

Winter Heating Update December 2009

We're really very grateful for the donations towards the Winter Heating appeal. Especially the anonymous ones and those who ask for no acknowledgment. God notices for sure, and we meanwhile are busy distributing aid as best we can. This has been the hardest and most demanding Winter, welfare-wise, which we've had to deal with in Eastern Europe. Increased numbers of poor brothers and sisters, financial crisis, reduced pensions and medical assistance, reduced Government social budgets etc. are all factors. So we do so deeply appreciate all your assistance, and so do the many we're assisting with it. We're grateful also for the welfare parcels many have sent over. Some of them we re-packed to mail further, to where we can't personally go to visit those in need. We're also sending funds to those whom we can't visit for heating and medical bills.

Photo: Welfare packages awaiting addresses and postage ; other packages we have delivered directly- here's sis. Oksana with hers last Sunday:



Please do pray for our brothers and sisters especially the elderly this Winter. Snowfall in parts of Eastern Europe has been high, and although the freak temperatures have ended, the temperature is still below freezing and so all the snow remains. Reduced Government spending means that snow isn't cleared, and many pavements and roads are treacherously slippery. It's no fun having to walk on them if you're elderly or not steady on your feet:

Things are of course hard for the unemployed, and 20% of the workforce is unemployed in areas like Latvia. Unemployment benefit is tiny, and to get it you have to work long hours doing things like clearing snow and ice under often quite unpleasant supervision, and once you've done this for some weeks for no payment, you are then paid a very small amount of benefit. People really try to get any work at all rather than going through this rather dehumanizing and unpleasant process, which only yields a pittance in payment anyway.

The Riga Bible Center is seeing good usage , not least as a thawing out station for those who live in the night shelters who have nowhere to go in the day time.

Photo: Sis. Dzena about to open the door to the Bible Center for our elderly brothers and sisters who'd been waiting for her to come and open



We continue providing meals for our brothers and sisters at the Center. Here's some scenes from a few days ago:



Bibles are all over the place, and many good, spiritual discussions can be overheard:



Our Eastern European Winter Bible School is God willing scheduled for January 14-20 in Poltava, Ukraine. We've had two speakers have to cancel, and anyone able to come and give some talks at the last minute is welcome to contact us immediately.

With warm love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks