

Latvia Updates, July 2006

You may recall our mention of the fact that we've been making some effort to encourage our deaf and dumb Russian brethren to make a series of videos explaining Bible Basics in Russian sign language for the deaf. We have one deaf and dumb brother in Latvia baptized for many years, who has faithfully read and searched the Scriptures daily and is now like Apollos "mighty in the word". We've encouraged him to share his knowledge with other deaf and dumb folk in the Russian speaking world and also his family. We're delighted to report that these efforts have borne fruit. Along with members of the local ecclesias, a wonderful time was spent on the Baltic coast with DIANA, MARYTE and JANIS. Through sign language and filling up a whole exercise book with notes, we were able to discuss with and hear wonderful confessions of faith from our three friends, upon which they were baptized in the Baltic Sea. It was quite an experience praying through writing out the words, and watching our new friends lip reading- no closed eyes in those prayers! The pictures / visual explanations of the Gospel which you kindly contributed and which are displayed at <http://www.carelinks.net/books/bbillit.htm> are useful in our work with the deaf and dumb- thank you all, again.



'Hearing' Sis Maryte's confession of faith



Baptizing our deaf and dumb sister in the Baltic Sea



Breaking of bread with the deaf and dumb. The sister on the far right has transcribed the exhortation on the notepad; note our deaf brother's Bible Companion on the left

The internet is a wonderful resource for the deaf and dumb. Our new sisters and brother don't have much access to the internet and live in rural isolation, although they are computer literate. The internet cafes are far from them, however. It would be great if we could set them up with computer and internet access at home so they can communicate with other Russian or Latvian speaking brothers and sisters.

As you know we seek to assist our needy brothers and sisters to be self-sufficient whenever we can, rather than simply giving financial aid. We've already started assisting Sister Nina whose farm was burnt to the ground. She has a makeshift greenhouse where she's growing tomatoes, strawberries etc. and we hope to report soon on more substantial progress in helping her again become self-sufficient.



Sister Nina's greenhouse

We mention often on these messages how all health care now has to be paid for in the ex-USSR and how crippling this is for many of our brothers and sisters. We advertised a brother's stamp collection, built up over a lifetime, which he sought to sell in order to fund an operation. As a result of the carelink message, a buyer was found and the collection has now been safely delivered. Each of those stamps has a history for our brother, as he traded and swapped throughout the Soviet era to build up a quite remarkable collection- all the more so because he achieved it from behind the iron curtain. Here's our brother lovingly explaining each stamp to Cindy:



Stamp collection

As another example of trying to provide a fishing rod rather than a fish, we've obtained an old computer for Sister Anita and her girls so that the girls can do typing work over the Summer holidays and hopefully get some income for the family.



Explaining how to use the computer to the family

We really appreciate all your support.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM