

## **WELFARE IN LATVIA October 2005**

We have three items of news from Latvia- about our br Mikhail, about the Latvian Chicken project, and about sisters making and selling scarves.

We're pleased to report that Bro. Mikhail has been visited and other things done to try to ease his situation. Accommodation has been arranged temporarily for him, although some nights he may still have to stay in the cellar; the Lord has heard our prayers and enabled him to now have a more stable job as a courier rather than a casual labourer; and money has been given to enable him to get more stable accommodation. In the meanwhile, a British brother kindly donated an expensive mountaineering coat, very warm and made of down feather, which has the advantage of rolling up very small. It's ideal for our brother.



Here Cindy hands it over to a rather cold-looking Brother Mikhail near the block under which he has been living.

We thank you for your prayers and remind you that support is still needed for our brother.

## **CHICKEN PROJECT- LATVIA**

Carelink readers will be aware of the great success of the chicken project in Bosnia. A detailed plan was worked out enabling brethren to buy day old chicks and intensively raise them for 40 days and then sell them. This has worked amazingly well, as documented in previous reports. Now we have the plan worked out, we have suggested it to others able to run the project. We've learnt a few things too from the Bosnian project, e.g. the need to more carefully plan the actual slaughter of the chickens, rather than the very bloody 'genocide of the chickens' which our brethren reported there!

The obstacle at the moment is that the Eastern European winter precludes the project being repeated in premises where there is no solid, heated accommodation for the chickens. The young chickens are very sensitive to extreme cold and the raising program requires them to be kept warm both in order to survive and in order to grow and put on weight quickly. The Bosnian brethren are repeating it, ploughing their profits back in to more chickens, but this will only work in the Summer months. However, we have found two cases where there is solid and warm accommodation available, and we'd like to appeal to any willing to sponsor the repetition of the projects again, this time in rural Latvia.

Sis. Vija is a very faithful sister who has to care constantly for her invalid husband. She is a faithful witness for the Lord in her village and an active supporter of all meetings whenever she can. She reads Scripture daily and faithfully breaks bread.



Sis Vija breaking bread with her bedridden husband

Our sister has some solid accommodation for the chickens, and already has experience of keeping chickens. She grows most of the food they eat. We investigated her premises and spent some time talking through the project. The premises are very suitable, but will need more light bulbs hung from the ceiling, to provide constant light for the chicks. We took along with us our deaf and dumb brother Volodya, who lives on an isolated farmstead with his deaf and dumb wife and deaf and dumb two children. Things are obviously hard for them in that situation. He comes to all our meetings, where the sisters take notes for him, which he reads and re-reads throughout the next week. He was baptized around 10 years ago and is a faithful brother.



Bro. Volodya at Bible School having the talks transcribed for him We explained the program to our brother and sister, and they are keen to participate. They have farming experience and we are confident in how things will work out, God willing.



Inspecting Sis Vija's outhouse where the chickens will be reared



Inside the outhouse



Bro. Volodya and Sis Vija. Note Br Volodya has his notebook ever ready. He made copious notes as well as us writing everything down for him in Russian.

The estimated cost of the projects including preparing the premises is about 350 GBP, i.e. US\$ 620 or AU\$ 815. As with the Bosnian project, the profits made from selling the first round of chicks will be ploughed back in to buying more chicks, etc. The advantage here is that with the right premises, this can be a constant, year round project.

We actually have others who would be able to realistically run the chicken rearing project. The rising costs of living with entry to the EU mean that subsistence farmers and those with only a small pension are increasingly pushed hard to even survive, let alone have money to buy medicines, pay for heating and basic repairs, buy meat to eat, etc. Yet there are many others

who are increasingly wealthy. If there are enough sponsors, we can investigate at least two other such possibilities.

You can make donations via PayPal at <http://www.carelinks.net/carelinks.html> or send a cheque payable to 'Carelinks' to our treasurer Br John Thatcher, c/o Carelinks, PO Box 152, Menai , NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA

### **SISTERS MAKING SCARVES**

Our dear sister Anita, who despite heart problems is still working three jobs each day to try to feed her family and pay for the medicines they need, is really grateful not only for those who've bought the scarves she, her children and mother have made, but also to those sisters who have kindly sent wool over to Sis Gwladys Heaster in London. Recently we were able to deliver a huge sack of wool to them to work with.



Delivering wool donated by Western sisters to our sisters in Latvia.



Starting work with the new wool [loom in the background]

More background is at <http://www.carelinks.net/care/lat2903.htm>

If you could be an agent for selling the scarves, please contact us at [info@carelinks.net](mailto:info@carelinks.net)

By the way, many of the clothes you see being worn in the photos were kindly donated by Western bre & sis. We truly believe that helping brothers and sisters who live in poverty to be self-sufficient rather than relying upon handouts is the way to go. Please do support all you can and especially in prayer for some whose only hope, as they say, is in the early coming of Christ, as humanly their perspective is bleak indeed.

With love for Jesus' sake

Your brothers and sisters of CCM