

Eastern European Winter Bible School Jan. 2006

We're pleased to report that an excellent and most encouraging Bible School was held in Poltava, Ukraine. There are a number of brethren and sisters living locally to Poltava who were able to come in for a day or so to join the other brothers and sisters who attended. In all around 90 attended, from 8 nations- Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Holland, UK and Australia. Everyone enjoyed the studies, given by Bre David Bushell of UK ['The sure mercies of David'], Duncan Heaster of Latvia ['The Parables Of Jesus'], and Rudolf Rijkeboer of Holland ['The plan of God over the ages']. Several sisters said that they live 'from Bible School to Bible School'; these gatherings really are a unique and invaluable opportunity for the body of the faithful to come together not only for Bible study but in order to get to know each other, and to build up a sense of identity and community. It's encouraging to see old faces, who've been travelling long distances to attend Bible Schools for 13 years now; as well as to see the unending enthusiasm of newer brethren and sisters and their families. Despite barriers of language and distance, as well as such totally different life backgrounds, we felt a true and quite special unity at the breaking of bread, where Duncan exhorted on the theme 'Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever'.



David presenting his talks about 'The Sure Mercies Of David'



Rudolf presenting his studies

There were also three baptisms- SERGEJ from Russia, and TATJANA and AGNESIJA from Ukraine.



Rudolf and David taking 4 hours to interview Sergej [through a translator] prior to his baptism.



David receiving our new members into fellowship with the worldwide body of Christ.

Sunday School went well too. Lena and Cindy taught the children about the parables, and they made model figures of the characters from the parables.



Sunday School in progress

Brethren and sisters travel far to get to these schools, often having to take leave without pay to get there, which is a significant sacrifice for those having to care for children or grandchildren on a hand-to-mouth basis. Bro Valerij travelled down as usual from the far north of Russia, happy to have others to share his many Biblical thoughts with, as well as to enjoy a break from the -40 temperatures up there [Poltava reached a mere -14 during the School!]. We were able to distribute blankets, quilts and scarves lovingly knitted by sisters in Australia, and also distribute other forms of welfare.



Sisters from Moldova with their quilts sent over from Australia



A brother struggling to read his Bible with useless spectacles



Cindy distributing spectacles to the many in need

We were also able to make some recommendations for the many health problems faced by our brothers and sisters. Low salaries and tiny pensions, coupled with needing to pay for all medical care, means that many simply can't afford operations or medications. Please pray for Anna, daughter of our sister Ludmila, who urgently needs help with her eyes:



Anna

Again and again, thanks are expressed- heartfelt thanks- from our beloved brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe, as well as from us, for your loving kindness in supporting and enabling such gatherings.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM