

Refugee Brethren, Lithuania , August 2009

The plight of our refugee brethren from Iran continues. The Carelinks safe house in Turkey continues to provide shelter for some of them, but several are living in small towns in central and Eastern Turkey where they have been sent by the Turkish authorities whilst they await the outcome of their asylum applications to the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission For Refugees]. During this period, which can last a few years, they are not allowed to work legally and have to somehow meet all living and medical expenses themselves. They are frequently hassled by the xenophobic Police and Moslem extremists, deceived by landlords and many other things. We are very grateful to those who support our brethren in this difficult time.

The cases of a number of our brethren are progressing positively, and we keep in regular contact with the UNHCR to try as far as possible to speed up the process. Our brethren cannot return to Iran as they would very likely be imprisoned, tortured to extract information, and quite possibly killed either by formal execution or informal methods. Already we have reported the murder of two brothers and a sister over the years, and we were worried to receive news that another Iranian brother whom we baptized some years ago has recently gone missing in Iran, presumably arrested.

There is a powerful insight into the persecution of Christians in Iran at <http://www.elam.com/articles/Urgent-Prayer/>

We recently again visited some of our refugee brethren in Turkey and gathered them together at the Carelinks safe house. We had a wonderful time together. Also present was a contact from Afghanistan, R. Originally from a small town near Mazar-e-Sharif, he fled Afghanistan after the Taleban focused upon him for his refusal of their ultra Moslem ways and tried to make an example of him to other Moslems. He crossed many mountains, both into Iran, then right across Iran overland, and over the mountains of Kurdistan into Turkey, where we met him. He has been an avid student of *Bible Basics*, which he brought with him. It was a very battered edition, and he had underlined and highlighted most parts of it and done the answers to the questions. It was a pleasure to baptize him.

Here's brother the brother's *Bible Basics*:



Our brother's case is being processed by the United Nations but he really needs our prayers and support. Please pray that the powers that be will decide to give these fine brethren asylum, and quickly



And so we had a very spiritual and upbuilding time together. Our Ukrainian Sister Marina was also present along with her Russian friend VIKA, to whom she has been preaching. We were delighted to also baptize her. Here's Marina explaining Scripture to Vika- with her cat watching:



Sometimes one has to just sit back and reflect at the wonders God is doing in the earth these

days. There we were, almost each of us born in a different country, with 6 different native languages: Ukrainian, Russian, Kurdish, Farsi, Dari, English. But brought together by God by His Truth, for His Son, and in His service:

Brother A should be leaving for America within the next few months, God willing. We're so grateful to the UK ecclesia who have been so faithfully supporting him for some time now.

Please, do continue praying for these beloved brothers and sisters who are undergoing so many problems at the hands of Islam and religious extremism.

LITHUANIA

Carelinks workers started preaching in Lithuania in 1990, and baptized the first converts in 1992 and many more throughout the 1990s. It's wonderful that many remain firm in the Faith. A pastoral visit was made there recently, and it was a pleasure to meet brother Ryszardas again. He's very hard hit by the financial crisis, and his sister IRENA has been in hospital for some time, although recently released. He faithfully visited her every day, and has for some time taught her the Gospel, and she has been a regular attender at the meetings. It was an evening of true joy to baptize her and break bread together with her. Ryszardas truly loves God's word- to just glance through his Bible is a great exhortation. So many verses are underlined, with exclamation marks next to them, others are highlighted, with notes... not that Bible study of itself will save us, but love of God goes with love of His word. This family's situation is very difficult and we will remember them in prayer; but it was wonderful for this brother and sister to also become brother and sister in Christ. Brother Ryszardas is far left in the photo below, with Irena to his right.



ONLINE STUDY AND BREAKING OF BREAD

Carelinks encourage the daily reading of the Bible according to the Bible Companion. This weekend we'll be reading about Elijah, and we thought we'd mention that we have a brief study / exhortation online. Those breaking bread alone or in small groups may find it helpful. The video is at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/elijah.html> and just the MP3 file is at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/video/elijah.mp3>

Facebook users can join the Carelinks group and view the video there- <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=69292278377&ref=ts>

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks