

## **Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Bible weekend, Haiti, Brother Valerij April 2010**

### **KYRGYZSTAN**

Most will have read on the media of the recent revolution there, with over 100 killed and 1000 injured in fierce fighting. There are brothers and sisters there, some of whom have been faithful in the Truth for many years. We're pleased to say that all are accounted for, but the looting and closure of shops and facilities has made life very difficult in practice for our brothers and sisters, who are in any case "the poor of this world rich in faith".

### **NORWAY**

The ways of providence are so wonderful. There's a worldwide network of connections which the Lord has set up, and insofar as we play our parts faithfully and try to follow up the leads and make the connections, great things happen. In a previous Carelink we spoke of our work at the Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi, home to over 10,000 refugees from ethnic cleansing in Congo and Central Africa. We mentioned that we've been sending Bible Basics out there for some time. Last September, an unusually lovely family manages to get out of Dzaleka camp and were accepted for resettlement in Norway- after suffering in that awful camp for 8 years, after having suffered awful things as a result of the Tut-Hutsi conflict in Rwanda. Arriving in Norway, CLAUDE contacted us online and after some discussion was eager to be baptized. We therefore had the pleasure of visiting him in Norway, in the breathtakingly beautiful coastal town of Kristiansund to where he and his family have been assigned. After traditionally generous hospitality, we were able to baptize him in the bathtub of the public housing they've been given, with his brother, sister and mother looking on. These are an unusually lovely family, and they too expressed a desire for baptism. We're hoping that we'll be able to make another trip there to enable this. Meanwhile we are encouraging them in the translation of literature into their local Rwandan language. They were amazed we knew Dzaleka and had also baptized people in Rwanda. Once we understand the world is truly in God's hands, it becomes a very small world. They are so grateful to be in Norway. Beautiful Kristiansund, located in true fjord land, is the ultimate contrast from dusty, hungry Dzaleka refugee camp. We too are grateful to God that they got out of that awful place.

So it was with joy that we baptized Claude. He was quite overcome after the baptism, it meant so much to him:



### **BROTHER VITALY**

We recently baptized a man in Latvia who's been in contact quietly for a while, VITALY, he was Starovera, these are the 'Ultras' of the Russian Orthodox movement, very hard line, separatist, traditional, nationalistic, legalistic, considering standard Russian Orthodoxy [and about everything else] to be apostate. Quite an amazing change for him. He was married for 15 years, provided well for his wife, who never had to work, and they had 5 children. She then hit the bottle and went off with another man. We really feel for Vitaly. He's been without her and the children for 2 years now. We often say "It was a pleasure to baptize...", but, really, it was such a pleasure to baptize Vitaly. The truth, the real Christ, the hope of the Kingdom, was and is his

only hope.



Brother Vitaly after his baptism

### **RIGA BIBLE WEEKEND**

This was another lovely occasion, with Br Colin and Sis Hendrika Green from Hurstville ecclesia in Australia being present with us. They served us wonderfully, Colin giving some excellent talks on faith, and Hendrika giving of herself in every way, washing up, cleaning floors, befriending sisters and brothers through the language barrier as if it didn't exist, and doing craft with the youth:



Colin's theme was "Faith" and there were some quite profound discussions afterwards. It was amazing to reflect that the majority of those present had come to God and His Son from atheism. There was some discussion and reflection about the difference between merely assenting to the idea that there 'is a God', and the faith in Him which the Bible teaches. Several testified as to how even in Soviet Communist times, there had always been a niggling doubt about whether God might actually exist, and how many had prayed for Him to reveal Himself to them if He did. One sister recalled how as a young girl in the Komsomol [Communist Youth League] she had painted a sign that said "God is dead" and marched with it on the May Day party parade, but even then was wondering why she was asked to shout so loud about this if in fact there really is no God. Brother Pavel [foreground, white T-shirt in the photo below] spoke with passion of how editing a Communist youth magazine dedicated to promoting atheism had actually led him to God. We look back at our work in the ex-USSR now for over 20 years and are so grateful that God has chosen to use us to help such people to come to Him in Truth, used us as instruments to answer their prayers for Him to teach them of Himself, if He existed. All has been worth it. And we do so appreciate your support and prayers which has humanly enabled it to happen, and continues to.



In due course you will be able to download Colin's talks, in English with Russian translation, from [www.hristadelfiane.org/av.htm](http://www.hristadelfiane.org/av.htm)

Increasingly, a wonderful bond is developing between those baptized. Brother Ramonds and Sister Liga, who live in the housing project in northern Latvia, were present with some of their 8 children. They got very friendly with sister Ingrida and her children from Riga, so friendly that the two families slept the night together at the Bible Centre as the children had so hit it off together, and spent most of the night talking.



## HAITI

We continue to receive good news of the ever increasing numbers attending the ecclesia there. The funds raised for building toilets and a shower block on the property where the brothers and sisters meet and some live has now been completed; you can see the photos below, and here's an *email* of appreciation from brother Esmath. The whole experience in Haiti has been an example of how God works through tragedy to His glory; and how welfare work can mesh seamlessly with Gospel proclamation to make a powerful witness to God's Truth and the real Christ.

*Dear brothers in the Lord,*

*Thank you cannot be enough.*

*There is a Haitian proverb says "a friend in need is a friend indeed" that is to say we cannot forget your reliable cooperation with us as Brothers. I remember how difficult the situation was for our group after the earthquake, we did not have access to a shower and a toilet in the yard where we met. When Brother Nick came, I was ashamed to see where he was taking a bath, thanks to God he did not need to go to the toilet. Now after being approved the project for the toilet, we can say without beating around the bush that we have a comfortable place to receive everybody who has a need either to take a shower or to go to the toilet. Our ecclesia and I join our voice together to thank you so much for being so kind to us and we really understand what you have done. Now the project is done, the builder has given all the reports and photos, so that he could share with you all the information to share also to the Donators. One again thanks a million and May God bless you.*

*Brother Esmath*

Photos: One of the shower rooms and toilets; previous reports showed the earlier construction process.



**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**