

China, 2nd Impressions of Latvia January 2011

This Sunday's *Bible Companion* readings include Matthew 25, and there's a study about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt25.mp3>

Elsewhere in **Latvia**, we again took our Nigerian brother Charles with us to visit and baptize another contact in northern Latvia, AGITA. After the baptism, we took our new sister to meet the brothers and sisters currently in the housing project, and hopefully she will be able to meet with them regularly for fellowship:



We continue distributing Winter welfare as we travel around. Thanks to the kindness of a sister in Canada, we've also been able to provide many of our sisters with warm Winter socks. Here's sister Nina receiving some- along with a hat, reading glasses and some other items. Nina was in the underground church, and typed out copies of the books of the Bible using 5 carbon papers at a time on an old style typewriter. We baptized her into the real Christ about two years ago. Now in a night shelter, it's an honour to be able to assist such a faithful sister to at least keep warm:



Our Bible classes and studies continue, based on the *Bible Companion* readings. Brother Janis commented as we read the history of Jacob that although he doesn't fear death any more, he would like to work out before he dies exactly what was going on with Jacob's breeding of the ringstraked and speckled animals in Genesis 30. We've come up with several explanations... but he's still unconvinced [inevitably we wonder if that's just because he wants to stay around a bit longer!].

Brother Charlie Klennert has just arrived in Latvia- here are his impressions and news from his first two days:

Arriving by foot from the Heaster's apartment it was encouraging to see so many brothers and sisters and interested friends already in attendance. As I sat in the back it was evident that there are brothers and sisters here originally from Iran, Latvia, Russia and parts of Africa... The diversity is an amazing thing. After being here a couple years ago, to see the growth of the ecclesia was kind of surreal. I see the *Carelinks newsletters*, I read about our brothers and sisters, so in a sense I already knew them through thoughts and prayers. Almost as if I was looking through a glass darkly, knowing their stories and not being able to communicate with their language was indeed a difficult thing... So many things left unsaid with just a simple smile. To see the *Bible Companion* in great use was an encouraging sight! Knowing that our brothers and sisters in Latvia are reading the same chapters of the Bible as we do is a testament to how that plan has helped many all over the globe. The readings were done and discussed at meeting in quite some length and everyone was encouraged to read the Bible on their own during the week, to fill up their lamps. The need is great for Bibles in Russian and Latvian. So please do help and send or provide Bibles!

After meeting there was a meal and coffee prepared by the brethren for all in attendance. Quite a sight to see with nearly 100 people in attendance.! The whole while I was kind of a bit in a fog since I had been travelling sometime to get here from the USA. This makes for loads of dishes, which were happily washed up by some of the brethren. After the meeting, there was a young married couple, YURI and DIANA, and an elderly lady, TATYANA, who have been preparing for baptism and today was their day to choose the path of Christ! So we thank God with the Angels that others are coming to the cross and to the Truth! Hard really with photos to try to express the wonderful buzz from this meeting:

Line of brothers and sisters awaiting food:



Br Charlie greeting sister Tatyana after her baptism



Yuri and Diana before their immersion by Duncan & Cindy, the kitchen has been well done by an Australian brother recently, and there's a large baptismal bath.



CHINA

Brother Feng reports on yet another journey, to interview and baptize a Bible Basics contact: "I baptized XUNJUN. It snowed heavily this week in south China, I prayed to God that I would arrive at the destination safe before getting on the Coach, on the road I saw the earlier coach from Nanjing to Nantong ran into the tree because of the icy road, several people got hurts. Fortunately, Ours was okay, yes, He really answered my prayer. Then I kept on thinking and thinking, I really appreciated the power of God, His wisdom and vision. sometimes we pray, God may not answer it. So we blame Him, in our weakness. But now I know our vision is too short, and don't understand God. Our almighty God know everything, He knew that such requests may not be the best option for us. He is such a magnificent God. He only give us the best. God's promise to save the believers encourages me to diligence and faithfulness in Him. I know that God will bless our efforts. Praise the God!"

The latest Gospel News magazine is now online at <http://carelinks.net/doc/gn201101> and UK readers are reminded of the [Carelinks UK conference](#) at the end of February- see <http://carelinks.net/doc/events>

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