

Various Updates, December 2006

Things have been hectic here in Eastern Europe for the last 2 weeks, trying to deal with various issues and cases of need that have arisen, ever seeking to mediate the love of the Lord Jesus and the grace of God and to have these as our motivators at all times.

MOLDOVA

We're delighted to say that our previously reported efforts to provide an income for sisters there via a bookstall project is working out very well, and this weekend they report opening another book table next to their existing one in the market. People are attracted by the fact there are English books and religious books available there, which makes them different to other bookstands. The sisters are telling their clients in advance they'll be away for a week in January for the Bible School! There's also been excellent response to recent advertising in Moldova and we've sent many correspondence courses and Bible Basics out to folk there. It's always a relief when a self-help project works out so well and truly empowers genuinely needy sisters to have a way of working for a better income.

BIBLE SCHOOL SPONSORING UPDATE

We're grateful for the sponsoring so far received for the Winter Eastern European Bible School planned God willing for January 11-18. We've received a large number of requests to attend from local brethren and sisters but travel costs have doubled or more in many areas- even in Latvia, all urban transport costs are set to double from January 1st. Such rampant inflation isn't reflected in wages and we do commend your attention to the sponsoring appeal at www.carelinks.net/appeals/Winter_Heating.html

Several Russian sisters from Kazakhstan, a three day each way train journey from Ukraine, have written asking if they can come- they are thirsting for fellowship, faithfully breaking bread each week and reading their Bibles daily. The total cost for just one of them would be around 250 GBP [= 500 US\$, 620 AU\$]. At the moment we're having to say "No, not this time" to them but it's a real shame. The distances for them are of course vast and we appreciate that not everything's possible!

WINTER HEATING UPDATE

We continue distributing aid to those in need, and would like to share with you the thanks from two sisters.

Sis. Olga wrote a very touching letter, partly in English, partly in Russian. She's an 80 year old former English teacher. Hopefully you can discern her handwriting in the extracts below- we plan on providing more help in the near future:

Photos below : Extracts from Sis. Olga's letter of thanks





if you have problems reading the excerpts, here they are in English:

"Potatoes are very expensive. But I am lucky. I go to the dump where rotten potatoes are thrown out. But there are good potatoes also among rotten ones. I praise God for this good weather. I can pick up half a pail of good potatoes and bring them home praising God.... to get cheap bread I go straight to the bakery house not to the shop because it is very expensive. The bread in the bakery house is that which is rejected because it is defective, damaged... thank you for the fire wood... I am very grateful for the woollen blanket that you kindly gave me... for the kindly words spoken, the letters written... "Let me be neither rich nor poor, so only give me as much food as I need" (Proverbs 30:3)... God often does differently than what we would think, He chose neither palaces nor temples for the place of birth of His Son... at the beginning of [my relationship with you] my aim was to improve my English. It was my hobby and curiosity to study the Bible in English. Now it is my life. After reading "Bible Basics" gone was the fear dread of a superhuman monster called the devil. Such a monster does not exist. it is out fault we sin... Once again I give thanks for your practical help. As I pray, I give thanks for you have given me so much joy. I feel warm inside for your kindness... with much love in Jesus, Olga"

Sis. Ludmila writes:

"I am so happy to be able to write to you, warm and cosy here in my room. Thank you for all you did! Now my chimney has the holes fixed, I am burning far less wood than I was before, and also the room is warmer now I don't have drafts from the windows. I would very much love to come to the Bible School to meet more of my wonderful spiritual family, as you know I have nobody at all to call my human family, but I fear the long journey and leaving my home unprotected, so I am praying for help with this decision"

We've also bought free standing 'dry' toilets, along with very 'green' processing system, which enables the waste to be SAFELY and usefully used in the garden as fertilizer. Some systems our brethren and sisters are currently using are so unhygienic, we're amazed there's no outbreaks of cholera amongst them.



Photo: The free standing 'biotoilet'

Photo: Delivering to the home of a poor sister [with the help of local



brethren]

WITNESS TO THE DEAF

The deaf brethren and sisters baptized in the Summer and earlier are attending the local ecclesia regularly, and getting them mobile phones has been a great boost for them, as now

they can be in touch with each other and with us by text messaging. They have really enlivened the community in Western Latvia.



Photo: Breaking bread with the deaf, communicating by writing notes



Photo: Cindy explaining to Sis Marite about text messaging

We hope to give more detailed updates soon.

We sometimes receive anonymous donations into our bank account as listed at <http://www.carelinks.net/about/donate.htm> . We'd like to thank a recent donor who used that method.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM