

## March 2015 Australia, Latvia, Vanuatu, Dimitry

The Lord continues to work through the *Riga Bible Center* to reach out to people; this week we're pleased to tell you of the baptisms of INETA and DANIEL. People can live in the night shelters for around 10 months out of 12 months; each night they are logged in to a computer system which tracks how many nights they have spent inside. This means that for around 2 months / year they need to find other accommodation. Some sleep rough, others squat in derelict houses, others go out into the countryside to find somewhere to lay down. **Carelinks** operate a housing project in a village in northern Latvia which can accommodate some and which is also used for gatherings. There is now an ecclesia which meets there regularly with up to 15 attending. This project has been operating since 2008 and has been greatly blessed. The running costs for electricity, taxes and occasional maintenance work etc. are about 200 pounds / month or 2400 pounds / year. We're wondering if any would like to contribute towards this? Sister Liga and her family live permanently at the project and cultivate the land around it.

Daniel speaks excellent English having lived for 10 years in England, including working for some years in Warrington for DHL. What was amazing was that Peter & Lorrian Eichhorn and Hazel Rutherford were working in the *Bible Center* at the time of the baptism and were able to be present at the baptism- and they are from Nantwich ecclesia, not so far from Warrington . So we marvel at the hand of providence. Daniel worked for years in England, very near to brothers and sisters, but only on returning to **Latvia** did he find the Gospel and was then baptized in Latvia by people whom a few years previously he had probably brushed shoulders with on the streets of England. God's timing is perfect.

Here you can see Daniel being greeted after baptism by sisters Hazel and Peter; after baptisms it's usual to give those baptized a signed *NEV Bible* [signed by all present] and a blanket or even an orange as a sign of our connection with our new brethren:



Lorraine & Pete and Hazel were also able to come out to Western Latvia and experience the wonderful fellowship at the ecclesia there. The meetings are held in the home of a sister who lives right by a deserted beach where the forest comes right down to the sea. There are rifles and various skins and antlers of wild animals all around the house. For over 10 years meetings have been held here and the little group continues to grow and thrive. After the memorial meeting everyone is talking about what is surely there as the dominant emotion in each of our hearts- the things of the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom. The photo captures a little of the spirit there:



We're pleased to share with you the following report:

*"Pete, Hazel and I arrived in **Riga** for our second visit to the **Riga Bible Center**. Whilst we knew what to expect, there have been many changes in the past year. Procedures and menus have been developed to a very high standard. Everything is prepared according to best kitchen practice and there is no difficulty in following the nutritious menus provided. Amongst the helpers of different ages, nationalities and backgrounds, there is wonderful fellowship to be found in service. The centre itself has been renovated to provide excellent warm and welcoming hall, modern toilets and adequate accommodation for those helpers who sleep at the center.*

*The doors open at 4 p.m. and people stream in to receive coffee and tea and to sit and chat with each other. Doors close at 5 p.m. when the evening talk begins . For one hour all present listened to a Bible based talk of watch a preaching video. It was a delight to us all hear Leviticus 13 preached in a way that was relevant to our lives, both rich and poor. We recommend others to hear this talk on a chapter not always of appeal to us-*

*see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aQEhMeAahbg&list=PLtFaNqvleAvkplRzgrB0gS3V5fNa3Mr3M&index=41>*

*The meal is served at 6 p.m. and everyone lines up patiently, although it seems many are really feeling hunger pangs. Andrej, just evicted from his squat in a derelict building, serves a number of the aged and sick before he takes his own food. All our visitors show genuine gratitude in words and smiles. Nothing, not a scrap, is left in the giant containers and where there are seconds, a plastic pot is often held out to take with them. Then everywhere must be cleaned in addition to washing up mountains of dishes, cutlery and pans. A number of visitors stay behind to help with all the tasks, even though they may have long and difficult journeys through the cold streets to wherever they can sleep.*

*There have been two baptisms this week, Ineta and Danuel. Both fairly young and clearly those for whom Christ died. They received Bibles signed by all present and heard testimonies from all present; some homeless and needy, and some like us from comfortable homes and lives. The baptisms were preceded by a doctrinally based talk and they gave good confessions of their faith followed by full immersion in a newly installed bath. Joy radiated from their faces both then and on the following days as they joined the same queue, with no precedence, to receive food. After one baptism we went to deliver firewood to a sister up dark stairs by candlelight, after which she welcomed us to her room with no electricity or toilet but shown to us with pride. I doubt the light of day would show it to be a place any of us would wish to spend our days.*

*We helpers included Arina, a newly baptized sister from Canada who speaks Russian; and a young Ukrainian brother called Maxum who puts his hand to everything with a smile. We know we will go home uplifted. It would be wonderful to see new, maybe younger, helpers in this field. Those who have responded to Jesus' words in Mt. 25:35-40 "I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger... and you... and the king will reply... ".*

Sis Lorraine Eichhorn

## **VANUATU**

The island has been devastated by a cyclone- please pray for everyone and our bre & sis there; we understand that all in the capital are accounted for and our Australian brethren are committed to doing what they can to assist.

## **AUSTRALIA**

The Gospel continues to spread in the outback and encourages us that the Truth of Christ is going literally into the whole world even to the most isolated spots. This week we had a reply from a location approximately in the middle of Australia. Sister Robin from curiosity looked up the cattle station to where she was sending the *Bible Basics*- and found it had recently been for sale. It is advertised as having 50 km. of piped water, and a 1500 meter airstrip... private aircraft are the only reasonable way to get there. Now that truly is the outback. And now these folks have found *Bible Basics* and requested a hard copy.

#### **DIMITRY**

Please pray for Dimitry in Ukraine. He like many Ukrainians turned to God after the tragic and sad collapse of order in Ukraine. He got his Bible from us and opened it roughly in the middle, and came to Jeremiah. He read the whole of Jeremiah along with the commentary- and loved it. He then went on to read parts of the New Testament, and decided to become a Christian. And now he and a group of others want to be baptized. Please pray for him and his friends.

#### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- For the housing project in northern Latvia
- For the newly baptized sis Ineta and brother Daniel
- For Dimitry
- For Vanuatu
- For those in the outback of Australia now studying the Gospel

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