

## **August 2015 Riga, China, Womens Camp, Survival Skills, UK Gathering**

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 and there is an MP3 file about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1cor13.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

### **UK Gathering**

Please consider attending the *Carelinks UK retreat* to be held God willing in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire on 19 September

### **SURVIVAL SKILLS**

Last week we mentioned the amazing story of Olga and Anatoly, former urban folks now living as subsistence farmers in rural Russia, far from civilization, and preparing for their first winter. They have searched for fishing places nearby and not found any, and are taking advice from the few old folk still living in the area. They will seriously lack protein unless they can catch animals to eat or somehow grow beans under the snow... if any of you out there would like to research basic Winter subsistence survival issues and write some brief guidance for them, we can translate to Russian and get it to them.

### **WOMEN'S CAMP**

Cindy and the growing group of Latvian sisters and their children again made good use of the property in northern Latvia to hold a Bible camp for women and children, although some of the mothers also brought their husbands this time. It was a great opportunity to spread the Gospel, to teach the children, and to strengthen those who have already been baptized. Here you can see some of the children doing a project with flowers; and we're so pleased to say that after over five years of friendship, Cindy was able to baptize her friend ZANE, another young mother whom Cindy reached out to by personal contact and invitations to her meetings. Both the sisters in the picture below were baptized by Cindy, and here they are now teaching the Gospel to children:



### **SISTER NAWAL**

We were contacted by an Arab woman who had come to our website and loved reading online with a commentary to go with it. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that she was living in Riga, Latvia, married to a Russian man. She earnestly wanted a hard copy of the Bible which we provided. She comes from a very strict Moslem background, her father having multiple wives. Her mother sought asylum in Ireland some years ago, and Nawal spent 7 years as a minor in an asylum seeker's center there. When she turned 18, her mother was deported and as she was no longer a minor, she was put in an open prison along with criminals until her adult documents came through and she too could be deported. She says she as a young 18 year old used only to the assylum seeker's accommodation was scared stiff to be in cells with criminals, and prayed to Allah for help, and began to think about her faith in God. A woman came round distributing New Testaments, and it was then that she became attracted to Christianity. If any of you want to get registered as prison visitors, we'd be delighted to provide you with literature to distribute too.

She was deported and over the intervening years, has really come to love Jesus as a person, finding something compelling and so deeply attractive in His personality and work. We baptized her late one evening in the sea as the sun was setting over the Bay of Riga. As she stood in the water with Cindy afterwards, Cindy commented how Jesus is depicted as spending a lot of time at the edge of water. She said with such longing and child like intensity: *"Please tell me more and more about Jesus, I just love Him and love hearing about Him, anything about Him"*. May this spirit abide in her and in us all:



We visited the *Riga ecclesia* on Sunday and were delighted to see a great turn out of all the familiar faces; the feeding scheme ran as before and there was great joy seeing that the seed sown over many years has taken solid root. Brother Maxim continues to be in a very, very difficult situation and a major decision will be made about his case on 7 September, so please, do remember him in prayer. He is very broken down by all the stops and starts in his progress, but continues working as he can for the Lord in his unique and very fruitful way [more about that next week, God willing].

## **CHINA**

Brother Donald reports on his latest preaching and pastoral trip, and we note with gladness the establishment of another small ecclesia: "I baptized br HUI [who is a hydroelectric designer] in a swimming pool. He has never been to the established church before but read the Bible from the website . He has many questions and got in touch with us as a result of Chinese Bible distribution project.



I also visited brother Liu who lives in a village which is about 2.5hrs from Hefei city. Br Liu is 78 years old. We had a nice conversation and sing a Chinese Song to praise God together.

*Your grace led me to the holy land.  
And in your glory  
I have nothing to boast of  
Just to know you  
My lord my king  
I stand in the holy place for your grace.  
Worship you in your glory  
I have nothing  
Only life to you  
My lord my king my only  
To the Lord  
Who can compare with you  
I will give everything to you  
holy Lord  
Just surrender to you  
Lord, lead me*

They told me each village in the area has a government controlled church, but it is never open to the public! Every Sunday a few believers have fellowship in a brother or sister's home. The next day br Liu's 2 relatives also came and listened to Bible teaching from me, then I suggested we go to the nearby village and make street preaching. We distributed 2 cartons of Bible in the village and finally I left 1 carton of Bibles for br Liu to distribute. God bless"

Photo: One of the cartons of *Chinese NEV Bibles with commentary and Bible Basics* which our brethren distribute in rural China:



**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For those preparing their struggle for survival in rural Eastern Europe as Summer ends
- For brother Maxim
- For those recently baptized
- For the continued spread of the Gospel in China
- For all those in non-standard situations all over the world who are now receiving God's word and the Gospel

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks