

April 2014 Riga, Ukraine, Norway, China, Estonia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 13 and 14 and there is an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn1314.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

UKRAINE

There are many baptized brothers and sisters in Eastern Ukraine. We have contacted most of them and they all ask for our prayers at this difficult time for them all. Many of them are ethnic Russians and the divide being exploited by the world powers is of course felt by them on the ground. Whilst nobody has been hurt in the upset, the situation of course means that many are effectively laid off at work, and there are some difficulties getting basic goods because of curfews. The town of Slovyansk has repeatedly been in the headlines; we have reported several visits to this town over the last few years. There is there a young family a young child, both parents and the wife's mother are baptized, and their apartment block is right in the center of the action. It's obviously very scary having to stay indoors with all this going on around them so please do pray for them. It's very hard for us all to come to terms with the fact there are tanks and masked gunmen on the streets of towns well known to us. We will be happy to channel appropriate help to all in the area, praying and praying that the Lord's people in Eastern Ukraine may be able to live a life for Him in peace, whichever way the political and military conflict finally resolves. We have, however, been flooded with requests for Bibles and *Bible Basics* from Ukraine and Russia over the last weeks. Clearly people are sitting at home behind their computers trying to make spiritual sense of what is happening.

RIGA

We mentioned a few issues ago our statistics, that an average of 4 people / week are being baptized by Carelinks, including 1 or 2 / week in Riga. The question of course is 'How many fall away?', and that is hard to quantify. All we can say is that there is real spiritual progress in the lives of many of those baptized, to the glory of our Lord Jesus. And that is what we are all about. We hold 'sobriety birthdays' for those quitting alcohol, and here's a celebratory photo of members of the **Riga ecclesia** who are celebrating five years of sobriety, with their favourite passage from Proverbs on the screen behind them- that is how long they have been attending our meetings. This is real, tangible spiritual fruit:

We're also proud to tell you that brother Slavik and sister Judite were married this week; the Lord gave them the sunniest day of the year in Riga so far. They are amongst our most regular attenders at our meetings, and operate the sound and video equipment faithfully each meeting. Although they have been dealt a harder hand of circumstance than many of us, they have set a great example in trying to base their lives around the things of the Lord and getting properly married. You can see them in the photos outside the registry office, with their marriage certificate.



We're also pleased to tell you of the baptism of BENITA, an elderly woman with serious health issues. Her daughter came to be present at the baptism [and dried her mum's hair afterwards], and you can see that the baptism service was full of younger sisters and their children assisting her in and out of the water. Again one felt very much the spirit of Christ, without which we are none of His:



NORWAY

The work of distributing *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics* continues in the Western world, and we're delighted to report the baptism this week of DANIEL, an Indian currently working in Norway, a mature man who has come to a point where he has decided with his whole heart to give himself to the Lord Jesus in spirit and in truth. Do pray for him as he faces various difficult issues in life but now puts his hand in the Lord's. *The cost of producing and distributing free literature is significant but there is unquestionable Divine blessing on this work and we do ask you to continue to support it.*



ESTONIA

There has been yet more fruit of Bible distribution through the baptism of NINA in Estonia. On the way there we passed through the *Carelinks* run housing project in northern **Latvia**, and were really most encouraged to see it being used well and a regular group meeting there for Bible study, invited to the regular meetings by sister Liga who works in the local shop and invites all customers to read the Bible and come to the meetings.

CHINA

Br Donald writes: "I baptized Wu Huajun in a hotel in the county which is 60km from his home. Brother Wu told me one things touched him and made him more faithful several years ago. During the Sichuan earthquake many reinforced concrete buildings collapsed , including the Buddhist Temple. However, there was a Christian church that did not collapse, even though the building was the same as others. Obviously God works in these things to encourage people to think about life and in Wu's case, to search for the Truth. It is not easy to be a follower of the true God as there are many heresies in this small village. Most young people went to work in big cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou so this place is very poor, no job positions except Civil service. But the people are so superstitious; before going to work, they burn incense to the ancestor's grave hoping to be blessed. People here also worship the stove which they think is a fortune god. Brother Wu showed me a place where people worship a tortoise which they believe is a god of longevity. All this behavior belongs to idolatry behavior. Because there is no living life

in these things, people can't be blessed by such funny behavior. Exo 20:3,4 "You are to have no other gods but me. You are not to make an image or picture of anything in heaven or on the earth or in the waters under the earth". So the truth of the Gospel has penetrated further deep into China. God bless"



With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks