

Winter Bible School, January 2007

We're delighted to announce that the Eastern European Winter Bible School was a great success. We had exceptionally good studies from Brother Matthew Blewett of South Africa and from the Hillhouse family from Australia. Over 80 brethren and sisters were in attendance, from the ten nations of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Russia, Kazakhstan, South Africa and Australia.

We really can only encourage you to come over and participate in one of these exciting gatherings of isolated believers from throughout the former USSR. Each year the discussion of the daily Bible readings gets not only deeper but also longer- it took us well over an hour each morning to hear everyone's comments just on the Genesis readings. Joy and enthusiasm were everywhere in evidence, with many saying that they live from Bible School to Bible School, evidently rejoicing in renewing old friendships.

For many brothers and sisters like Boris and Sofia, who are brother and sister in the flesh as well as in the Lord, the Winter Bible School is the only chance they get to meet with each other, and they say they feel closer to their brothers and sisters in the Lord than to their natural families. The cost of these events is high, despite most attendees contributing at least something, and everyone is truly appreciative of your donations which enable these events to happen.

Photo: Sis Janet Hillhouse giving talks about the book of Ruth



We ought to mention our thanks to Brother Alexei Matveev of Estonia, who bore the burden of most of the translation of the visiting speakers. He did a superb job, being voted best Bible School translator of all the 15 years of Bible Schools here.

Photo: But even Alexei was phased at times by the dramatic and dynamic presentations of Brother Matthew Blewett, speaking about 'Moments of truth with Jesus' [the Xmas tree in the background was just part of the venue we hired].



BAPTISMS

We were delighted to baptize MARIANNA from Moldova and LUBOV from Ukraine at the Bible School, with great rejoicing afterwards, and a few hours of presentation of skits, purpose written poems, and Bible readings in various languages to welcome them.

Photo: Marianna giving her confession of faith to Bro Dick Hillhouse before her baptism



YOUNG PEOPLE

From teenagers to 5 year old Rustam who attended his first Bible School along with his grandparents, it was great to see that the community of the faithful in this part of the world is becoming a family affair.

Photo: Rustam at his first Bible School- he and his grandparents travelled 3 days to the School from their home in Kazakhstan



Photo: Teenage brother Zhenya from Moldova takes the podium for the first time



Brother Dick invited various brothers and sisters to be interviewed by him before everyone, explaining how they came to be in Christ. This ended up a most moving experience, as brother after brother, sister after sister, testified to how God had led them in unique ways through Atheism and Communism to His Son and the hope of His Kingdom.

Above all, the spirit of lively discussion of God's word characterized our time together. Breaks between talks were filled with further discussions between the brothers and sisters.

Photo: Spontaneous discussion of Scripture



We were able to discuss and pray over a number of cases of need, both material and spiritual. Cindy measured up the requirements for spectacles for those requiring them, distributing to some of the needs.

Photo: Distributing spectacles



With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM