

## China, Parable of the chairs, Carelinks USA September 2010

Our Sunday Bible readings from the Bible Companion include Ezekiel 1; there's an MP3 about the cherubim in Ezekiel 1 at <http://www.aetheiacollege.net/audio/ez1.mp3>

### CHINA

We continue to get good response from all over China. Brother Donald reports on another long journey undertaken to visit Bible Basics contacts in remote locations:

"I baptized sister LING and our previous contact KEJIN. Please check the photos. Our sister ling experienced severe trauma several years ago. it was a rainy day with slippery road when an accident occurred . A motorcycle changed lanes too fast and happened to hit Sister Ling, resulting in half of her foot being lost. For a long time she had nothing to do ,just lying on the bed or sitting before the computer all day. She came to know Christianity from the internet. She was attracted to Lord Jesus as a person. She initially wrote to us saying that she had become curious about Jesus and had also come to admire Him, but she felt she had many deficiencies. Now she has studied the Gospel and been baptized! She wrote to me now: "The Lord never abandon me. He had mercy on me. Brothers and sisters took good care of me spiritually, teaching me. I am very grateful. I know for me a new believer there are still long ways to go. The Bible Basics has been so very important to me. I am so very pleased to contact with teachers like you. Now after baptism I am willing to be entrusted now into the hands of God. Through Baptism I am freed from sin, the Lord solved all my spiritual burdens which I felt.I thanks God. I like John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" . I will have eternal life when the judgement day is coming! Allow me to grow spiritually, to grow up from babyhood of baptism to be a devout Christian."

I will keep our sister in my prayers.May she plant the seeds of faith, may they germinate, and in the Kingdom of God be eternal plants . When I told her of our next planned Bible School, she was quite thrilled and promised to come.

It was still summer vacation for our previous contact Kejin,so I baptized him at a pond in the village".

Photos: Sister Ling at the computer where she sat for so long after her accident; brother Kejin being baptized in the village pond:



We are planning a Bible School in China in October in order to gather together the more isolated brothers and sisters baptized recently. Contact us for more details.

### CARELINKS USA

Bro Charlie Klennert reports the baptism of AL, one of our website contacts. He informs: "Al is just so excited about finding the true gospel! He has read *The Real Christ* almost 3 times. He found the Truth searching for Biblical information on mental illness and ran across *The Real Christ* online at <http://www.realchrist.info>".

Photo: Charlie and Al just after the baptism



### **PARABLE OF THE CHAIRS**

Maybe you all read the last Carelink about the parable of the chairs. We wrote last week: "When we opened the Riga Bible Center, we stood in the shop thinking: We have 15- 20 people coming... so let's get 20 chairs. But no, let's show some faith here... let's get 30 chairs in the hope of increased attendance. Well, a year later, we have 50 people regularly coming and peak attendances of around 70, and the numbers trend upwards all the time. According to our vision... so it can be unto us, and far above that too".

Well... God obviously knew we wrote that. And the next Sunday He as it were played along with the theme. Because we had 79 people, a record Sunday attendance... and we literally did not have enough chairs. There had been no special advertising, it's just that many of our folk can only get in to meeting every other week or so, and it 'just happened' that this week... quite a lot of them happened to come. There were also as usual a few new ones. So people were spilled over into the 2nd room, but it's really hard to hear anything there. It's hard to find a point in the hall from where one can take a picture which gives a real impression of the fullness of the hall. When it came to feeding them all, really space got very cramped. Anyway here are a couple pictures. This is the line for coffee during coffee break:



Here are the people standing up in the entrance hall trying to hear:



The hall is only 40 square meters. 80 people in it... eating... truth is, the hall is too small if we keep growing like this. People also will stop coming if it's so cramped and they can't hear anything...

Well afterwards we went to the store to see if there were any cheap chairs. We found the very same chairs as we have, on a 40% discount... how's that for Providence at work, the Lord saying 'Yes I want you to do this'. You can see from the sign that the 40 % discount offer finishes on 1 September, in 2 days time:



This week we have bought more Bibles and installed a PA system so people can hear. So many new visitors ask for Bibles. Again, we're open to donations of funds for Bibles, or if you'd like to order Russian Bibles and get them sent to us, that would be great too.

In other news from the Riga Bible Centre, we're pleased to say that br Viktor continues making slow progress and is visited regularly. We were so thrilled to baptize another 3 of our attendees: GALINA, ANATOLY and MIKHAIL. Mikhail is a train driver who has spent his life working on the railways. His wife Anya came along and was very thrilled with it all, she mopped the floor and helped with the washing up with a great smile on her face, saying this was the best church she'd ever been to because we only talk about the Bible and don't hassle people for money. Our refugee brethren attend meetings regularly on Sundays and lead the singing. Providing over 100 meals / week is a huge task, and we're pleased to say that local brothers and sisters are doing most of the cooking work now. What's needed however are funds for providing the food etc. This really is a wonderful mix of humanitarian assistance and also preaching the Gospel doctrine by doctrine in the many talks which are given each week [typically seven 40 minute sessions are given / week].

Brother Vlad, who spends his life in very detailed Bible study, gave his first talk, a Monday Bible class about "Logos" in John 1. He read his manuscript, or tried to, struggling badly with his eyesight... he'd been preparing it a long time. He also cooked a Caucasian soup for us which went down well:



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