

UK, Refugees, Winter Welfare, Carelinks New Zealand November 2009

ENGLAND

As we've often remarked in Carelinks messages, the West is increasingly looking for the Gospel. Amidst what may appear a hopeless secularism, there are people out there searching for answers. One such person was DAVE BASFORD, a secular, university educated guy in northern England. Dave started searching, rejected atheism, and set about trying to find the Bible's true meaning. At this point he found us on the internet and we were pleased to send him *Bible Basics*, *The Real Christ* and *The Real Devil*. He became convinced of the Truth after much correspondence, and we put him in touch with his local ecclesia, Blackburn, in Northern England. We're grateful to Blackburn for their assistance and are delighted to report that Dave was recently baptized. Congratulations, brother Dave! May this encourage us all in what may appear at times a hopeless task- of witnessing to secular Western people.



Photo: Dave's baptism

There are others in the UK and USA who are likewise approaching baptism, each day we receive many requests for literature and emails from those who've read our material.

REFUGEES

A huge amount of work's going on with the refugee brethren in the camp in Latvia, sister Sonia Hemingray is there at the moment trying to network support for some of the cases.

We continue holding weekly breaking of bread meetings at the camp. With Winter falling and conditions rough there, we recently took several bags of warm clothing there. We also take food there regularly to supplement the very limited diet our brethren are provided with. We made a short movie of the latest delivery- see <http://aletheiacollege.net/video/camp1109.html>.

The breaking of bread meetings are very intense, both in Bible study and prayer. We give the brethren a chapter to study each week, hear their exposition of it, discuss it, pray together, and break bread. The joy at those meetings is a powerful testimony to the power of the Gospel. Brother Rowan has several times brought his fellow medical students with him on these visitations, and they have been deeply impressed by the power of the Truth in practice.



Photos: Scenes from our meetings with the refugee brethren in the visitors' room of the refugee camp:

One of the photos shows our brethren with a newly reprinted edition of *The Bible Companion* reading plan. We continue to encourage all we baptized to read daily with this plan, and will be happy to send hard copies of it to any requiring it.

Our preaching in Latvia continues to enjoy unusual blessing at this time. The deepening economic crisis is leading many ordinary working people to think about God. Our English language classes are held twice / week in Riga, and attendance is now over 20- people keep bringing their friends. Partly as a result of these classes and partly from the witness of existing brethren and sisters, we're delighted to announce the baptisms of another six brothers and sisters: AIGARS, LUDMILA, AINA, EDUARDS, VALERIJ and NATASHA.



WINTER WELFARE

We continue distributing Winter welfare support. As the Winter progresses, more and more ordinary folk are finding it impossible to make ends meet. Here's a letter from a sister, lamenting how her pension was cut by 15% and then by 4%, and that she has no idea how to pay for her heating in her apartment. If people don't pay for their heating, eventually they are thrown out and have to go live in the night shelters if they have no relatives to live with. Here's the relevant clip from her letter:



We provide a meat soup and other food at the weekly meetings at Riga Bible Center, and on some other days also. For some brothers and sisters this is the only time they get to eat meat. There's a brief movie of it at <http://aletheiacollege.net/video/feeding.html> .

In the photo below you can see Cindy at the meeting on Sunday, considering a set of prescriptions given to a sister who's just had a heart attack. She really has no money and yet Cindy considers those medications to be important and significant in reducing the risk of another attack within the next month. The cost of those particular medications is about that sister's entire monthly pension.



So... you can see that we truly do appreciate your assistance for the Winter Welfare appeal.

We're grateful to a sister at Maidenhead for gathering together wool and knitting needles and getting them to Latvia. These have been a great hit with our pensioner sisters and those from the shelter, many of whom have quite a bit of spare time in the day time:

Photo: Distribution of wool and knitting needles.



FUTURE PLANS

If the situation continues this bad, we can foresee that at the height of Winter- in January and February- things are going to be very difficult for very many brethren and sisters. Those living in the night shelters must be out by 8 a.m. and are only allowed back in at 7 p.m.. They're not allowed to leave anything there, so they have to take their few belongings with them [or leave them at our Bible Center!]. If you're elderly or sick, it's no fun being outdoors all day in low temperatures. We're toying with the idea of inviting bre & sis to come to Latvia and run a kind of soup kitchen all day in that period, allowing those being fed to remain in the Bible Centre most of the day, reading the Bible literature which we have there. But we still have to work out the logistics of it all.

CARELINKS NEW ZEALAND

We're pleased to say that Carelinks New Zealand has been registered as a tax efficient charity in order to effectively channel donations from New Zealand to the work. More details are at <http://carelinks.net/doc/otherdonations>

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks