

## August 2011 Riga, China, USA, Zimbabwe

This Sunday's *Bible Companion* readings include 1 Corinthians 10 and there's an MP3 on this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1cor10.mp3>

### RIGA BIBLE CENTER

Last Carelink we mentioned the planned wedding of brother Charles and sister Evita, this took place as planned, with about 20 local brethren and sisters in attendance, who also laid on a great meal for us all. You can view the wedding photos at <http://heaster.org/chev.html> and hear the wedding address at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/chev.mp3>



It really was a foretaste of the marriage supper of the lamb, as we were baptized believers from so many nations, born in Australia, Congo, England, Georgia, Ghana, Iran, Latvia, Nigeria, Russia and Rwanda.

In other news, we are holding breakfast Bible studies at the Riga Bible Center. A variety attend; some just knocking off from night shifts, others who have to leave the night shelters at 08:00 a.m. and appreciate having a good start to the day- many in the shelters complain that early morning is the most depressing part of the day, when you know you must face all day on the street. We provide food which the attendees prepare, clear away, and then do an hour's Bible study. We're pleased to report the baptism of ROBERT earlier this week, now approaching 70 he has been searching for the truth for a long time. That happy event occurred at one of our breakfasts:



### CHINA

Brother Ai has just returned from a journey to visit various *Bible Basics* contacts, and he reports the baptisms of LING, XIAO and CHEN. He reports:

"Bro Chen preaches so much and distributes pamphlets to the passers-by on the street. He is against the churches which are contrary to the Bible. Our brother was expelled from the church forever because of his protests.

After staying together on the street for nearly 2 hours, we went to the city library to discuss more about the doctrine and home church condition in China for the whole afternoon. We reminded each other of Hebrews 10:25 "*Not giving up our meetings, as is the way of some, but keeping one another strong in faith; and all the more because you see the day coming near*". We discussed also how we thought the Chinese translation has some defects, and how the ecclesia today is what in Old Testament times was the nation of Israel. There were lots of people on the train to Chengdu, people were going there with various purposes, I also went there with a purpose--- to baptize Bro Ling and give him the opportunity to enter into the kingdom of God. Bro Ling is very interested in knowing how to understand some difficult verses in the Bible. We discussed how should we study and interpret the Bible? How should we apply these principles to our spiritual life, preaching? I emphasized how we should consider the historical background

as well as conventions when reading the Bible, we should not follow our Chinese habits to measure the events and characters in the Bible. Otherwise we can not understand the Bible, properly. If we study just sentence by sentence, we will easily fall into an error. Therefore, I recommend him to read the *NEVNT* with commentary again. Bro Ling says thanks and is really so grateful for the Bible literature.

Bro Xiao has graduated from university for more than 6 years and is still uncertain of his future, people living in other countries may only see China's Economic Progress, but overlooking inflation, unemployment etc. The median home price in Shenzhen has almost reached 20000 Yuan (around 3000 USD) per square meter and keeps rising, more and more young people can't afford a room to live. So Bro Xiao is only hoping to have a better life in the kingdom established here on earth when Jesus comes. Let us pray to be given the encouragement and inspiration to continue, let us grasp the Bible to guide our lives. We rely on Jesus in this life, hopefully be with Jesus forever in the eternal life to come in the Kingdom.

### **CARELINKS USA**

The campaign run some years ago to place *Bible Basics* in North American libraries has produced a number of baptisms, and Bro Charlie Klennert has just received the following as yet further fruit of this work. Please consider ensuring the book is in your local library too:

*"I recently checked out Bible Basics from the local library and was moved to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. This has come as quite a surprise to my family who have always heard me claim to be an atheist. While a youth I did on occasion study the Bible at Sunday school or with my Grandparents but in my teen years I became convinced at school that science and God could not coexist. I therefore turned from the Lord and sought only that which could be proven by science. For over half my life I had claimed atheism and thought that people who believed in God were simple minded folks who were living in the past. I still maintained my Christian values of right and wrong over that period and recently became so disgusted with other atheists that I decided to read Bible Basics and see if it represented what the Bible truly revealed. My thoughts on the religious groups around me were not good as they seemed to blame Satan for all their troubles and Southern Baptists preach fire and brimstone with passion. I was so glad to finally read a book on the Bible that pointed out the true message contained in God's Word. I would like to obtain a copy of Bible Basics so that I can continue to use it as a study companion to my daily Bible reading and deepen my Faith. I would be extremely grateful if you would inform me how to obtain a copy".*

### **ZIMBABWE**

We are in touch with Congolese, Rwandan and Burundian brethren in the Tongogara Refugee Camp in Zimbabwe, they have 2 Bibles and a *Bible Basics* between them. We have sent them more Bibles and are trying to assist as best we can. Situation there seems awful, here's a report below from <http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/human-rights/35415/no-refuge-at-tongogara-camp.html>.

*"The camp is the only refugee sanctuary in Zimbabwe, and it is home to 4025 refugees who live in squalid conditions. After experiencing miserable lives as victims of war, many refugees from other African countries assumed that Zimbabwe would be step up. They hoped to find employment in the various mining sectors around the country, but with the average Zimbabwean facing unemployment, the refugees soon found that their hopes were impossible. Instead of finding themselves in The Promised Land, the refugees now find themselves in hell. A total of 25 refugees have died at Tongogara since the beginning of the year. Various NGOs working in Chipinge district that encompasses Tongogara Refugee Camp said the major causes of deaths*

*at the camp were cholera and tuberculosis. There are also cases of HIV infections in the camp caused by the heavy presence of prostitution. We are hungry and sick here. There is no food at all. They are giving us poor and little food that is not adequate to us. We cannot sustain those little food rations. It is a miracle that we are surviving under these conditions, said Ruki Naituve from Rwanda.*

*In interviews, the refugees claimed that they receive 1kg of sugar, 250g of salt, 10 kg mealie meal and 2kg beans per individual per month. Many of us have been suffering from diarrhoea and there is no doctor to treat us when we are sick. On many occasions there is no medication at the clinic. Women said they have resorted to using cloth as sanitary protection. They said they could not afford to buy the sanitary wares as the prices were far beyond their reach and most of them did not have any source of income since they were in a foreign land. The affected women said they have been stripped of their dignity and appealed to donors to assist in this regard. Sanitary pads are a basic need for any women. Life has been hard for us because no one is providing that for us. Girls are now using pieces of cloth. This exposes us to diseases, complained one woman from Rwanda. Women said life in the camp was unbearable and wished to return to their places as soon as there is political stability in their countries. Women suffer a lot during conflict times. Naume Elungo Moneka (25) from Bukavu province in DRC said since his arrival at Tongogara Refugee camp two years ago, she had never received any sanitary ware. She said prostitution was rife in the camp as young girls tried to eke a decent living. Little girls as little as 15 years are sleeping around with men here to raise money to buy pads. There is hunger here and young girls are exchanging sex for food or money to buy sanitary ware, she said. Women said cases of HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies were likely to rise if the issue of poverty is not eradicated in the camp. Besides hunger and diseases, there have been violent ethnic and tribal clashes within races at the camp".*

Here's a photo of our brothers and sisters in the camp, with their 2 Bibles and one *Bible Basics*:



Our brothers and sisters there sure need our prayer and support.

**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**