

November 2008 Eastern European Winter Bible School Sponsoring Appeal

BACKGROUND

The CCM Bible Schools in Eastern Europe began in 1992 when we invited a small group of interested people from throughout the former USSR to study the Bible with us for a week. The ex-USSR spreads over 9 time zones, so it's really hard to get people together in one place. However, such meetings are important in order to create a sense of community and fellowship amongst those who have been baptized and who are seriously studying the doctrines of the Truth. The Schools have been kept going ever since, thanks to the generous support of Western brothers and sisters. However, the collapsed economic situation in the area means that we have to heavily subsidize many brothers and sisters to attend. Attendance reached a peak of 220 brethren and sisters. If we don't keep up these Bible Schools, the sense of community and fellowship amongst this widely scattered group of 1500 brethren and sisters will be seriously damaged, and despite rising costs, we feel we really have to ask for your support each year to enable this wonderful gathering to continue.

You might have seen the video that was being distributed that showed one of those Russian Bible schools. Now CCM are organizing not only the main Winter Bible School but also a few Bible weekends on a more local scale, and also sisters' weekends. We're grateful to Western brothers and sisters for coming over and assisting the local brethren and sisters with speaking at these functions, and we'd love to hear from any who'd be able to come and speak, or who'd just like to come over and share in this unique experience.

You can see a report of last year's school at <http://www.carelinks.net/doc/423813165>

2009 WINTER BIBLE SCHOOL

These schools may be the only time most of these Brothers and Sisters get together as they are so scattered, often in total isolation. Several young couples have met and are now married as a result of meeting at these Bible Schools; and many isolated brethren and sisters comment that they live 'from Bible School to Bible School'. There is a very warm and intense spirit of fellowship; but without your support, these gatherings can't happen. The Winter Eastern European Bible School is booked for January 22-27, 2009, God willing, in Poltava, Ukraine. Speakers will include Bro Charlie Klennert from the USA and Bro Duncan Heaster from Latvia. We'd like to not only invite your attendance, but also to encourage you to consider sponsoring a brother or sister to attend.

DONATIONS

The total cost of these gatherings [excluding fares for speakers, which are met privately] is about GBP 10,000. We really do need your support. You can have a look at the brethren and sisters below who'd like to come and decide to sponsor one or more individuals, in which case we'll ensure you get a note of thanks from them; or make a general donation. If the person you chose to sponsor doesn't come for whatever reason, we'll reassign the sponsorship to someone else. You can donate through PayPal or by cheques made out to 'Carelinks' sent to :-

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Carelinks, c/o Bro John Thatcher, P.O. Box 152, Menai Central, NSW 2234

AUSTRALIA Email: accounts@carelinks.net

UK

Robin & Jean Field, 4 Ellergreen, Burneside, Kendal LA9

5SD Email: jandrfield@mypostoffice.co.uk

NORTH AMERICA

Carelinks USA, c/o Charlie Klennert, PO Box 1049, Sumner, WA 98390

USA Email: charlie@tacomaecclesia.net

CANADA

Canadian representative, to whom Canadians can send checks [made out to "**Carelinks**"]:
Steve and Connie Keating, 3420 Lakeshore Road, RR 3, Alexandria, Ontario K0C 1A0 Canada

If you have a PayPal account, you can donate by clicking here: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=1411229

Please note that currently 1 GBP [British pound] = 1.6 US\$, 2.3 AU\$, 1.2 Euros, 15 ZA Rand

Please pray for the community here as they grow in grace and the knowledge of their Lord and Saviour Jesus.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

Brother Albinas



Brother Albinas was baptized in 1992 and has faithfully attended Bible Schools since then. He is a school teacher, always with his Bible on his desk [see photo] and is a respected figure in the Eastern European brotherhood. A schoolteacher's salary is only enough to live off and he can't get to Bible School without your help. He needs 300 GBP

Brother Andrej & Sister Tanya



Andrej and Tanya are a young married couple who attend Bible Schools regularly, but Andrej now has only intermittent employment and it's hard for them to come without help. They need 300 GBP.

Brother Andrej [Kazan]



Andrej is hearing impaired, but he and his wife simply love Scripture. He's pictured here at a previous Bible School. He hears everything OK if he sits at the front and uses his apparatus. He'd simply love to come- but the cost is about GBP 200

Brother Boris



Brother Boris is a faithful attender who has brought several into the truth. Despite chronic heart problems he makes the long journey each year, every time saying he fears it will be the last this side of the Kingdom. He needs 150 GBP.

Brother Valerij



Valerij lives in the far north of Russia in a small village. He has no chance of fellowship apart from the Bible Schools. He faithfully attends whenever we can fund him. He walks with a stick and it takes him 3 days each way to travel but he eagerly comes. Cost: GBP 250

Children from Moldova



There are three children of sisters from Moldova who'd like to come to the Bible School- cost GBP 400

Sister Anastasia [Kazakhstan]

Sister Danita and children from Belarus



Sister Danita is a victim of Chernobyl radiation but whilst she's in remission she'd love to come to the Bible School. She's good with children and you can see her teaching children from the CBM Sunday School lessons. Cost: 250 GBP- and she'd also like to bring children with her if we have funds.

Sister Irma



Sister Irma, far right in the photo, lives in Latvia where she is a faithful attender of the ecclesia. She loves going to Bible Schools and counts those she knows from going there as her closest friends. Cost: GBP 300

Sister Lena & Brother Vitaly



Sister Lena and her fiancée brother Vitaly were both baptized at different Bible Schools, as was Sister Lena's mother, Sister Galina. Going to Bible Schools has become part of their spiritual life and it's a joy to help them come, indeed Bible Schools have played a large part in the spiritual life of this family. Cost for both of them would be GBP 200

Sister Luba and her son Zhenya



Sister Luba works hard selling books all day on the street. She faithfully attends Bible School with her son when she can. She wants to come this time but it costs 300 GBP for both of them.

Sister Ludmila [Ukraine]



Sister Ludmila and her son brother Stas were both baptized at Bible Schools. A school teacher, sis Ludmila is always in her element commenting on the daily Bible readings during the readings session each morning at Bible School. Cost: GBP 100

Sister Raisa



Sister Raisa's sister Nina was recently baptized at the last Winter Bible School. She enjoys fellowship with the many other sisters of her age at the Bible School. Her daughters and grandchildren have all been baptized due to her faithful example. Cost: GBP 200

Sister Sofia



Sister Sofia was baptized at a Bible School- you can see her rejoicing here afterwards with the visitors from overseas. She is very frail but very faithful. Bible School is the only chance she gets to meet with her brother in the flesh Boris. Cost: GBP 120

Sister Zoya



Sister Zoya's daughter has been baptized, and she lives as she says from Bible School to Bible School. Cost: GBP 90

Brother Oleg



Oleg has attended Bible Schools for a long time, and arranges his annual leave from the factory to always be able to get to them. He's a very faithful brother and fills notebooks with his extensive notes on the talks.