

April 2011 Sweden, China, Riga

The Bible Companion readings for this Sunday include Acts 9 and there's an MP3 on this at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/acts22.mp3>

CHINA

We are concerned at the growing clampdown on Christian preaching here- see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-13180842>

However, this week one of our brethren travelled to northern China to baptize a *Bible Basics* contact and reports as follows:

"Hi, I baptized Bro Y. We then spent more time discussing the situation of Christianity in China and the human nature of Jesus. When I arrived there in northern China I saw many Russian style buildings. It is a very interesting phenomena ,Russian Orthodox has a strong influence in Northern parts, the Protestants established many churches in the coastal cities, the government organized "Three-Self Movement" Church. The number of Christians increases very fast, and I am finding that more people in China are starting to accept Jesus as Son of God, not God Himself. Travelling by train on the long journey, I kept on thinking why do I believe in Jesus. The life of Jesus appeared to be a failure, He was born into poverty. His earthly father Joseph, was a carpenter. Like all of us, Jesus hungered and thirsted. He suffered temptation, He lived in a world that often opposed him; but the most important thing is this son of a poor carpenter Jesus foretold His death and even 2000 years later it saves us from sin and gives us eternal life. I also thought how He said that "Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many", Mark 13:6. How could an ordinary people say it? There are countless famous dead kings, heroes, such as Alexander, Napoleon, they dared not say "Many will come in my name" after their death. I was thinking too that Jesus's followers will be willing to lay down their life for him even today, to be whipped, detained, tortured, beheaded, they still keep on spreading the gospel? Are there many people who did these things for the human Kings and heroes today? We just gradually forgot them! If we don't believe in Jesus, how can we explain all of these things? However, in the end he got the same fate like criminals, to be crucified. It is the intention of Jesus in order to redeem the sins of the world. If we are baptized into Christ, all past sins washed away and we begin a new life, Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Praying for our preaching in China, these are my thoughts."

As we write this, two brethren from New Zealand are in southern China following up on contacts and providing pastoral support to brothers and sisters we've baptized there.

SWEDEN

In a previous Carelink we reported the baptism of a sister and her two daughters, Iranian refugees from Sweden. They had been sorely missing their father who was stuck in Greece without documents. We're delighted to say that he has now managed to get to Sweden, by God's grace, and the family are happily reunited. We were able to visit them again, and to baptize H, their father and husband. Please do pray for this dear family and for our other refugee brethren and contacts who are scattered all over Europe and the Middle East.

RIGA

People from throughout Latvia are studying the doctrines of the Gospel with us, and we are pleased to report the baptisms of brother ANDREJ and sisters TATYANA and NONA. Here's Nina

being baptized, with a fascinated onlooker:



We continue distributing welfare to many brothers and sisters, especially providing for medical issues as most of our membership are elderly and unable to afford health care. We provided furniture, a divan to sleep and sit on, gas cylinder and cooker to sister Valda whom we mentioned previously. We remind you of our campaign June 15-22 God willing. Our hall is in the centre of the high rise housing area you can see below; our plan is to distribute thousands of bills in those blocks. Fortunately they have all the mailboxes together on the ground floor of each block entrance, so you can distribute many bills quite quickly. We also plan on painting, some DIY work on the hall, as well as giving local bre & sis a break from cooking duties for the feeding schemes. Do come and join us! And if at all possible, do keep donating towards the welfare issues here. Brothers and sisters really are in very genuine need. We so appreciate your kindness so far!



MANY THANKS

To the regular anonymous donor who sends to us via "Bendigo Bank".

We conclude with some thoughts about why God allows suffering, sent from our new brothers in a Moslem country today. There are some profound reflections here:
"Elihu said at Job 36:2, 'Have patience with me a little while, and I shall declare to you that there are yet words to say for God'. Thanks a lot for the article you sent about the suffering regarding the bible. We have examined all the scriptures mentioned in the article. We are told that God is: Omniscient, but He's better than that, He let's us choose our willing, so we can't condemn any things from Him. whatever calamity befalls us, God has our eternal good in view, nothing that we suffer in this life can prevent this process from reaching its divinely purposed outcome. As we are from an Islamic back our teaches was like a system to live by, the Islam declares that God is the responsible of all things and the man is only controled by God and lead him in the ways that He seeing [God], but the Bible is clear that these errors or heresies are allowed among us to show who has the approval of God, we are free now from this wrong system, and our new system with Christadelphians brethren, must be dedicated and based on brotherly love and although we have a little strength we must be dedicated and stand firm in the faith. Please pray that we are able to develop our people in Morocco there is a lot, in the enormity of the work ahead of us. With love in Him, "

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks