

October 2026 Latvia, Ukraine, UK

LATVIA

We made a brief visit to some of our brothers and sisters in Eastern Latvia to provide them with firewood and funds as they prepare to dig in for the Winter. They live near the Russian border, in the poorest part of Latvia. Everywhere there is evidence of a very difficult economic situation. Villages are depopulating, with many derelict houses. Younger people have left to work in the cities or abroad; pensions are tiny because the Soviet era generation were 'guaranteed' a pension by the state and didn't pay in to any pension scheme. With the collapse of the USSR and acceptance of the capitalist system, there is no budget from which to fund state pensions- and so many receive only 213 Euro / month [US\$240]. If they have no housing, they are given rooms in derelict properties- and now, many are being sent to live in the depopulated areas of eastern Latvia, with little transport, medical provision and other services. Many Russian Latvians have now moved to Russia since the war started, adding to the depopulation of eastern Latvia. Some Ukrainian refugees have moved in there- we took advantage of the offer of a 5 Euro hair cut, to find the hairdressers were Ukrainian refugees. We had a good chat with them about the Gospel and why we go to Ukraine.



We found our dear sister Sandra as active as ever in preaching the Gospel, although living now in a home she's been given by the local council which is 5 km. walk from the nearest shop or services. We took her firewood, which she stored in a disused Soviet era outhouse next to her place, keeping it under lock and key. Note the Soviet era asbestos everywhere. As with our sisters in Ukraine in similar circumstances, she finds the onset of Winter brings all manner of rodents into her room, so she has got some kittens to try to cull them:







Sandra tells absolutely everyone about the Gospel. She came into contact with ANDREJ who lives in another such dilapidated property some 4 km. from her place. Amazingly, they discovered that he had once attended our meetings in Riga at the hall there in 2015. He says that he had thought then about baptism, but then got carried away with life. He was from Riga, but had a stroke, and is part paralyzed. So with a tiny pension, he was sent to live in this isolated house, over 200 km. away from Riga. And then he met Sandra, who preached the true Gospel to him, and they realized they had met each other at our hall ten years ago. This is obviously a God-incidence and not coincidence. God knows His people and wanted Andrej to have another chance of the Gospel. And he took it eagerly. Night temperatures are currently hovering around freezing, he has no bath tub and only water from a well where he is [and Sandra likewise]. So we took him to a lake, and despite his disability, he resolutely undressed and went into the water, clutching his walking stick all the time. We had quite some difficulty immersing him, and finally Sandra had to stop taking the video and come and help to achieve it [so no photos of the actual immersion!]. He prayed some lovely prayers afterwards, so relieved to have been baptized and to be ready to meet his maker. We returned him home, to a dwelling that is really in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by forest. It will be very difficult for him to survive, as he has to walk 5 km. to the doctor and shop. We gave him some support but he and so many others really need our regular visits. He has no phone so it's hard to keep in touch directly with him, and he cannot call for aid if he needs it urgently. But he is surely one of God's jewels: "They shall be Mine, says Yahweh of Armies, My very own possession in the day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him" (Mal. 3:17). One here and one there.







We were also thrilled to be able to meet our dear sister Irma, baptized in 1992, well known to all who used to visit Latvia. Our sister had a wonderful mind, being one time professor of English at the university here. She is now largely blind and deaf, and struggling with some dementia. But she recognized us, and we managed to communicate. With failing eyesight she tried to lip read us, and we spoke slowly and clearly in her best ear. We prayed together, and it was clear her faith is focused. She lamented that she fears she may have forgotten "some of the doctrines", which she said she thought she would never forget... But we tried to impress on her that it is our faith in God's grace and the Lord's work that at her point is all that matters. She translated many of Duncan's books into both Latvian and Russian. As a trilingual person [Latvian, Russian and English] it was quite a mixture of words and languages coming from her. But she wept with joy at the reminder she would be in the Kingdom, and her old face was covered with such a sense of calm and peace. Our work, which has always been the Lord's work, is nearly done with our dear sister. And again, she will be yet another jewel made up into the Lord's eternal crown. It's so wonderful to see someone baptized so long ago, from a typical atheist, secular, Soviet background of the Communist years... come to faith, explore it Biblically in the detail she once did, and retain her basic faith in the Lord Jesus firm to the end:



There are going to be many more needs to provide Winter Welfare this Winter, especially in Ukraine as it's clear Russia intends further destroying Ukraine's energy infrastructure. We are open to your donations for this. There will also likely be the need to assist with energy bills.

UKRAINE

We do ask for your prayers to continue for brother Igor in his forced labour for the Ukrainian military. As reported in previous messages, he was grabbed from his very isolated rural homestead by the military Police [no "conscientious objection" in Ukraine], despite having had a major heart attack and being an invalid, and having to care for his one legged wife sister Nina. She is really struggling to harvest their crops without him. Here's a photo he sent, of him now

dressed in military uniform having had virtually no training, and sent to dig trenches near the front line- with little food, no heart medication and poor clothing and footwear:

UK

As we compose this message, we're just back from baptizing TIM in the Midlands, he took a day off work and asked us to do it in his bath tub in the day time at home so his atheist wife wouldn't know, but just as we left he said he has to definitely tell her this good news when she gets in from work tonight. So do pray for him! And her ??

After he said that, we prayed and then we took a quick selfie as we were going out of the door

We have more baptisms planned this week, Lord willing: near Croydon, in Wales and Cambridgeshire. Let us know if you want to join in.

PRAYER POINTS

- For brother Igor in his very difficult position, now forced into the military against his will and struggling with his heart condition
- For those who have accepted the faith when their partners haven't
- For those in rural isolation this Winter as they struggle with walking slippery, icy paths
- For those living far from transport in rural Eastern Europe, especially those with health conditions and in old age

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks