

MOLDOVA & RUSSIA, June 2006

Members of CCM began preaching work in Moldova in 1991, and it's pleasing to see a community of over 60 brothers and sisters now established there in healthy ecclesias. Growth has slowed in recent times, and we were pleased to share with the converts here the noble example of our South African brethren, who have set a target of quadrupling the number of brethren and sisters in their country by 2010. We suggested our Moldovan members take inspiration from this and there is every reason to think they will do so. The majority of our converts in Moldova are sisters, many of them working long hours and living in very difficult domestic situations here in one of the poorest nations in Eastern Europe. Many try to work 2 or 3 jobs, often cleaning or selling from market stalls, in order to pay ever rising fuel bills, utilities and the basics for family survival. Sister Luba for example works very long hours selling books and postcards from a collapsible table, standing all hours, all weathers, 7 days / week. We're pleased to say that now she has a spot in a subway, out of the weather. Many of the sisters drop by her each day on the way to work.

Luba's mother is terminally ill and bedridden, needing constant attention, but the cost of medicines and care is well beyond what the family can afford to pay. Luba faithfully visits her mum every morning and is very grateful for the Pampers / nappies sent in response to a previous carelink message. Her mother, sister Anna, is 'with it' and full of faith in the return of Jesus and establishment of the Kingdom on earth. Her elderly husband Bro Andrej, also an invalid, sleeps on a narrow couch next to her [they only have a one room apartment]. He is deaf and she prods him with a stick at night if she needs help, as she has no strength to call loudly. We gave what help we could financially and pass on to you their gratitude for the Pampers.



Sis Luba at her mother's bedside

Photo: Sis Luba and Br Andrej with the Pampers kindly sent. Note Sis Anna's stick at her bedside with which to poke Br Andrej. There's little he can do to help, and had a fall recently whilst trying to assist her at night.



Sis Luba and Br Andrej with the Pampers kindly sent

We held a very succesful Bible School, attended by about 35, and are pleased to announce the baptism of VITYA. The brothers and sisters repeatedly asked us to relay to you their thanks for your donations which make these vital gatherings possible. It was great to see a sense of community has developed, and to hear how these occasional gatherings are the key events in the lives of many of the brothers and sisters, who live 'from Bible camp to Bible camp' as they often say. It was good to have a number of children present, and we really appreciate the Sunday School material kindly sent over to Moldova by brothers and sisters in Holland.



Sunday School material in use at the Bible School

Most of the ecclesias in Moldova are comprised of sisters. We were able to take one such group on a small excursion and hold an outdoor breaking of bread.



An ecclesia of sisters holding an outdoor breaking of bread

We travelled on to Russia, enjoying fellowship with the ecclesia in Moscow, and going into areas in Central Russia. We're pleased to report the baptisms of three sisters in different locations, VERA, NADEZHDA and VALENTINA. Sister Valentina is the wife of our faithful and elderly brother Viktor. They live in a remote place and faithfully do their Bible readings each day together. After assisting Brother Viktor with hearing Valentina give an excellent confession of faith, we walked through fields which were once part of a collective farm but now hopelessly overgrown and lying waste, to a muddy stream. We encouraged Brother Viktor to perform the baptism, and it was a very moving ceremony to see this elderly couple united in the Lord in the river.



Walking across the fields to Sis. Valentina's baptism



'This is deep enough, dear'



A proud husband after baptizing his wife

We thank you all again and again for your prayers and support without which none of this work would be possible. To God be the glory.

We'd like to remind you of the plight of Sister Nina whose farm was burnt down in Latvia. We're grateful for the expressions of support so far received. God willing we have the project in hand and hope to get something fixed soon God willing.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM