

## China, Bhutan, Various October 2010

NOTE: There were a number of security sensitive issues in this report relating to China and Bhutan, and they have been removed from the web version. Email recipients of the Carelink messages receive the full version.

This Sunday's readings from the Bible Companion include John 21, and there's an MP3 about the Lord's question there "Do you love me?"

at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn21.mp3>

The Carelinks Australia conference went very well, with around 70 attending throughout the day. Our thanks to the Hurstville ecclesia for the use of their hall. MP3 recordings of the talks are available at <http://carelinks.net/doc/mp3>

Br Colin & Sis Hendrika Green gave a very graphic and moving account of their recent visit to Latvia and the huge potential coupled with immense hardship they encountered there, giving grounds for their appeal for all the support possible for the extraordinary work the Lord is doing there. We also had a special visit from our beloved and highly respected fellow worker Brother Charlie French. Not sparing his blushes, at 84 he deserves special mention for a lifetime devoted to quietly mailing out literature worldwide; well over a million packages must have been sent out by him and his small team. He keeps at the work all day every day. "One of the best".



## BHUTAN

This mountainous nation of the Himalayas is one of the last frontiers for the Gospel, and we're delighted to report the baptism of brother B. The situation in the country is pretty grim for converts to Christianity, as can easily be confirmed by checking the internet- e.g.:

"they live out their Christian lives underground – no church buildings, Christian cemeteries or Christian bookstores are yet allowed.... the National Assembly banned Christianity in 1969 and in 1979... In the early 1990s the government of Bhutan began a massive crackdown on Christians, mainly in southern parts, and intensified it towards the end of the decade... The authorities identified Christians in government or business ... In May 2009, the national daily Bhutan Times quoted Interior Minister Lyonpo Minjur Dorji as saying, "It is unlawful to convert. If we get proof of proselytization in the country, we shall definitely take action." - <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/12469/14394/>

"Less than one percent of Bhutan's population proclaims Christianity, and anti-Christian sentiment runs strong... There is little legal protection for Bhutan citizens who choose to follow Christ. They can be stripped of their citizenship or even expelled from the country." -

And from Wikipedia: ""it's illegal for a Buddhist to become a Christian and church buildings are forbidden. (...) Those who openly choose to follow Christ can be expelled from Bhutan and stripped of their citizenship..." " Under Bhutan law, it is illegal to attempt to convert people from the country's two predominant religions [Buddhism and Hinduism]."

So our new brother is in understandable difficulties and is incredibly brave to have converted. Our new brother wrote after his baptism: "Dear Brother In Jesus: Yes you are true that our relationship with Him is the most important thing in our lives! I am very proud to have another brother in my life like you. Thank you very much for your kind support. To tell you about my

baptism, I got baptism by dipping into the water...we went to the river at 7.30 pm at night and carried it out... There are already some Christian materials translated in Bhutan Dzongkha language but not yet shown to the public. It is distributed to only few Christian people in the country. I will try to get Bible Basics translated and send you so that it can be published in the net at least...".

We rejoice in our brother's conversion but he really does have a very difficult walk to the Kingdom ahead of him and we will do our best to prayerfully support him.

## **CHINA**

Carelink readers will have noticed that over the past year, there's been a steady trickle of baptisms throughout China as a result of Bible Basics work through the internet. As we write this, about 25 brothers, sisters and contacts are gathered in a hotel, enjoying the All China Bible School. It's a pleasure to report that two local brethren are giving their own talks alongside brother Duncan. We also have the company of a Christian refugee couple and their baby who have fled persecution in Pakistan. It was a great pleasure to baptize sister F into the real Christ:

Our new sister is wrapped in a blanket knitted by the sisters in Bodalla, Australia. It as also a pleasure to baptize sisters PATIENCE and VIVIENNE and brother HARVEY.

We're distributing the Chinese edition of The Real Christ and are happy to send copies to any who would like them. Several ecclesias in Australia and New Zealand are outreaching to the Chinese community through English-teaching programs, and we're happy to report that the book has found enthusiastic reception in several of these programs already.

We have many resources in Chinese, available at <http://www.carelinks.net/zh> . We've recently added to them a PowerPoint presentation about Satan, in English and Chinese- see <http://www.carelinks.net/files/devilzheng.ppt> ; and also a talk from the latest Bible School summing up the basic doctrines of the Gospel, in English translated to Chinese by sister June, available as an MP3 file at <http://www.carelinks.net/audio/mp3/gospelzh.mp3>. The other English-Chinese talks are also available at <http://www.carelinks.net/zh> .

Photo: Late night Bible discussion in the hotel lobby after classes at the Chinese Bible School; using sis Robin Jones' illustrated Bible timeline to explain the outline of Bible history; sis. Vivienne with her Chinese Real Christ; brother Donald giving his first Bible School talk, about the parables of Luke 15:



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