

April 2014 China, Ukraine, Valentina, Belarus, Internet, Women and Kids Camp

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 5 and there is an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn5.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files

at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> ; *Carelinks Bible Radio* is at <http://r-b-c.org/listen.php> ; and God willing, we have our live video link service in English this Sunday at

08:00 a.m. GMT - you can view direct at www.carelinks.net [scroll down to the video screen] or if you want to make comments and participate in live chat,

use <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/biblecenter> . You can view recordings of previous sessions at www.youtube.com/CarelinksMinistries

BELARUS

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of OLEG in Minsk, Belarus. He has given his testimony in several videos which we've now put on our Russian language YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/Hristadelfiane . But they're in Russian only. Belarus is a hardline Communist state, run in the spirit of the USSR replete with secret police and authoritarian control. Oleg was one of the masses, a working man, working for low pay, living in a small apartment. But 22 years ago, he came across a Bible, which he read and re-read as he passed through a very painful and tragic life. Currently his wife has broken off all relations with him and erected a carton wall across their tiny apartment in a 10 storey apartment block. He lives in a tiny space, can hear his 10 year old son through the thin wall but have no contact with him, and simply focuses upon reading the Bible and prayer when he is back home from work. God's word has truly been his comfort throughout his tribulations. He has the humility which in the sight of God is of ultimate value. Oleg went to various churches, but couldn't square their teaching with his own Bible reading, especially regarding the Trinity and existence of a personal Satan figure. A colleague showed him how to search for things on the internet, and he came across our Russian language website and forum, from where he noticed us debating against the Trinity and personal Satan. He desperately wanted to get online so that he could have contact with us. But when you earn 100 \$ / month, you have no spare cash to buy computers or have an internet connection. Our brother prayed that he might somehow get in contact with us, the people he had read about on the screen of another man's computer. Lotteries and raffles are very common in Eastern Europe, and our brother saw notebook computers being offered as prizes in a lottery. So he bought a lottery ticket and prayed over it- and amazingly, won a notebook. From one ticket. His co-workers in the factory are witnesses to this. So he went around finding free wifi hotspots, and although he is not very computer literate and couldn't figure how to sign up for our forum, he did manage to email us his story and download PDFs of our books, which he then read and requested baptism. We put him in touch with our beloved brother Leonid, baptized over 17 years ago now, and it was our joy to hear his wonderful confession of faith and to baptize this very humble and lovely man. He backed up all his answers to every question in our baptismal discussion with lengthy quotations from the Bible. God's word is his study all the day. He is so thrilled to finally find others who think we he does. He wept after his baptism and gave a lovely prayer. Brother Leonid gave a lovely and thoughtful baptismal address, from the heart, called 'I'm jealous of you'- to have such a love of God's word, such a simple heart, to be so teachable from the word, and to stand before God in the water cleansed of sin with the answer of a good conscience and the signs of the confidence and rejoicing of our hope written all over him. Leonid's point was that this must be preserved steadfast unto the end.

Photo: Leonid with his well marked Bible giving the talk in a very steamy sauna where the baptism was conducted; Oleg with his hard copy of *Bible Basics* [photo taken looking out over the grand architecture of central Minsk]; finally Oleg baptized into Christ. *Again this is the fruit of many kind donations over the years enabling the printing and free distribution of literature- please do continue supporting if at all you can.*



UKRAINE

Please continue your prayers for the whole situation, as over 40,000 Russian troops appear massed for an invasion of Eastern Ukraine. There are around 50 brethren and sisters in the key flashpoint area in the triangle formed by **Kharkov-Lugansk-Donetsk**. There are also two ecclesias in Russia which are very close to the Russian-Ukrainian border, just kilometers away from it, where the troops are massing at this time. It's all very distressing and worrying for everyone. The situation in Crimea has set a precedent for Russia stepping in to protect ethnic Russians in former Soviet republics who feel repressed and discriminated against. And there are many such Russian people who have a genuine case of discrimination, and there have accordingly been major protests in Latvia and Moldova. Sister Valya from Moldova, an ethnic Russian, has had to leave her apartment with someone else and has gone to live with her brother in her home village in a remote part of Russia, in the village house built by her parents. The house is falling down, she is 70, struggling with cancer, and her brother is a Group 2 invalid. She has to take water from a well, cut firewood etc. and she writes that she prays each day just to survive the day before her. Please do pray for her, and we are open to donations towards trying to help her somewhat.

CHINA

Brother Feng reports:

"Here is a retired Communist party member named Zhang whom I baptized yesterday in Liuan city, I first met him on the street when I was distributing Bibles.

He told me he was raised as atheist and became a Christian whilst in hospital 2 years ago. God arranged a Christian in his room at the hospital. Every day his fellow patient read the Bible and prayed. So he began searching for God from then on, and was very happy to get a Bible from us and then learn more. He praises and thanks God every day, because God made him no longer lonely, no longer sad for his health problems. There is happiness and joy. His health also gradually improved. Obviously Lord has planned for him from the beginning of the world. Recently he decided to retire a bit earlier so that he can devote himself to God."



WOMEN AND KIDS CAMP

Activity isn't just going on in Riga, there continues to be regular meetings of baptized believers and contacts throughout Latvia. And there is still progress at the housing project we operate in

northern Latvia. Lord willing, Cindy is again planning to do her Summer camps for women and children, during which the women and children are taught about the Lord Jesus and encouraged towards baptism. Let us know if you'd like to attend. Here are some brief movies of the camps, with background singing in Latvian by some of our sisters- a happy scene in a land so very sad and forgotten:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5jK7_3Heko&list=UUYp5dgMyPo1m-pFlqpyojTQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayYI8pFqL2Q&index=15&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_zscR7wj_63GS00OXoM9byv

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks