

China, Refugee Brethren, Bible Center October 2009

CHINA

We're pleased to report the baptism of another internet contact, ZHANG, by our brother Don, who travelled a great distance to be with him. We're sorry to report continuing difficulties for some of our sisters from the local authorities. We therefore won't print any direct photo of brother Zhang. But here's brother Don's report:

"Brother Zhang spent one day and night with me, staying at the hotel with me. We talked about work, the Bible doctrines, life and so on. In the morning I was satisfied and impressed with his knowledge of the Gospel and so I baptized him. I talked with him about a few examples of baptism from the Bible. About Philip who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, now "They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." And I told my thoughts about Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, who believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized., Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip .etc. Immediately before immersing him, I asked him if he is willing to follow Jesus with all this means, he said yes, and only after he said that did I begin to turn the tap on to fill the bath with the water, and then I baptized him. Afterwards we read Romans 6 together and I emphasized upon Romans 6:4 "we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" .May God bless our new brother".

A Bible School is being planned for China in December, God willing.

News about this and other things in this report has been reduced significantly for this online report; to get the more detailed updates and photos, email us to info@carelinks.net

REFUGEE BRETHREN

Brother S

We reported our brother's baptism at the refugee camp in August when Anna & Barbara Ryder were over. On Friday our brother was deported back to an Arab country. On Sunday, S's father called us and said that S had been arrested on arrival at the airport and imprisoned without any clear reason, Our brother was pretty suicidal before leaving the camp and we dread to think of his state now. We will pray for him and inform if we hear any more news. To focus your prayers, here's a picture of Brother S just after his baptism in the refugee camp yard:



Meanwhile, brother R, whose release we reported in the last Carelink, is now living at the housing project we run in northern. He's enjoying living with the family there, helping on the land there, and washing the sheets for next weekend's Bible School, GW.

We're continuing to distribute Winter welfare in Eastern Europe, and hope to make a report next time. There's a report about the deepening effects of the financial meltdown in the Baltic states at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8298272.stm>. You can read there of how yet further cuts are being made in social services, health care etc. in order to reduce State spending. The poorer section of society is set to suffer yet further. This especially affects the elderly and those without family members to support them.

We recently baptized GALINA , a resident in a state facility for the elderly and handicapped. There has been talk for some time of closing down her facility, which means she will have to go live in the night shelter as she has no relatives. But at the night shelter, you have to leave by 08:00 a.m. and return only at 19:00 [7 p.m.]. Our sister has been terribly worried at what was going to happen to her as her health is very weak but not bad enough to be permanently hospitalized. She found a Gideon's New Testament at the facility, and started desperately reading it. She then came into contact with one of our sisters, who gave her more literature and introduced us to her. Although it's not clear still whether her facility will be closed , she really has a great peace and calmness about her now. Here's our sister with some vitamins we were able to give her [along with her original Gideon's New Testament]:



We're also pleased to report the baptism of EDGARS, boyfriend of our 19 year old sister Zane. After her baptism, things radically changed for her for the better in life. Again, we give grateful thanks to the Lord for the power of His word, and for the radical transformation of human life in practice which are wrought by His Truth and His dear Son .

Photo: Edgars after his baptism



At the meeting on Sunday, we did a study based on the day's readings, John 3, about being born again. We noted that Nicodemus' objection "How can a man be born when he is old?" wasn't as facile as it seems. He was saying 'How can one really start life totally afresh, whatever 'faith' one comes to adopt? Isn't the influence of our past always going to be strong?'. This is what we all tend to think in moments of weakness: the cards were dealt, the die was cast, I grew up as I did, my DNA and genes were set, what happened happened, I am as I am. Yet a person really can be born again, and by association with God's Name, HE will be who HE will be in us. And so unfolds the majestic doctrine of the new creation in Christ. In early Genesis we're told about sin: "And thou mayest rule over it" (Gen. 4:7). John Steinbeck put it well in chapter 24 of his East Of Eden where he wrote about this passage: "It is easy out of laziness, out of weakness, to throw oneself onto the lap of the deity, saying, "I couldn't help it; the way was set". But think of the glory of the choice! That makes a man a man. A cat has no choice; a bee must make honey. There's no godliness there... these verses are a history of mankind in any age or culture or race... this is a ladder to climb to the stars... it cuts the feet from under weakness and cowardliness and laziness... because "thou mayest" rule over sin". We spoke about these things at some length, and it was wonderful to hear the testimonies of those now free from alcoholism, a sister's testimony about freedom from lesbian tendencies, and several others. We feel very convinced that God's Truth as it is in His Son is really transforming people, quite radically, to His glory; and this is what our Carelinks work is all about. We now do most of our Sunday talks in English beforehand, so that the English-only speakers can listen to them on MP3 whilst the meeting is run in Russian and Latvian. A rather extended version of this talk about being born again is at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/Jn3.mp3> .

SPECIAL THANKS... *to whoever is regularly donating anonymously to our account via Bendigo Bank.*

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

PS Don't forget the Carelinks Australia Conference on Dec. 12 and the UK Carelinks Conference January 22-24; more details at <http://carelinks.net/doc/events>