

## Various Updates, October 2005

1. We've received several enquiries about bird flu in Central Europe. Br Joel Pickering and his team advised the brethren in Bosnia to close down operations, and they have killed their birds and tried to sell them. One of the brethren writes: "Am also hapy that chickens are done. Mustafa is facing with big problems write know. He in next month needs to move out form this house were he is living,he at first place lived there free,because landlady had simpaties for him,but now she had sold it and he must go out. Big problem is that his wife is at six motnh of pregnancy. With winter coming and baby on the way,he is in trouble. He had called me this morning and he told me that he sold 19 chickens.He is disapointed with a fact that he lost big amount of money because of this flu which didnt arrive here yet.I think that he lost around 40 kilograms of meat,that is around 200 marks.Last chickens weight was average 1.350-1.450 kg. But he has hope that he may continue this on summer.He liked it very much.He thanks one more time".

So far as the chicken projects in Latvia are concerned, we've decided not to totally abandon them but to just wait a bit to see if the scare subsides, which God willing it will do. In any case these projects were smaller scale than the Bosnian one. The chicks will be reared in closed accommodation and would largely provide food for local families rather than be sold on the market.

2. We're sorry to report the death in tragic circumstances of our beloved young brother Sasha of Latvia. He and his brother, brother Sergej, suffered the loss of their mother sister Lidia almost exactly 2 years ago. They lived in great poverty and recently got unregistered work on a demolition site. Sergej was working behind a huge panel wall, which suddenly gave way and fell on Sasha, crushing him to death. We were able to conduct a funeral service for our brother. Sergej really needs our prayers. He is strong in faith but he has only one near relative left, no friends in the world, and is feeling very alone as they live far from other brethren. It is quite beyond him to meet the funeral expenses and he can't provide a headstone neither for his mother nor brother. Anyone who can help towards this can send donations via our treasurer or via PayPal at [www.carelinks.net/carelinks.html](http://www.carelinks.net/carelinks.html) . The family lived for the Truth and at tragic times like this one feels that our labours in teaching and preaching the Hope of the resurrection in Christ have not been in vain.



Brothers Sasha [right] and Sergej [left] at their mother's funeral two years ago.



Bro Sergej at Sasha's funeral a few days ago, at the same spot.



Bro. Sergej pointing out the 2nd floor of the building they were demolishing, which fell upon his brother. He says he has nightmares of the wall falling- please pray for him.

3. We've had many enquiries about the Pakistan earthquake, and we'd like to confirm that all brethren in Pakistan and Afghanistan are accounted for. A Pakistani brother writes: "Dear Fellows You might know about the sad news of strong earth quake in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other parts of pakistan and are praying of victims but i like to ask you to Thank God for safety of our brothers in Islamabad. I've made calls to Brother Mathew and Bro ali this morning and asked about their safty. i m glad to know they are safe and their area is not effected. Plz continue to pray for victims and wounded of this severe earthquake".

4. Finally some positive news from our Bible Basics outreach efforts in Australia, from Br & Sis Steve & Robin Jones:

It was with great joy that we witnessed the baptism of our new sister Jacoline Meddings on Sat 22nd Oct at the Dandenong Education Centre.

Jackie had been sent Bible Basics a couple of years ago, but got rid of the first book she was sent ... then more recently she got an email from Duncan offering to visit her on his next visit to Aus. This rekindled her interest and she sent for the book again, only this time she read it and found it made sense, and went on to read everything she could get her hands on as well as listening to on-line Bible talks. Emails and phone calls went back and forth and she also began the "Exploring the Bible " course sent to her by Bro Keith Ward.

After ascertaining that the centre at Dandenong was probably the best place for her to go (she had already read about them via their website) she started attending some of their mid-week classes, and found a caring group of Brothers and Sisters. And so it was that with one planting and another watering, God gave the increase... and with joy we now have a new sister. Having shared in the correspondence with Jackie we went down to Melbourne for the baptism. We are very grateful to the Dandenong ecclesia for their willingness to work with us in this matter and for conducting the interview of our contact. This is an example of how the CCM seek to work with all the many contacts God is blessing us with from our work on the internet. We have many other contacts throughout Australia and are hopeful that more will follow Jackie's example! We have over 1000 contacts in Australia who have received the Bible Basics material who are being followed up by Bible Basics Australia [Secretary: br Graham Bacon] and those willing to help, and we pray for them all to respond.

Steve and Robin Jones



Sis. Jackie's baptism.

With love from your brothers and sisters of the CCM