

## *Lithuanian Baptist News, August 2004*



*Dr Parushev lecturing*

Non-residential Bible School of the Lithuanian Baptist Union (NEBIM) had its fourth session with a guest lecturer, Dr Parush R Parushev of the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague, and Lina Andronoviene, the school's acting Director, delivering a course on Theological Hermeneutics. The session was expanded into a seminar open for a larger circle of attendees. As all attending were able to understand Russian and Dr Parushev has a good command of Russian, it was possible to do the whole session without translation. We realise, however, that in a few years from now this most probably will not be

possible, as a considerable part of the growing generation does not learn Russian anymore.

Hermeneutics is surely not the easiest subject, so the seminar included many questions and discussions. First of all, it was agreed, there is a need for awareness that hermeneutics is involved every time communication happens; there is no context-free interpretation, even if at times we think of ourselves reading the Word 'directly as it is written.' Thus a considerable amount of time was spent tackling the questions of why we understand a text in this or that particular way, and how we can do it better and be more faithful to the biblical message. Naturally, those questions often led to others, even more tightly (and painfully) related to the current situations our churches find themselves in. Perhaps this was one of the most important aspects of the seminar: the immediate relationship between the texts of the Bible and the current situation of the churches was highlighted. One of the participants of the seminar commented, "The relationship between the Word and our everyday life became so much more evident." It was not only about understanding theories of hermeneutics; it was about learning to follow Christ better here and now. There were discussions on the motives of the authors of the biblical texts and the relationship between hermeneutics and personal or communal convictions; there were also some 'aha' moments as certain preoccupations were seen to play a role in approaching a text.

The seminar took place in the facilities of Klaipeda Baptist Church where some 40 attendees gathered. This time we were joined by participants from two churches that do not belong to the Baptist Union of Lithuania but are developing closer connections with the Union. One of these asked for enrolment in NEBIM Diploma programme.

