November 2026 - Latvia, Retreat, Ukraine, UK

LATVIA

We spent a wonderful couple of days distributing firewood and winter welfare along the much depopulated Latvian/Russian border. Whilst we were there several drones entered the area, probably Ukrainian drones heading for Russian targets that had had their navigation hijacked by Russian air defences and sent into Latvia. Even in the villages where our brothers and sisters live, air raid shelters are being built or areas of shelter designated- all part of a progressive sense of preparation for the worst in this area:



Our brothers and sisters live in great poverty. There wasn't much daylight for our work and the temperature was around freezing although no snow on the ground, but with bitter wind and a "feels like" temperature of -10 C. Sister Sandra is just wonderful in preaching and caring for so many in the area... baptized many years ago in Riga, she now lives back in her home village, has a job, and is very proud of her new bicycle which she uses to get to work and visit the brothers and sisters:



We baptized brother Erik in freezing cold water last year, with ice on the lake. His wife LENA was struggling with TB at the time Erik was baptized but this time we were happy to baptize her in the same lake. It was brutally cold, and she was a very determined lady to do it. We did bring a collapsible bath but [largely at her husband's insistence!] she was baptized where he was baptized. We did it with the car headlights on, which gives a far warmer hue on what was a very cold experience:









Man is never better than when serving the Lord in relevant ways, and with great joy Erik and Lena along with Sandra drove round with us distributing firewood. Brother Andrej was baptized 2 months ago, he has had a stroke and was sent to live in a derelict property far from anywhere, and there's no electricity there at the moment. It's a real challenge for him to keep warm let alone stumble some miles to the nearest shop. He had been collecting sticks, twigs and brambles to burn to keep warm, so was thrilled to have pre-cut firewood. You can see in the photo the bags of firewood next to the twigs he had managed to gather. The damp in his wooden home is terrible as you can see from the photo. At several locations we made a human chain to get the bags of firewood from the car to the homes, the photos are poor as we had only the torches on our phones for light. But that was true fellowship working together for the Lord, in a work that really was so necessary, bringing warmth and some light to those very poor rooms and homes:





















You can see a video of the baptism and our subsequent firewood distributions in various locations in Latvia over the last few days at https://youtu.be/pljMgNvCl6A

RETREAT

A reminder of the Carelinks / Croydon Pub Church retreat weekend December 4-6 Lord willing. Do try to come along, pray for us or sponsor someone to come. We have a WhatsApp group for it and people are so excited to come:



Find Yourself



in Bible Characters













YOU'RE INVITED TO

CARELINKS / CROYDON CHURCH IN A PUB WEEKEND RETREAT

When:	Friday 4 December - Sunday 6 December, God willing
Where:	Carrotty Wood Centre, Higham Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9QX
Theme:	Be strong and courageous: The story of Joshua
Speakers:	Brother Duncan and all of you
Cost:	Whatever you can contribute [Don't want ££ to stop anyone coming]
Accommodation:	All rooms have en suite

Discussions, break out groups, lessons for kids, games etc with really interesting folks

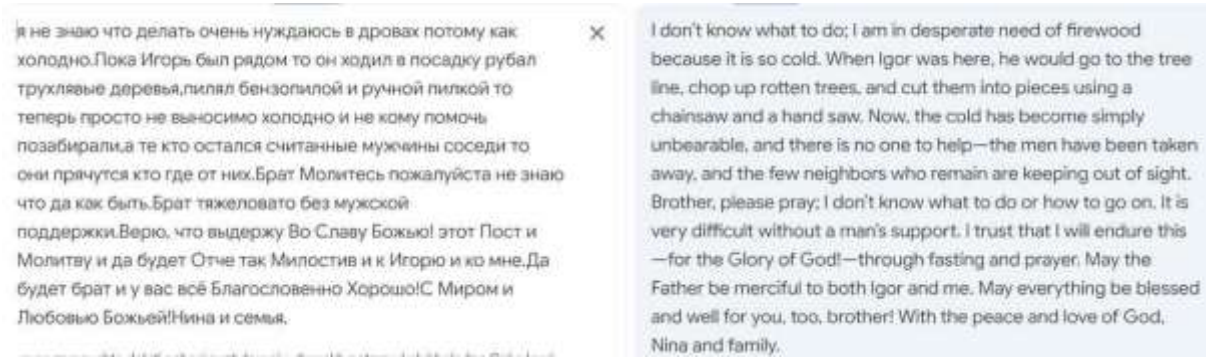
For more details and to reserve your place contact:

Duncan 07481122558
Cindy 07481120989
freebibles2000@gmail.com



UKRAINE

We have several times mentioned the plight of our one legged sister Nina, who lives with her elderly mother [also a sister] in a remote location in a formerly derelict house they were told to live in after their home was destroyed near the front line. Her husband brother Igor was grabbed from the home by the military police, despite having had a major heart attack recently and being Nina's only carer, and is now in the army. She is really struggling to get firewood as you can see. We've tried very hard to contact local suppliers but it's hard to find anyone still working... it's not a protected occupation and the men are all hiding, have fled Ukraine, dead or in the military. We will visit her in December Lord willing but are desperate to provide her with the firewood and warmth she needs until then... do read her message and pray for her and us as we seek to help her. There's a file photo of our sister to help focus your prayers:





PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For those of our number who are right now cold and without light
- Specifically for brother Igor and Sister Nina
- For the war in Ukraine to end and the Lord to return

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks