

Winter Heating Update, November 2006

We've clocked up a few thousand kilometres the last week or so getting round to see isolated brethren and sisters in connection with the Winter heating support- everyone's really appreciative of your support.



Photo: Cindy sealing up drafty windows

Those in rural areas and those with no family, especially the elderly, are in particular problems. We thought we'd share with you the plight of brother Boris, an isolated brother in Russia. Here's the translation of a recent letter:

"I'm delaying replying as I was away visiting my sister in Ukraine. I am alone here in this town, my late wife's relatives don't want to know me, they are alcoholic, and I have absolutely nobody apart from my sister. With my heart condition I dread the winter. We get such strong winds, the ice is so bad, it is a huge burden to even go out and do the shopping. I fear too how I will be buried, as there would be nobody to inform any of you in time were I to die suddenly. I have seen how they bury such people as me, I watched it several times- they take the body from the hospital in a polythene bag and just throw it somewhere. I want to be buried with a testimony that I wait for Jesus and will rise again when He comes back. So my only chance is to move to Ukraine to live with my sister who as you know is also waiting for the coming of our Saviour. But if I live in Ukraine, I will not get any housing from the Government, and only two thirds of my pension. It will be hard or impossible to live where Sofia lives as you know. As you saw, there is no inside toilet or washing facility, water is only from the well. So I don't know what to do. I just want to live with my sister so we can care for each other. Our only hope is that Jesus will come soon".



Photo: Brother Boris and his sister, Sister Sofia, this Summer

These kinds of cases really need durable, long term housing and care solutions that seem currently beyond us.

We're doing what we can to help those in remote areas whom it's not possible to frequently visit [Russia spreads over 9 time zones, from the Baltic Sea to the Sea of Japan]. An ecclesia in North America kindly wrote and signed cards for these brethren and sisters and we were able to send them along with some funds towards their Winter heating issues.



Photo: Cards and cash being mailed out to remote areas

Carelink readers will remember the plight of Sis Aleksandra, whose amazing testimony is to be found at <http://www.carelinks.net/care/lat2105.htm> . We're pleased to say she is delighted with her new bed.



Photo: where she sits and lays day and night.

Finally we conclude with a poem from Brother Marcus Ampe in Belgium, who faithfully holds meetings near Brussels, even though attended by very few. His great desire is to develop an ecclesia there and we stand with him in this.

Dear Father,

You placed me on this world for a certain purpose.

"The I am who I am" created me to be on this earth.

Not for who I am, but for who I am to become.

Let me grow.

Let me help to make a better place of this world.

My God, let me by your love,

and part of your gratefulness and kindness.

Let me flow to others in my environment,

that they as well can be touched today,

and feel your mighty hand.

Please do give your empowering Spirit,

and let our community in Belgium grow.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM