

August 2015 Russia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Corinthians 3 and there is an MP3 files about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1cor3.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>

RUSSIA

Whilst Cindy was running the women and children's Bible camp in **Latvia**, Duncan made a trip with our new brother Nikolai to visit an isolated couple. Fortunately they had use of Nikolai's work truck, without which it would've been impossible to drive many hours each way over pontoon bridges and tracks, far into the very heart of rural Russia. It was an awful trip, rural Russia these days is proof enough that Putin needs a foreign policy issue to take the focus off the poverty of the mass of the population in the rural areas of this vast country. Corrupt Police near the towns, no sign posts because they have literally fallen down, potholes as deep as a man, seriously broken up asphalt, tracks passable only by tractors, no public transport... these are just some of the things we could say. But it was all worth it. OLGA and ANATOLY unlike many younger people these days got properly married and fulfilled their dream of owning their own home- after saving from tiny salaries in the city, they bought a village house for 1000 \$, 5 km. walk from a main road and a shop, and virtually inaccessible apart from by walking and hitch hiking. No jobs there of course, only subsistence farming. But this joyful couple have an even more amazing story than that. Olga was an alcoholic from childhood, Anatoly a drug addict. They met at a rehab centre. Hearing the stories of their childhood and earlier life, one wonders whether there can ever really be healing for those with that background. But they are an example of victory, thanks to God's operation in their lives. Having tried every program, both of them independently started to read the Bible- online, using internet on their phones or others' phones, because they say they frequently put their phones in the Lombard [pawnbroker] for just a bottle of vodka. But then Olga wanted to read more and more, and came across our offer of a free Bible. She described with tears of joy how she was told by the rehab centre that a package was waiting for her at the Post Office, and how she went there and ripped open the package to find the *NEV Bible*, and showed it to everyone in the line at the Post Office. She became addicted instead to Bible reading, and from there started the whole struggle for interpretation... passing through JWs and other groups, she was not satisfied with any of them, and read through the entire commentary in the *NEV Bible* and then *Bible Basics*. Their clothes are from free giveaways and her most prized item of clothing is a T-Shirt with "I did it" written on it. She really has done it- at least, done so much. Although she is fully aware that the road ahead is still full of temptation.



They live very simply, getting water from their well, growing what they can, but they lack meat or protein. Anatoly has walked far in search of water where he could fish, but found no rivers or lakes. After various attempts to construct a bath from various cracked asbestos sheets lying around near the house, the amount of asbestos dust created was enough for Nikolay to offer to drive in search of water, and we did eventually find a fishing platform about 20 km. away. The Lord gave us a perfect day, and the confession of faith from this couple was very deeply from the

heart. As we prayed, it was clear the Lord Jesus was present, and we were all humbled before His presence. It was a pleasure to baptize them:



So please do pray for our new brother and sister, they get reception and therefore internet on their phone when they walk about 5 km. from their home, so we can continue in contact that way. They have taken in a man from the village in his 40s who has a progressive bone disease and can hardly walk, and has nobody to care for him. He would just wither away in pain and probably die this Winter without them caring for him. So many such forgotten people are left to suffer and die alone in these rural areas. You can pray for him too, Sasha. Again we marvel at how the Lord works to call sincere people unto Himself, and how really there is a power of new creation which makes all things old, even childhoods of abuse by others followed by self-abuse. Real transformation of human personality is indeed achievable by the power of God's Spirit. Their joy is so great, and really the subtitle of *Bible Basics* seems so true for them: "*Revealing the joy and peace of true Christianity*". They're going to be pretty cut off in the Winter months, but hope to come to the *Moscow Bible School* in October before the snow is down too thick. If any young folks fancy a real 'adventure safari'- this would be a challenging place to get to in the Winter. And you would do huge good in bringing Winter welfare and spiritual encouragement to them.

We will soon be appealing for support for the Winter welfare project, and for the *Russian Bible School*... a brother and sister like this will be well assisted by such projects.

CREATION - EVOLUTION DEBATE

We sadly note the controversy in the Western brotherhood over this theme, and have produced a video titled 'Creation or Evolution? There is a third alternative'. We hope you will find it faith strengthening. We explore in the presentation how young Western people are turning away from faith in Divine creation, whereas former Soviet atheists are coming to faith and rejecting the scientific atheism and atheistic evolution in which they were schooled. You can see it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bw9MOig6Tc0>

UK

Talking of young people, thanks to the young sisters who came to Croydon to distribute *A New Life!* leaflets ; here they are having a lunch break in the park. Daniel's 3 year old enthusiasm for passing out fliers knows no bounds. We'll let you know of future such distributions, or let us know if you'd like to be informed. And let us know if you'd like supplies of the leaflets to distribute [they are in English and also have sections in Farsi, Polish, Russian and Latvian, and are aimed at multi ethnic communities in Western Europe].



AZERBAIJAN

Our refugee sister R from Iran sent us a note of gratitude: "Now I live close to 7 months in

Azerbaijan The first few days were very difficult for me and my life has been destroyed. But I am glad that with the help of God and Jesus Christ and your help, the feelings of anger and sadness in my heart mainly passed away. Although what I need is to be able to forgive and so pray for me, pray away the anger I still feel for how I was treated. I am very grateful to your help. Keep praying for me as I am a woman alone in a strange country and status unknown still. Thank you very much. Love in Christ, R..."

Likewise our invalid brother Graham in the UK called us to thank you all for the cards sent him, he says he will get out on his mobility scooter to buy postcards to send to those from outside the UK who wrote to him.

LATVIA

Cindy's women and children's Bible camp was again a great success, special thanks to those who financially enabled it. One by one, women whom Cindy first met walking the children in parks over the last six years have come to be baptized and now their children are being raised in the Lord's nurture. The housing project in northern Latvia is a great place for them to have gatherings, and it was again well used this past week. More news about this next week, Lord willing.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks