

April 2012 Brother Dick, Russian Bibles, Carelinks USA, Riga

The Bible Companion readings for Sunday include John 7, and there's an MP3 on this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn7.mp3>

Brother Dick

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of DICK, a Dutch man living on the shores of Lake Malawi in Malawi, Central Africa. The hand of providence is amazing. Our brother was in the town of Nkhotakota one day and struck up conversation with brother Leonard, who gave him a leaflet by brother Barry Hodson about the non-existence of Satan as a fallen Angel. This was the only piece of literature our brother Leonard had with him at the time. A strange opening subject, we might imagine. But it was exactly what Dick found interesting. He kept studying with Leonard and our brethren in the ecclesia there, and this week Leonard baptized him; you can see our brother after his baptism with brethren Andrew and Leonard presenting him a new copy of *Bible Basics*.



The photos are significant, we feel. They are a radical inversion of the stereotype whereby the white brother in his suite and tie goes off to Central Africa and teaches and baptizes a black man. One sign that really God is at work with us is when, as happened in the first century ecclesia, stereotypes are broken down, and those searching for Truth in humility are willing to be taught it by whoever. It should be noted that brother Leonard isn't a wealthy man at all, he simply wears his one set of smart clothes whenever there's a baptism or ecclesial meeting. We again glory in the way that God is so actively working, by all means and all over the world seeking to bring people to Him "in spirit and truth", and using His willing workers to do so.

Can we remind you that the printing and postage of literature is increasingly expensive... we rely totally on your donations to our general fund for this kind of thing.

RIGA

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism and receiving into fellowship of LUDMILA, an elderly "widow indeed" who lives in a night shelter, carrying her few possessions in a bright red backpack and amongst them her well read Bible. Here's our sister with her home made document pouch containing her documents and pension money, which she wears around her neck day and night; and going on her way rejoicing, albeit back to the night shelter.



Cindy's mothers and children's group continues to expand as attendees invite their friends; here's the latest session on Noah's ark coming to an end:



We're really appreciative of the donations which enabled this group to be set up.

We also invite everyone to attend our next **Bible weekend in Riga**, which will be April 28,29 and will feature brother Steve Gretton from the UK speaking about "Science and the Bible both declare the glory of God". Talking of future events, we again invite speaking brethren to consider whether they can assist us with talks at the **Moscow Bible School** planned July 4-9, God willing.

RUSSIAN BIBLES

The *NEV Bible and commentary* has been very well received worldwide. A devoted team of volunteer translators and editors throughout the Russian speaking brotherhood [Igor Sipiagov, Elena Belyaeva, Ludmila Murnikova, Andrej Boldetsov and Irma Sabele] have now completed the translation of the commentary and reduced version of Bible Basics, and the whole project is ready to print.

CARELINKS USA

For some time now, brother Charlie Klennert has been looking to pass over the running of Carelinks USA to a larger group of brethren. The work continues to grow and it is time that a wider committee was formed. We're really grateful to Charlie for his huge amount of often single handed work for Carelinks over the years, and we continue to appreciate the Klennerts mailing out Bible Basics throughout North America. A new charitable organization has been set up called **Carelinks Outreach** and therefore the donation details have changes. They are noted on our website and below in this email. The new organization has now received 501c3 status, and so we are now able to invite American donations to our work to be sent to the new entity through brother Joe Badlu, which will also be able to give you a tax break if required. The following are the offices: President/Treasurer: Bro. Joe Badlu (South Ozone Park ecclesia, New York); Vice President: Bro. David Corbin (Brooklyn Ecclesia, New York); Secretary: Sis. Pat Hinds (also South Ozone Park ecclesia); Carelinks Committee Representative: Bro. Clive Solomon (Atlanta ecclesia, GA).

We're very pleased to report the baptism of brother Scott after much prayerful consideration of the Bible and emailing with various brethren:

"I am finding that every morning I read the Bible according to the readings from the Bible Companion. I absolutely love reading God's word and look forward every morning to waking up, sitting down with my lap top, going to the site and reading. I try as well as I can to remember throughout the day one thing from each of the three readings to mull or meditate over during the day. I usually, not always, read it all again sometime during the day to refresh my memory. Technology can be a wonderful thing. Right now Numbers is a bit difficult to understand so I just try and think about why God would give them so many sacrifices and rituals to perform. The Proverbs always give me pause and worry that I might be that foolish man. The Gospel of John right now is a delight and a difficult endeavour if not read with an open mind. I decided whether I am right or wrong, God knows my intention, that I needed to be baptised and since there wasn't really anyone to do it I baptised myself in the tub saying prayers to God the Father and His Son and remembering that Jesus died for me and as it is so well said by Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20. At this point I am moving forward putting everything I can in God's hand. If He wants me to be

baptised by someone then I believe He will make that happen. I have also asked for a couple of *Bible Basic* books. I have met a couple of people who through discussions I would like them to read the book along with the Bible of course. I also began discussing with my guitar teacher who is a trinitarian and who began a Bible study the concepts of the trinity and how it really is not in the Scriptures. It is difficult and I notice right away the same scriptures are brought up to prove the deity of Christ. I have been also reading a book by Patrick Navas called "Reconsideration of the Orthodox of the Trinity." I have found his straightforward and reasonable approach in asking questions and his answers very compelling. Taking on some of the giants in Trinitarian and Evangelical thought his insights into their teachings have been also compelling if not downright devastating to their positions. Not that I enjoy deconstructing someone else's beliefs but exposing the trickiness of our human nature is a sobering reality".

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks