

Republic of Georgia getting heat again; Needs still remain

February 3, 2006

Posted: 2/03/06

Bishop
Malkhaz
Songulashvili
of the
Baptist
Union of
Georgia
gathers
around a
wood stove
to stay
warm. At one
point, an
energy crisis
left half the
country
without
power.

Republic of Georgia getting heat again; needs still remain

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

TBILISI, Georgia - A supply of natural gas into the Republic of Georgia has been restored and parts of the country's capital city again have heat and electricity.

A Jan. 22 explosion destroyed a Russian pipeline that supplied much of the country's natural gas, leaving Georgians to fight through the coldest winter in decades without heat or electricity. The pipeline was repaired Jan. 28 and natural gas is now flowing.

Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili of the Baptist Union of Georgia said gas has been restored in much of the capital city of Tbilisi, but some areas remain without an energy source for heat and electricity.



Georgians
receive
badly
needed
bread
during a
church
service in
Tbilisi. On
top of an
energy
crisis,
many
people
are
struggling
to find
food.
(Photo
courtesy
of the
Baptist
Union of
Georgia)

After days of staff members working around the clock with a wood-burning stove to keep a Baptist aging care facility warm, the home now has gas. All the residents remain healthy.

The crisis may be waning, but its effects remain, Songulashvili said. Many elderly injured themselves trying to get kerosene or diesel. Others are sick.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has wired \$10,000 to the Baptist Union of Georgia to meet needs there. The funds will be used to purchase blankets and food.

Texas Baptist support helps the bishop and other Georgian Baptist ministers be the presence of Christ in their communities, Songulashvili said. They are meeting needs and sharing the gospel.

“You help me and my colleagues to help the most vulnerable in the society,” he said.

For information about mission opportunities in the Republic of Georgia, call the Texas Partnerships Resource Center at (214) 828-5181 or send an e-mail to Texas_Partnerships@bgct.org.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.