

Various Updates March 2006

The last week has been very busy for us here in Eastern Europe. The fruit of our English teaching seminars and outreach to women living in the women's shelter in Riga continues, and we're pleased to report the baptism of ALLA. A brief visit was also made to Turkey, where we have a number of Russian speaking contacts. It was a pleasure to baptize ANNA, who has been living in Turkey for 7 years. She's been eagerly reading the Bible for some time and wanting to find the Truth. She has a deep familiarity with Scripture and it was a pleasure to baptize her. Within minutes of meeting, she was explaining how she can't hack the trinity, and how she so earnestly wished to be baptized because this would fulfil the type of Israel going through the Red Sea, leaving Egypt / the world, and starting her journey to the promised land.



Our Russian sister Anna in Turkey

Our sister has already been in touch with the ecclesia in Izmir and hopes to attend the Bible School planned there. We mentioned a while ago about the problems of our brother F, who is lying low to avoid army service in Turkey and seeking to get citizenship in Bosnia, where he is ethnically from. The process is still ongoing, meanwhile he is working very long hours, in fact spending most of his time at work, as he can sleep there, but at least he is out of the eye of the authorities. Life is very much 'existence' for him at the moment but we were pleased to see his faith still strong.

The terrible Winter is finally easing up, leaving big heating bills for some, problems with meltwater, colds and flu for others [as often happens when the Winter ends].



Sister Anita is doing well and still managing to do the daily Bible readings with the children despite working three jobs to make ends meet.

When you barely earn enough to buy food [the cakes on the table in the photo were brought along by us], things like a broken window, letting in the cold, becoming major dramas to cope with financially. Everyone is SO very appreciative of your help through the Winter heating project.



We're also trying to do what we can with helping our brothers and sisters who simply can't meet the rapidly rising cost of medical attention and medicines. Cindy recently took the blood pressure of an elderly housebound sister, to find it was 240 / 150 - you can have a stroke or heart

attack any time at that level, and yet we have to pay for a doctor to go out and see her. The cost of that alone is about half her monthly pension.

Here's a photo of Cindy taking the blood pressure of another sister, which was 180 / 100, also very bad. We're trying to provide drugs and health advice as best we can, but it's hard when years of very poor diet have left their mark.



Cindy taking the blood pressure of another sister.

We've enjoyed wonderful emails from our new brethren in China. They write of their joy at having become connected with God and Jesus through baptism, and their very real sense of the presence of the Father and Son in their lives. They've asked us to write something introducing God to total unbelievers. We're working away, and would appreciate any approaches anybody may have to suggest. We've opened a new Chinese language website, www.chinabible.info. Our new brethren are pushing the offer of free Bible literature in various Chinese chat rooms, and there's already been a flow of people requesting Chinese Bible Basics. We're encouraged by our new brethren's initiative and zeal to share what for them has truly been the good news of the Kingdom.

As always, we appreciate your care, prayers and support. God willing we hope to report soon of more baptisms in the Baltics, we have quite a number of contacts approaching readiness. Come over and help us reap this great harvest if you can! We'd also like to remind you of our upcoming Bible Weekend in Riga at the last weekend of May.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM