

NEWS FROM ALEX IN RUSSIA.

Last Sunday we had a baptism in St.Petersburg congregation - the young man's name is also Andrey. Several people took part in encouraging him to accept the truth. After a few meetings during wednesdays and sundays and personal conversations he wished to be baptised. What a good result in accordance with John 13:35 - "By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"!

In Gatchina our new-comer Lidiya has been attending regularly and this Sunday we talked in detailed about baptism because I mentioned the baptism of Andrey. She seems to enjoy our studies and Elvira and Nora say that she likes the way it is explained. We simply open the Bible and read together. Sometimes Elena (Charles may remember her - with bad eye-sight) starts to argue before she reads and understands but everyone is patient and it is good. These ladies are friends outside the Sundays worship gatherings. We had not have money collections for a while but two Sundays ago Nora mentioned that it is good to contribute and we prayed. Though the amounts are not big (all of them are pensioners), the spirit is good. So, we have a full service again. They have one more friend - Nina - who is afraid to come because she thinks something bad is going on there. You know the pressure people have here because of the attitude - only Orthodox have the authority to teach. Lidiya had the same opinion but she changed her mind now. We hope Nina's heart opens too.

Prayer requests: for the Gatchina people's health. For Lidiya to pursue and get to the point of baptism. Also for her relations with her grandsons - out of what she said they have little desire to communicate with her and she desperately needs it. We pray together for that here and she feels supported.

Elvira (the one who hosts the meetings) had her both eye-lenses replace and is now swiftly recovering from that. She, however, needs prayers and some help from the above because of her heart condition. She may need an operation soon - a stent insertion in one of the major vessels close to the very heart.

Alex