

## Helping Hand for the Homeless

The cities of Aberdeen, Scotland and Gomel, Belarus, have had a historic link with each other, following the radiation leak at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in 1986, which impacted on the Gomel region. From that time medical, educational, social welfare and church links were formed, to provide help and support at a critical time. This led to the development of the Aberdeen-Gomel Trust, which continues to be active up to this present time. Over the years, there have been exchanges between schools, universities, hospitals, youth organizations and churches etc. which have been mutually beneficial to the two cities.

There has been a link between the Aberdeen- Gomel Trust and the Bethany Baptist Church in Gomel, where the Trust has supported work for children and young people. The Church in Gomel has in the past two years been developing work to support the homeless and disadvantaged. Congregations in Aberdeen are being invited to assist in funding this valuable restorative and healing work with the disadvantaged and vulnerable in the City of Gomel.

Let me share with you the words of Pastor Alexander Levkovsky of the Bethany Church

*"Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers him; (Ps. 41:1)*

*Several thoughts have touched us in this verse. Let's start from the end:*

- 1. The Lord is especially disposed towards those who do not pass by other people's needs.*
- 2. It is not only the rich who should think about the poor. Anyone can take care of those who are even worse off.*
- 3. THINKING ABOUT THE POOR is not giving alms from time to time, but responsible creative work on the life and soul of the disadvantaged. "WISE TO RAISE" - translated from Hebrew.*
- 4. God calls Blessed everyone who works with the unfortunate!*

*Friends! Praise God for this privilege - to participate in the needs of homeless people and share Christ's grace with them! It is very valuable to feel your prayers, to receive words of encouragement and all kinds of help for the poor!*

*The Lord notices all this and will certainly reward! .*

*The poor fellows also notice this. They value the love of many believers, manifested in works of mercy!*

*There are already 18 guests in our Christian night home. Up to 40 disadvantaged people gather for the Bible study every evening. Thanks God!*

*First of all, these people come, of course, with "earthly" requests: to eat, to help with medicines, clothes, to restore their passports for further employment ... And we help. For Christ's sake. As He did Himself, healing and feeding the crowds of people. And only with constant care and enlightenment by the Word of God, "heavenly" questions arise in warmed minds and souls ...*

*What a necessary work this is! It would be great if in every city such a ministry was organized by Christians. We are called to this!"*

As a member of the Aberdeen- Gomel Trust, I have had the privilege of visiting the Support centre and meeting with Pastor Alexander and his colleagues, engaging in this valuable Christ-like ministry. I will be very happy to be contacted by you if you have any queries.

Please could you communicate the above to your congregation, and give your folk the opportunity to support this ministry. Congregation treasurers or individual donors can do this by making their financial contributions to the Aberdeen-Gomel Trust, who will then ensure that the money is passed on to “Helping Hand for the Homeless” in Gomel, Belarus.

Donations by bank transfer can be made to the “Aberdeen-Gomel Trust” .  
Sort code 82-60-11 Account no. 60100224

Cheques can be made to the “Aberdeen-Gomel Trust” and sent to  
Ms Aileen Duncan/ Finance Development Officer  
Aberdeen City Council  
Marischal College  
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