

## IRAQ AND LATVIA June 2005

One of the aims of CCM is to spread the true Gospel into all the world before the Lord's return. We have consciously aimed at spreading the Truth into Iraq, a land clearly in need of the truth of Christ at this time. We've placed banner adverts on Iraqi websites- one is still there at <http://www.iraq-today.com/> - and tried other methods to spread the Gospel here.

After much correspondence, we're pleased to say that Brother S has come to know the Gospel in truth and requested baptism. Plans were made to visit him, and much research done. We'd have had to enter from Turkey overland, and then travel through Irbil, Mosul and other hot spots to reach our brother's town. We were fully prepared to do this but the sheer cost of the trip was beyond us. Most Western contractors are helicoptered around the country with armed guards; even without going to this extreme, the trip would have been costly as well as dangerous. After several phone calls and much correspondence, we decided to invite our friend to baptize himself, and this he has done.



Photo:

Our new brother S and his wife in Iraq

We invite your prayers for our brother as he earnestly begins his new life in a very difficult situation. Many Iraqis spend much of their time these days attending funerals- only a fraction of the killing is reported in the press. Apart from his physical safety, as you know, it is very hard for those who convert from Islam to live safe lives in fanatically Moslem areas.

Here are some snips from recent emails. The first one is in response to the usual thing one says at a pre-baptismal discussion: Do you have any questions?:

I forgot to ask you a question....How can I approve that I got baptized and to show up as a christian person especially when I meet people? How can they believe me? Is there any ID or something like that which can prove my christainity?

Please let me know if there is anything..

This is a very brave attitude to have, when witnessing to ones faith attracts such persecution. And here is the email we were so waiting for:

Eventually, I did it. Thank you very much to your encouragement and efforts with me. You are so sweet...With closed eyes to feel deeply, I said "I baptize myself to Jesus" with all my soul and very faithfully. I really feel happier and I am very convenience now with my mind and feelings. I am very comfortable now and relax. I hope that I will be comlied with this new era in my life.

Please do pray for our new brother. He does have some need of material support- we need not bombard you with all the press reports of the awful situation in Iraq at the moment- and any who would like to donate towards our brother can do so via PayPal at <http://www.carelinks.net/carelinks.html>

Now for some news from Latvia which illustrates how links of care, care-links, really work in practice. We reported earlier [see <http://www.carelinks.net/care/lat2903.htm> ] that a needy

sister in Latvia and her young children are seeking to make ends meet by weaving scarves etc. We received some orders from you, but to make good quality scarves, they really need good wool, rather than de-threading old clothes etc which they come by. The cheap Chinese imports are so much cheaper than what they can sell their hand made scarves for. The cost of wool was prohibitive for them, and so some sisters in England gathered together unused wool, and two big boxes were brought over to the Riga Study Weekend this weekend by Marcus & Gwladys. Here you can see the sister and the girls receiving the wool, which they are now going to weave into scarves for you. They apologize for any delays in meeting the orders.



Photo:

Marcus & Gwladys presenting the family with the various bobs of wool gathered in England

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks Christadelphian Ministries