

UZBEKISTAN November 2004

It's been some years since any visit was made to Uzbekistan. Strict regulations against proselytizing make progress difficult. Brethren E and O have been our only brethren here, in isolation in this restive and unstable country, yet another land troubled by Moslem extremists. Despite all obstacles, however, the Gospel continues to spread. It was a pleasure to baptize sisters T and E. Sister E is a chronic diabetic, and needs regular insulin injections. She was recently unconscious for a week in a coma, and her sight and circulation are failing fast. It's difficult to get good medical care here, and there is no state health cover for insulin, which must be imported. Our young sister, only 19, needs insulin [Insulatard and Actrapid] costing more than what her parents earn each month. We gave welfare to temporarily assist her, and also to Brother E and Sister T. We do ask for your prayers for her. She's very spiritually minded and is fully convicted of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Brother O also receives welfare support. He lives in a broken down shed. He padlocks it each day and goes to the cemetery, where he earns a little money tending the graves and also begs for money.



Photo: Brother O's ramshackle home [note broken window boarded up from the inside]



Photo: Begging for money in the cemetery

Our members here are all Russians, and it's very hard for the Russian minority here in this predominantly Moslem country, quite apart from the chronic poverty and corruption. They ask for your prayers and we assured them of the love and care of their world-wide family.