

January 2016 Ukraine, Latvia

UKRAINE

The economic situation in Ukraine continues to go downwards, and the war in Eastern Ukraine is claiming many lives and limbs- despite the Western media going quiet about it. Infrastructure is breaking down, and the nation faces a real risk of descending from the 'second world' to effectively a third world country in Europe. Pensioners are especially hard hit. Inflation is rampant but pensions remain the same. So perhaps it is not surprising that we had a bumper attendance of over 70 brothers and sisters at the **Winter Bible School** this year, where we enjoyed the company of Brother John & Sister Margaret Greenwood from the **UK**. There were visitors attending from throughout Ukraine as well as Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Poland; one sister came in from Eastern Ukraine, making a huge journey from Eastern Ukraine into Russia and thence back into Ukraine proper to avoid the block posts which both sides have erected along the front line. We also enjoyed the company of 2 brothers and a sister from Nigeria. It was a wonderful atmosphere to be with believers both new and old, packed into a meeting room all eagerly listening with Bibles open [or the younger ones reading Bibles from their phones] and taking notes- and freely talking about the ideas presented in the evening chats amongst themselves.



Some present were baptized in the early 90s, and we have no greater joy than to hear that our children continue to walk in truth. There were three baptisms, from teenager through middle age to elderly: DARINA, teenage daughter of brother Igor and sister Irina; NIKOLAY, a middle aged man who found us online whilst searching for a new Bible, and who fitted in most naturally with the group as if he had always been with us; and JOSIP, an elderly man with failing sight who lives in the same village as two of our sisters. Here's Darina with her happy parents just before her baptism:



The final evening was a talent night, with Bible questions, skits of scenes like Joseph blessing Manasseh and Ephraim, and Joseph meeting Jacob in Egypt. It was wonderful to see Jacob's sons played by believers of various nationalities, ages and colours- all gathered by the Lord's hand in freezing, broken down Ukraine:



We really do deeply thank you all for making these Bible Schools possible, by prayer and donation. We have to pay the fares of most of the local attendees; but without these schools they just would not have much sense of community and fellowship in Christ. So thank you all so much for enabling these happy and truly spiritual events. Do come along yourselves- the next **Ukrainian School** is planned for the Summer and we wonder if any out there would like to come and give some talks? Do contact us at info@carelinks.net

UK CONFERENCE AND BIBLE PACKING

Another reminder of our conference in Croydon on February 27 God willing, at which we will need as many hands on deck as possible to wrap up 1000 Bibles and address the envelopes. Let brother Steve Gretton know if you can come- steve.gretton@googlemail.com

LATVIA

We have continued distributing walking sticks to our elderly folk and they are really a great idea, because walking on the icy streets is so dangerous for them. There's a brief video of brother Maxim giving one to a brother, and his deep and genuine gratitude is apparent.

See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTbhFV_dIYw

We have had 2 baptisms this week at the **Riga Bible Center**, of sisters LAILA and ELLANA; both were presented with warm scarves and Bibles afterwards. Both are in very difficult situations, and have found a true spiritual home with us. Each of them attend most days [we hold Bible study five days / week]. Please pray for them. After her baptism in the tub at the hall, Ellana said she had not been in a bath tub with hot water for some years.



Whilst Duncan was in Ukraine, Cindy and the children were up at the housing project in northern Latvia. She will be soon [Lord willing] writing a report and appeal for some building assistance.

PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For the brotherhood in Ukraine, especially in Eastern Ukraine
- For all our number living in night shelters
- For the elderly and frail on their travels to Bible Schools and meetings, for whom the ice is a nightmare

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks