

August 2012 Real Devil movie, Baptisms and Impressions, Paris, France

This Sunday's *Bible Companion* readings include Romans 15 and 16, and there's an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/rom1516.mp3>

MOVIE: *The Real Devil*

The *Real Devil* movie has now been finished, despite much amateur acting and production our end, we did our best to get the message over. We shot the movie in Riga during the **Carelinks Missionary Training Program**; this means that featuring in the movie are people from all over the world who once believed in a personal Satan but have rejected the idea. It's an impressive list- from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, USA, UK, New Zealand, England, Latvia, Brazil, Russia, China, France and South Africa. You can view it on YouTube

at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKxS0JSv9-8> ; in higher quality

at <http://www.realdevil.info/video/rdvid.html> ; and the .wmv file [1.2 Gig in size!] is

at <http://www.realdevil.info/video/Devil.wmv>

It might be a useful movie to show to youth groups or ecclesias / seminars. We're working at subtitling it in various languages; anyone willing to assist in the translation work into any language would as always be most welcome!

RIGA BIBLE CENTRE

We're happy to report another five baptisms this week, sisters VALENTINA and IVETA and brother IVARS were baptized in a lake just north of Riga, and MISHA and ULDIS in the Baltic sea. Brother Sasha lives in a night shelter, with 18 men crammed into a room with 15 beds. He has spread the true Gospel in that sad environment very effectively, and several of those men regularly attend the meetings at the Riga Bible Center. His efforts came to fruition last Sunday afternoon in the baptisms of Misha and Uldis on a crowded beach near Riga:



Baptisms in the Baltic Sea Baltic Sea Baptisms near Riga, Latvia

We truly thank God for the continued blessing upon His work in Riga. We were much encouraged by a surprise visit from brother Toussaint Foster of the Manhattan, New York ecclesia in the USA, who arrived at the Sunday meeting just as brethren from all over the world had boarded taxis for the airport after the missionary training program came to an end. We really appreciated his taking time out of his trip to seek us out and break bread with us. Our brother wrote up his impressions as follows:

July 30, 2012

Greetings in His name:

I am a brother whose career is teaching English as a foreign language. This has led me to visit and work in quite a few countries. Where possible, I try to visit Christadelphian ecclesias in whatever nation I happen to be. At the moment, I am in the Baltics, in a small nation called Latvia. I am living in the capital, Riga. It is the largest city in the Baltics states yet it is a small metropolis by American standards. That said, I expected that I would be breaking bread in someone's apartment with an ecclesia membership of less than a half dozen. Nothing wrong with that of course. Jesus tells us that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is there also (Matthew 18:20). So imagine my surprise, when a taxi driver drops me off at my destination and I discover that this congregation has the largest number of Christadelphians I've ever seen

in all my travels. I'm told the membership is roughly 300 all told. On a day with low attendance, it is only a fraction of that. Yet even that fraction exceeds what I'm used to seeing in American ecclesias. So much for the American generalization that Europeans are a godless bunch.

The exhortation was given by Bro. Duncan and the subject was King David. Bro. Duncan serves as both the Recording Brother and Presider but ecclesial members help him with the public reading and other offices. The great majority of the congregation is Russian but he has mastered the Russian tongue quite well considering he is a citizen of the United Kingdom. He gives his sermons in the Russian tongue. Yet native English speaking Christadelphians need not worry should they wish to attend memorial services in Riga. Bro. Duncan exhorts in both Russian and English simultaneously (personally, I am challenged enough just giving a good sermon back home in standard American English let alone code switching between two languages). Doing a bilingual exhortation is a handy skill as some visitors come to the ecclesia from Africa, Iran and other countries and will more than likely understand English as it is the world's lingua franca.

By the way, our Russian brothers and sisters here in Riga love a good discussion on the scriptures so there was plenty of dialogue after the exhortation was concluded. Since I don't understand Russian, I didn't know what was being said, but I could see it was animated and interesting to the members. Afterwards, refreshments were served while everyone took a recess before the 2nd session. This ecclesia left quite an impression on me.

Sincerely

Brother Toussaint Foster

Manhattan Ecclesia, New York, USA

Note: The meetings at the Riga ecclesia are usually recorded, the recordings of last Sunday, when our brother was present, can be heard

at <http://www.hristadelfiane.org/audio/2sam15rus.mp3> [about 2 Samuel 15]; <http://www.hristadelfiane.org/audio/jer19rus.mp3> [about Jeremiah 19] and <http://www.hristadelfiane.org/audio/acts13rus.mp3> [about Acts 13].

As they're in English & Russian, you may be able to share in the spirit of the meeting as you listen to them. The ecclesia generally follows the Bible Companion reading scheme, with talks on each portion, although at present they're studying Acts rather than Romans for the New Testament portion.

FRANCE

After extensive correspondence and study of our literature, a Russian speaking family near Paris are planning to be baptized this week, God willing. Anyone who happens to be in the Paris area would be welcome to fellowship with us, although the family don't speak French nor English. Contact us for more details.

With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks