

## Ukraine and Moldova, Sept. 2004

Despite all these things, the Truth is growing strongly in the ex-USSR. The good news spreads from one to another, with so many disillusioned with the Catholic and Orthodox churches, and earnestly seeking for a meaningful relationship with God.

Our trip began with a small Bible weekend in Moldova, to which all the brethren and sisters were invited, and there was a good attendance of about 30 brethren, sisters and their family members. One pleasing feature of the School was the sisters classes given by Sis Ludmila, who visited from Ukraine, bringing many carefully prepared charts and illustrations with her.



Photo: Sis Ludmila addressing the sisters

Sisters Luba and Tanya continue working for \$1 / day selling books on the main street of Chisinau, standing for long hours each day. One sister had not had a day off for 40 days. Many of our members in this country are sick and elderly, and now that medical care has to be paid for, it was necessary to give welfare to some really needy cases. Pensions are down to around \$12 / month. There is high unemployment, and nearly everyone is struggling with basic needs. Giving cash is not something we like doing but there is often no option when it comes to medical needs. However, there are other ways we can help. One of these is to send some Pampers [disposable nappies] to a middle aged sister, whose mother is now incontinent. She can't stay at home to look after her as she needs to go out to work- for about \$1 / day. So, if you email us at [info@carelinks.net](mailto:info@carelinks.net) we can provide her address, and you can send Pampers to her. Please do try to help in this and please do pray for her and many others like her.

It was a pleasure to baptize ZHENYA in Chisinau, and to see how Br Piotr is still faithfully leading the ecclesia which gather at a sister's small flat in Botanica. He carries everywhere with him his very worn New Testament, which he has always taken with him everywhere, during the dark days of Communist persecution. He took it with him down the mines, to his tribunals and into prison. It's also good to see the Bible Companion in regular use here.



Photo: Br. Piotr, elder of the Chisinau ecclesia, with his treasured New Testament, and leading the memorial meeting there

Our trip went onwards into Ukraine, where we visited and baptized ZOYA in a bath tub in her garden. Finally, there was GALINA, an elderly and very wonderful lady who is so grateful to have found the pearl of great price at the end of her long and very hard life. She recounted awful stories of her experiences during WW2 under Nazi occupation, during which she lost her parents and sister. Through all these things the Lord led her, until now she has come to the firm

hope and understanding of the Kingdom. She was attracted to the Truth by the loving and consistent care for her shown by her grandson Bro Oleksij, who is on call for her 24 hours.



Photo: Bro. Oleksij with his dear grandmother

There were several others visited who were not yet ready for baptism but we prayerfully hope they will be ready soon. There are also many cases of genuine need in Ukraine which we sought to address. Due to the worsening economic situation in Ukraine and Moldova, many younger people have gone to other European countries to work and remit funds to their families. Many of them are lonely, insecure, working long hours in poor conditions, and searching for God. We are in touch with a number of such, and are pleased to report the baptism of BOGDAN, and hope to report more such baptisms in the future God willing.

So we give thanks for the way the Gospel is spreading, and especially for the spiritual growth so evident amongst our brethren and sisters.