

Poverty In Latvia March 2005

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We're pleased to say that there has been some response to the heating needs and we've been able to give out some help in this area. We'd like to share with you two recent visits made which were truly inspirational.

The first is a family of mum and dad, and two adult children, one of whom is married with a child. They live in a remote place, and the parents are caretakers for the local village school. It's been so cold this Winter that they've taken to living in the cellar of the school, sleeping around the large boiler there, which they have to constantly feed every few hours around the clock [it's a manual feed]. The mother and daughter are baptized. They have plenty of time to study the Scriptures down there in the cellar, and we were delighted to baptize LAIMONIS, the father, into the Lord's Saving Name. Afterwards we presented him with a warm overcoat kindly donated from the Walton ecclesia in the UK. The granddaughter is sick and they ask for your prayers. Constant exposure to the cold, coupled with poor diet, has led to thyroid problems for them. Thyroid problems abound in Eastern Europe, often connected with exposure to nuclear radiation.



Photo:

Laimonis with his warm overcoat



Photo:

Sis Ieva's sick child- please pray for them

We'd also like to share with you the situation of another sister who's been baptized a long time. She lives with her elderly mother and two daughters, works two jobs to just pay basic bills [as a postlady and cleaner], and they still struggle to find funds to buy the medicines required for her mother and the girls. Despite their poverty, they read according to the Bible Companion plan each day and truly love the Truth. A while ago we got them an apartment which is properly heated, as they were living in a very cold and damp farm building which resulted in the children suffering from collapsed lungs and being sick much of the time. It's a pleasure to be able to assist them. Recently a neighbour died and they were given her huge weaving loom, a hand and pedal operated affair that takes up a whole room. They scavenge for discarded clothes, wash

them and unpick the threads, and weave them into the most amazing carpets, rugs, scarves and cushion covers.

Grandmother and children work hard at this and have produced some really nice stuff.



Photo:
The loom



Photo:
Grandmother and granddaughter at work



Photo:
Displaying what they've made

Providentially it happened that a friend of the Stibbs family, in Pine Rivers ecclesia Australia, was in Lithuania, and we invited her to spend Easter with us. She came with an American work colleague, and we took them to see the loom and the products- and so arose the first 'sale' of their work



Photo:
Greg and Shuwana making their purchase



Photo:
Scarves

We're aware that brothers and sisters all over the world are buying camels, handbags, slippers etc from our sisters in Turkmenistan; and we wondered if anyone would like to buy a hand made scarf or cushion cover from this lovely and hard working family, who are in poverty through no fault of their own. Suggested prices would be say US\$10 for a scarf and US\$15 for cushion covers; and maybe US\$30 for a rug. The big problem is postage but we hope that we can get some supplies carried over to various countries within our grapevine of contacts.

If anyone's interested in being an agent for our sisters, please let us know at info@carelinks.net

With love and thanks for your support

Duncan & Cindy Heaster