

December 2011 Burkina Faso, MP3s, Winter Welfare, Iranian Refugees

The *Bible Companion* readings for Sunday include Matthew 1 and 2, and there's an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt1and2.mp3> .

We've now finished doing an MP3 for each of the New Testament readings according to the *Bible Companion*, so the idea is that there's an MP3 exhort for every day of the year. You can see the list at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/mp3exhorts.html> and we are also advertising the MP3 and Bible readings for the day on the front page of <http://www.carelinks.net>

BURKINA FASO

We're pleased to tell you of our first baptisms in the poverty stricken country of Burkina Faso, a landlocked African country largely comprised of the Sahara desert. Astrid writes from Dédougou, Burkina Faso, to where she travelled overland from Mali with brother Luc after the baptisms recently reported in Bamako. Dédougou is a small town 300 very difficult kilometers from the capital of Burkina, Ouagadougou:

"At 9 o'clock on December 24 all the baptism candidates were present at the trough we used for a baptismal bath, all eager to obey Gods will to die with Christ and to be resurrected with Him into a life of obedience. The last three evenings they had received some good teachings about what it meant to be baptised. In the true African way they had to wait another hour before the donkeycar had brought enough water to fill the baptismal bath. After hearing the witnesses of brothers Koumbélé, Denis, Albert, Cedrique and Désiré, and sisters Mamou, Rakieta and Habibou, we rejoiced with them in baptism. Particularly happy we were that young sisters Mamou and Rakieta converted from Islam, as well as sis Habibou, well in her fifties. Afterwards we held a service to thank our Lord for his blessings in the lives of these lovely people".

She also writes about how she celebrated Christmas day with them all, having to carry the live chickens she bought on the back of a moped. Her living with our new brothers and sisters is a wonderful witness to everyone. Really and truly, the true Gospel is powerfully impacting the very ends of the earth.

Photos: 9 baptismal candidates [you can just see what was used as their baptismal bath on the left]; sister Mamou, formerly Moslem, rises from the waters of baptism before many witnesses. All converts from Islam are bravely risking so much in making their dedication to the Lord Jesus so public, so they especially need our prayers.



Br Luc [who accompanied sis Astrid from Mali] is deeply appreciative of Astrid's dedication and very impressed by it; of course his dedication and initiative is likewise wonderful. It's all a great partnership, brought about by the Lord:

"juste vous dire grandement merci pour tout ce que vous fait pour nous. ici par la grâce de Dieu tous va bien. continuez à beaucoup prier pour nous car on n'a grandement besoin de vos prière. Astrid joue un rôle très important ici à Dédougou, elle nous assiste en tous et je croie que Dieu là choisit pour réaliser de grand choses dans son oeuvre. elle est très simple, compréhensive et talentueuse dans le domaine des projet. en vérité je ne connaît pas les plans de Dieu mais je vie en n'espérant les voire ce réaliser. avec Dieu on ne choisie pas qui on veux, vous êtes mon père

spirituel et j'ai grandement besoin de vos conseille pour mieux faire mon ministère.tout mes respect à Cindy et au enfants. soyez tousse bénis!"

We certainly must pray for this new ecclesia and for Luc and Astrid in their mission.

WINTER WELFARE PROJECT

Sister Jeannie Barton of Toowoomba, Australia reports:

"Warren, Tamara, Jonathon and I are in Latvia. It really is interesting where God sends us in this world, and what growth we gain from these experiences. Every time I am so thankful to our Father for these opportunities. And we do have a responsibility then to pass what we see to you. This way you can then help where you feel is necessary. My first meeting at the Riga Bible Centre was very humbling. As we see it, made up of people that suffer physically, mentally, and/ or financially. Though joyfully there for spiritual food that is able to ease the struggling soul. Providing lunch after the meeting is such a wonderful idea and you can see that the warmth of the atmosphere, the warmth of each others company and the spiritual reminder that your heavenly father has something much better to come that will ease this suffering, was ever so touching. What made my heart cry was Sister Nina, whom we drove several hours to visit. I slept maybe 3 hours last night. Thank goodness Janine and Jane were on line. As I could talk to them about this pain that we had witnessed. My mind was in a whirl trying to plan out what to do for this very distressed 80 year old sister that lives in isolation. When we say isolation I mean ISOLATION. It must be so hard in the severe winter to access anywhere for supplies. She lives in a shack. A well for water, subsistence farming is her livelihood. So what was in her larder for winter? A meager crop of potatoes (which will not last the winter) some homemade jam, and pickled cucumber. She has not been able to plant as much as she use to as her age and ailments are preventing her from working. No wonder she does not feel well as the diet is not adequate for good health. She mentioned on numerous times that she is dying, and needed reassurance that Duncan would bury her. She wanted to make sure she would not be left to rot with none to care about her burial. She was so emotional to see us. Especially Duncan as he is the only one that shows her that she is a worthy being and cares. She does know that her heavenly father has sent him to her, and is thankful for that. Her emotions were so overwhelming as she was very grateful for our visit. Crying, hugging, praising God for this blessing, and these emotions continued throughout our whole visit. And guess what she had prepared for us--- a banquet to eat. Eggs, pickles, potatoes, sausage and biscuits. How in the heck did she do that???? We all are so blessed at home, and I am so thankful for my life. What we need to remember that if we have the means that there are people that need our help. Even so, Come Lord Jesus".

Photos: Marcus, Jeannie & Warren & Jonathon on Winter welfare visit; Warren giving firewood; Nina with her woodburner in her main room, feeding in the firewood; wrapping Nina in a blanket knitted by sisters in Bodalla ecclesia, NSW; Jeannie achieving amazing rapport with our sister despite the language barrier [Nina has just put on a fur coat which Jeannie gave her]; Marcus saying goodbye to Nina



IRANIAN REFUGEES

We're pleased to report the baptisms of another two Iranian asylum seekers in Latvia, A and E. E said afterwards: "This is what I wanted for 20 long years since I first became attracted to Jesus Christ". The baptismal service was held in one of their rooms at the asylum centre, which is located far out in the forest. About 10 other Iranians packed in to the small room. There were chairs for only 5, the other 5 stood, taking it in turns to sit down on the chairs as we went on with the proceedings. Again and again we marvel at how the Lord has called Iranian men and women seeking for Christianity to come to end up in a small room in an Eastern European forest where they can hear the true Gospel taught and come to baptism into the real Christ. His ways are truly unsearchable and past finding out, as we have been reading from the book of Job recently. Our network of Iranian brethren throughout Europe are very active in preaching and we hope to be reporting more baptisms from their outreach soon.

Warren and Jeannie are also assisting with building the child play area at the Riga Bible Centre, and we've just now received a large number of toys from a brother and sister in the USA. More news next mail, God willing.

We'd like to remind UK readers of the **Carelinks UK Conference** on Feb. 25, God willing; see <http://carelinks.net/doc/events>

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks