

August 2026 Latvia, Tunisia, Ukraine

LATVIA

Whilst Duncan is in Ukraine, Cindy, Evia, David and Daniel did a pastoral trip around Latvia. So good to see those baptized so long ago still faithful in the Lord although each time we hold meetings in Riga, we hear of more who have fallen asleep in the Lord. It's largely "just" a group of elderly sisters in Riga, but Cindy did Bible studies with them and led them in a breaking of bread, with the presence of one of their "young men" who came along to learn more:



Cindy and Evia were also able to spend time with our blind sister Larisa, who's still as on fire for the Lord as she ever was, posting Bible verses in Russian on social media networks to by all means somehow share our great Hope... when 15 years ago it was Evia as a toddler proudly taking her her food at the soup kitchen when she found the long lines confusing because of her sight issues. And Evia now towers over Cindy in height. All so wonderful, in God's economy and ecosystem of things:



TUNISIA

We flew to Poland [whence overland into Ukraine] via Tunisia in north Africa to visit and baptize ISMAIL who lives on the coast about 100 km. out of Tunis. A muslim electrician with an inquisitive mind, he was interested in the God of the Bible compared with Allah of Islam. He read the history of Polycarp and how Polycarp understood God as the only God and Jesus as His son. Polycarp didn't believe in a trinity, and it all made sense to Ismail. But then he got involved with JW's who told him a different story about Jesus; that Jesus existed as an angel before he was born. Ismail was confused. And then Ismail encountered Pentecostals who said Polycarp was a bad preacher because he didn't believe in the trinity. Ismail was now convinced that Polycarp was a bad man and the trinity real. But then he had another rethink, searched online and came across our material. He now settled in his mind that God was God and Jesus is Jesus and the holy spirit is the spirit of God and Jesus. After a lot of research he came to the truth too about the Kingdom of God, hell, the devil etc. And so he he v asked for baptism and it was a pleasure to do this. He took us to a local beach, with the temperature around 40 C, crowded with local Tunisian Muslims. We were uncomfortable about doing it so publically; Ismail was unfazed and insisted we did it all the same. He also brought along with him another of the few Christians in the area as a witness. He made a long statement of his doctrinal beliefs and his path to them, which is a joy to any Truth lover to hear- video at https://youtu.be/M_knQ0e761I . The actual baptism is at <https://youtu.be/IT8S97zloyU>





UKRAINE

Mark and Duncan are half way through their Ukraine trip and report baptisms, a huge amount of help given- and goats provided, not without dramas! They also report a massive uptick in the bombardments and the mass usage of small drones. To counter these there are small bomb shelters appearing everywhere, and the military driving around everywhere in jeeps with radio jammers on the roof. Which means GPS and internet is often scrambled. Almost every family of our 120 or so brothers and sisters in Ukraine has suffered loss, from bombardment and / or relatives being killed or injured. We're thankful for your prayers for Mark and Duncan as they are so far OK despite seeing drones drop down vertically, running out of a petrol station as it came under drone attack, often seeing pillars of smoke from the direct hits, doing a baptism in a lake near Kharkov under bombardment, and other dramas. Currently there are air raids somewhere in the Kiev region every hour around the clock and likewise in Kharkov.





Tatiana V Yanshina · Follow



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Imagine becoming too exhausted to get out of bed when the bombs start falling.

For millions of civilians in Ukraine, nighttime is not simply for sleeping anymore.

It can mean waking to an air-raid alert and deciding whether to get dressed and find a shelter.

Taking children underground.

Moving away from windows.

Sitting in a hallway or bathroom.

Listening to drones overhead and waiting for the explosion.

Checking a phone to understand what is coming and where.



There's a video of some of their security experiences under bombardment at https://youtu.be/P2_9RjSnrTQ

and specifically a video of their work in obtaining and transporting goats and other welfare, along with footage of other travel dramas under bombardment, and also some spiritual reflections by brother Mark which are worth listening to, all at <https://youtu.be/2EpZiljytjE>

We purchased goats from an old lady advertising them. She is selling her goats to fund an operation for her elderly husband- paying for health care is a huge issue for most Ukrainians. We rented a car, quite a new one, still with that new car smell. We bought tarpaulin and rope, and Mark [who has some experience with goats] was convinced we could tape the goats' legs and blindfold them to pacify them on the journey. We also had to worry about the horns smashing the rear windscreen. Taping the legs didn't work, so Mark endured placating the goat and holding its horns for nearly an hour as we travelled over deeply cratered roads to deliver to sister Nina and others.





But the new car smell is gone for good in that car, and we are figuring how to clean it out so it's not noticeable. Which isn't so easy:



Sister Nina lost her home and the use of one leg in the battles around Kupiansk:



She lives with her husband brother Igor and often has her mother sister Vera with her, who has been basically thrown out of her care home to make space for invalid war veterans. They have been given a formerly derelict house to live in very far from civilization. Hence goats are a great idea to supplement their subsistence farming, which Nina enthusiastically helps with despite her disability. They were so thrilled to have the lactating goat, especially as the long drought means their harvest is so poor and the potatoes so tiny:







As Paul argued, the glory that redounds to God by such humanitarian help is just huge. But the smiling faces of Igor and Nina are no more smiling. Because the next day, the roving gangs of military police roamed through the village and arrested Igor, taking him off to the barracks for enforced training and military service. He was taken once before, had a heart attack during the training, and was released. He will argue that not only has he heart problems, but also he is fully legally married to Nina and is effectively her carer as she is an invalid in a remote location. So please do pray for brother Igor that he is released and not forced again into the military.

All this is happening in the face of an absolute onslaught by Russia, with huge numbers of drones, missiles and shells being fired around the clock. Quite literally. The nervous stress is huge on everyone especially children and their parents.

So that's all for now, please keep praying for the work, and a longer update next week, Lord willing.

PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For brother Igor to be released from military detention in Ukraine
- For the mental health of all our brothers and sisters under bombardment
- Gratitude to God that we've been able to do what we have so far

With love from Mark, Duncan and all your brothers and sisters of Carelinks