

January 2019 Ukraine, Latvia

Helps for the *Bible Companion* readings this week:

Genesis <http://n-e-v.info/NEVGenesisCommentary.pdf>

Psalms <http://n-e-v.info/psalms.pdf>

Matthew <http://n-e-v.info/NEVMatthewCommentary.pdf>

UKRAINE

The Lord answered our prayers for a *Bible School* which would be based around Him and would glorify Him. Indeed it did and was a very spiritually minded occasion with a total of around 60 brothers and sisters [including day visitors] coming together to study the Bible all day and fellowship together. Brother Julian Baseley from Guildford UK gave us good talks and joined in fully with everything despite language barriers. These are wonderful occasions, where brothers and sisters [some baptized over 20 years] can come together for fellowship, communal singing and chatting together.

Obviously Ukraine is a troubled country at this time. One elderly sister came from the Russian occupied east, having to cross into Russia and then back into Ukraine to avoid the block posts on the front line, a journey taking about 2 days. Three sisters from Russia also managed to come. But we must pray for them all as they return home, as the frontier checkpoints can be very difficult.

After the talks there is always much discussion, and this continues in the bedrooms and hallways in the evenings. The quality of conversation was really spiritual, and we marvel at the Lord's transforming hand when we remember that many of our brothers and sisters here were once Soviet style atheists.



There are a lot of brothers and sisters in need here. Pensions are tiny, inflation is rampant, health care has to be paid for and is out of the reach of many ordinary pensioners, and monthly heating bills in Winter can easily be far more than the monthly pension. We gave assistance where we could.

One of the highlights was the baptisms of NIKOLAY, a former colonel in the Red Army; ALINA, wife of brother Oleg, baptized last year; ALLA and MARIA. They were baptized in a hole dug through the ice of the frozen lake; night temperatures are about -20 and day time around -10. This is very cold. Here you can see our little group pausing on the walk to the lake with the spade to be used for clearing the snow off the ice and then breaking the ice; and the baptisms being performed, with Duncan standing on the ice rather than getting in the water this time:



You can see a video of these amazing baptisms at <https://youtu.be/VyArkyHX1kg>

We give thanks to the Lord for such a wonderful oasis for so many on their journeys to the Kingdom.

LATVIA

The daily feeding of our equally cold brothers and sisters in Riga continues, and we currently have a great team of Mike & Betty from Queensland Australia, and Norman Stock and Hilary Knight from the UK.

Here are Hilary and Betty at work in the kitchen:



And interested people keep coming along and hearing and responding to the Gospel we preach for an hour or so before the meal is served. In fact nobody comes just for the meal, all come to the Bible session before it. TATYANA decided for the way of the Lord Jesus and here she is confessing her faith to Cindy, and then being baptized by Betty and Hilary, with some young helpers:



PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For our sisters who have difficult journeys home from the Bible School in Ukraine
- For our many brothers and sisters in Ukraine who are struggling to survive on such tiny pensions
- For the ongoing work in Riga

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks