using every moment to type up his Bible notes on the computer; were it not that we provide accomodation for him at the hall, he'd be a frightened, blind old person wandering the streets. We're so deeply grateful that he doesn't have to do that but can devote his days to something useful, cooking, cleaning the hall, constructing things, as well as typing up his thoughts. Here he is peering at the keyboard for every letter:



In addition, there are our asylum seeker brethren. We continue to visit brother A in the prison camp each week, to break bread and take food to him. But there are others who live in the EU provided refugee center, who are given about \$1 / day to live on, which must include not only food but clothing, toiletries, transport and medical expenses. We are often having to buy them things and providing transport. Brother Robert along with other needy folks are permanently or semi-permanently housed at the housing project in northern Latvia. Here's brother Kayta pouring out the juice for the memorial meeting:



Summing up, we do so greatly appreciate your support for the Winter Welfare appeal. Without it, we just couldn't do these things. It is a really good, relevant and desperately needed project.

Significant interest in the Gospel continues, and we're pleased to report the baptism of PIOTR, who had been largely taught the Truth by brother Vladimir as well as Bible Basics. Here Vladimir is greeting him after baptism:



We've greatly enjoyed having our recently baptized brother Martin from Denmark with us. He printed 5000 visiting cards advertising our meetings, and on his own distributed many of them in the blocks around our hall and also on the street, bravely trying to engage people in conversation in English; he also inspired many of our brothers and sisters to take some and distribute them too. Martin also distributed a few hundred invitations to our re-formed Mother's and Toddler's Club. The temperatures were really low whilst he was over and we so appreciate his zeal to spread the Truth out in the low temperatures all day. Martin gave two talks, one about the doctrines of the Kingdom of God, and another a personal testimony of how he came to the truth about hell being the grave, then there being no immortal soul, then the Kingdom on earth, then rejecting the trinity and pre-existence and finally rejecting the orthodox ideas about satan. He describes his struggle over the re-baptism issue, and how he came to decide to be re-baptized into the real Christ. His talks were in English but interpreted to Russian, you will be able to find them in our list of Russian talks at <http://hristadelfiane.org/av.htm> .

Here's Martin distributing his cards proclaiming the Kingdom and inviting folks to our meetings:



UNREST IN THE ARAB WORLD

Over the years, Carelinks have visited and baptized people in all the hotspots of the current unrest- Libya, Tunisia and Egypt. So far as we know, all our brethren there have either already left the countries or are accounted for. We've been asked by quite a few for our view on the

prophetic significance of what's happening at the moment, and our suggestions as to the significance are at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/ld/d1-2.htm>

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks