

## China, Kyrgyzstan etc May 2010

This Sunday the Bible readings according to the Bible Companion include Acts 22, and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/acts22.mp3>.

### KYRGYZSTAN

Many will not have heard of this small ex-USSR republic in Central Asia. Carelinks started baptizing people there in the late 1990s, and in 2004 we baptized a group of prisoners in a terrible prison near Bishkek. They met regularly and even had a guitar. In 2008 we asked for your prayers for this ecclesia as there had been an outbreak of drug-resistant TB in the prison, and the prisoners weren't given any medical attention. Below is a file photo from our visit to them in the prison in 2004:



We're sorry to report that with the exception of the brother sitting on Duncan's right, the other 4 brothers have all died in prison of the TB outbreak. There is however a silver lining to every cloud. Brother Anvar was a truck driver who was briefly imprisoned because he was involved in a fatal road accident in which a member of the ruling family [now recently ousted in the revolution] was killed. During his time in prison these brothers gave him Bible Basics and he was baptized. On leaving prison he has faithfully preached and developed a very deep and sound knowledge of the Bible; he has developed a small ecclesia in Bishkek and it was our pleasure to visit them last week. Readers may or may not be aware that there was a bloody revolution in Bishkek a few weeks ago, leaving 200 dead and thousands injured. The crowds literally drove the Government out of their offices, and all law and order broke down. During this time, there was complete anarchy. Shops were looted on a huge scale by a repressed population kept in terrible poverty by a corrupt regime. We found the situation calmer but still with little Police control. Good grabbed in the looting such as cell phones, laptops and even paintings grabbed from the Government offices are being sold freely on the street. The BBC reports that people are even staking out land and claiming ownership, and driving people from their homes- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8617199.stm>. There are plenty of videos of the crowd on the rampage with the Police fleeing- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L1srqYLnu8>. As the press correctly reported, we found that anyone wanting security in Bishkek has to hire private vigilantes, as the Police are almost powerless- <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125754062>.

One sister described how she, her daughter, son in law and baby grandson were in their apartment one evening but thugs climbed onto their balcony, pushed the door open, and helped themselves to their computer. In this situation, with the Government having fled to Belarus and a new group of unknowns sitting in power, you can imagine that pensions aren't being paid, neither salaries. Power cuts and breakdown of utilities are evident everywhere.

We were able to dispense welfare to our more needy members, and also to meet the people whom Anvar has been preparing for baptism. With much joy we baptized brothers SASHA, BORIS and VLADIMIR; and sisters IRENA, TATYANA, and Anvar's daughter DILARA.

Boris and Vladimir described how they had searched for Bible truth for many years before meeting Anvar and studying Bible Basics with him:



Anvar is now living with his daughter Dilara and helps her care for her three children; they have very little money and Dilara's husband has left her. Two of the children have special needs, largely due to malnutrition, and need a lot of attention. Dilara works nights in a bakery and part time as a waitress in a small cafe so she can spend the days caring for the children; she gets very little sleep. The pittance she gets is hardly enough to buy food; we assisted with welfare, but the reality of urban poverty needs some reflection.



It was however a wonderful thing to see Dilara baptized in that bathtub, and rejoicing with her dad and children:



Their clothes are all from charitable organizations. We can share their postal address with any willing to send clothes- the boys are 8,10 and 12. But as explained earlier, the Postal system is broken down, and we left funds with them as well as buying food.

Finally we visited with a group of four women who work together running an NGO which cares for battered women, women who have quit alcoholism and rehabilitate women who have been released from prison. They are true humanitarians, but they said they kept probing their own motivations, and couldn't find what they were looking for in standard Christianity. They are an unusually wonderful group of women and we urge any organizations looking to sponsor real humanitarian assistance to think of supporting them. They are all students of Bible Basics, thanks to Anvar, and we were able to baptize Tatyana and Irena [far left and second from left in the photo]. We are sure they will continue to spread the light of the real Christ to many others, now having a knowledge of the true Gospel to underpin their wonderful humanitarian work.



Truly the harvest is great here in Bishkek, and we pray for those dear ones we left behind there, thanking God too for keeping us safe in a most unstable situation. Please do what you can in prayer and care for them all there.

## **RUSSIA**

We mourn the falling asleep of our beloved brother Boris Grigorovich Hussainov. He had asked Duncan to visit him before he died, and you can read the report of his unusual faith in a previous

Carelink at <http://carelinks.net/doc/44485685> . Three faithful sisters along with Brother Oleg watched over our brother until the end so that he did not go alone "into that good night", and have recently buried him. He will be a great loss to the Russian brotherhood. Until last year he made the long journey to Bible School faithfully, travelling hundreds of kilometres on trains and buses as a frail man with chronic heart failure, when his doctor had urged him not even to go out of the apartment to the shops unless he really had to. You can read Duncan's personal testimony to our brother on his Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/photo.php?pid=3998149&id=540758838> and we encourage you to take a look.

### **CHINA**

Our brother Donald reports on yet another journey to visit and baptize a contact, BANG. Bang has been an enthusiastic student of the Gospel with us by internet.

Brother Bang wrote out a short account of his conversion as follows:

*"There are lots of churches around the town. They have many activities on Christmas Day. One year, my friends asked me whether I was interested in going to the church and celebrating the Christmas eve . I thought it over for several minutes . Church ,a Sacred place, Bible, as the world's important literature . So I went from curiosity. After all, I'm interested in history and western culture. I then started to attend the church on Sunday. But later I found many wrong doctrine which contradict the Bible itself. For example Catholic Church treat Mary as mediator and pray to her. But the Bible says 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. So I started looking for truth. This time I became smarter. I Prayed before God, Prayed for wisdom, patience and thirsted for righteousness , as well as perseverance, I prayed to the Lord that He can give me a good teacher . Praying to the Lord all the time . Eventually God answered my prayer. I found your website and learnt from you and now have been baptized into Jesus Christ. Thank God for the leading, He gave me wisdom , gave me a guider to His kingdom "*

### **RIGA BIBLE CENTRE**

We're pleased to report another two baptisms of our attendees on Monday, sisters ANDA and TANYA.

The Lord is leading us into an unusual amount of activity all over the place at this time and we so appreciate your support which humanly enables it.

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