

Nepal, Brother Ivan, Western Latvia August 2009

Readers may recall the wonderful opening to minister to the Raute people in **Western Nepal**, one of the last hunter-gatherer tribes on earth. Brother Bishnu reports he has had more contact with them as he tries to teach them the Gospel. As there are now heavy rains, they need tents and medications because of sickness. Bishnu reports that a number of them have died recently. It's amazing that the true Gospel is spreading in such remote areas.

Brother Ivan

Brother Ivan is typical of so many poorer people in Eastern Europe. He has no relatives apart from a daughter who long ago disappeared to live in Western Europe and has gone off contact. He gets a pension of 80 LVL / month, and lives in a hostel which costs 2 LVL / night, including 2 cups of tea / day. So he has to live on about 20 LVL / month- all food, clothing, medicines. He lives in a dormitory style room which has 7 beds. He has a plastic bottle he fills with tap water which he drinks, and has one bag of possessions. There's a tiny TV / Radio set in the room which is how he keeps up with what's going on in the world. He spends his days reading the Bible and picking up discarded fruit in the nearby market, which is largely what he lives off. He's a Jew who has struggled for many years with the issue of Jesus. He has read a huge amount of Jehovah's Witness literature, but he refused to accept their obsession with the Jehovah Name and their view of Israel. And he saw through many of their other errors as well- as he will explain to you at great detail! Ivan was spotted reading his Bible by a cleaner at the hostel who is a sister, and she put him in touch with us. It was a pleasure to baptize IVAN into Christ earlier this week, and to see him so rejoicing in Him for whom Israel hopes, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is very frail on his feet and it's a tragedy to see such a fine man in this situation. Please do pray for him. We will do our best to support him with food, medicines and clothing.



Photo: The hostel, with what used to be the museum of atheism in the background.



Fellowshipping together in the dormitory whilst the other men in there were all outside:



We continue providing assistance to the various ones we've mentioned in previous Carelinks. Brother Leonid, Sister Genofieva and the others are all holding on in the faith, although their existence is at times pretty miserable. The cost of medical assistance in the Baltics is becoming very high and corruption is growing, with doctors routinely charging extra for all procedures. This week we were able to assist brother Alexei, who has many complications after a stroke and failed hip replacement. He spent a day at the hospital and had to pay 3 bribes just to get attention from various specialists- 20, 30 and 45 Lats. This is wiping out his savings. Our brother is in chronic pain much of the time and finds walking up stairs unbearable. He has a fine, active

mind and is full of the Scriptures. Even whilst visiting us he burst into tears from stabs of awful pain. It's so sad that the specialists just aren't interested in attending to him unless he pays them extra. Cindy is doing all she can to try to get him more sympathetic treatment, although it may well result in having to repeat the hip replacment if he is to be put out of his pain- a difficult and expensive operation.

Brother Alexei:



Despite all these welfare issues, we're delighted to report that the Gospel of the Kingdom is spreading further and further. Sister Vija has been a faithful sister for many years, and it was with great joy that we recently visited her to baptize her son and his wife, ARNIS and ANITA. We also baptized two twin sisters, DACE and DAIGA, also relatives of sister Vija. It was a wonderful Sunday afternoon, hearing their confession of faith and witnessing their very meaningful baptisms into Jesus. There was an evident appreciation of what it means, and the Lord Jesus was glorified in Truth. There's a video of it at <http://aletheiacollege.net/engure.htm> .

It was a very happy procession which walked from sister Vija's village home to the beach. Brother Steve Jones from Hurstville along with Sister Belina Burns were also present:



Here they are just before going into the sea:



Sister Vija was simply SO overjoyed at the baptism of her son, for which she has been working and praying many years:



Sis Belinda [far left] bonded very well with the girls and is encouraging their friends in studying *Bible Basics* :



[Note the bear skin on the wall of the home- there's a hunter in the family]

Here's Belinda congratulating Dace and Daiga after their baptisms:



BIBLE BASICS

We're pleased to report that our "Bible Basics" website has been overhauled. Interested contacts can now take the "Bible Basics" course as an online seminar. Each chapter of the book now has a corresponding video and MP3 file. We're sometimes asked what exactly do we teach- well apart from reading it online in "Bible Basics", you can now hear and view it in audio and video. See <http://www.biblebasicsonline.com>

With much love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks