

December 2012 Australia, China, Riga, Burkina Faso

We have MP3s for the *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday:

Job 11 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/job11.mp3>

Micah 7 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mic7.mp3>

James 3,4 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/james34.mp3>

AUSTRALIA

Just a reminder of the Carelinks gathering this Sunday, God willing, in **Sydney**: Sunday 9 December at 3 p.m. at the home of Steve & Robin Jones, 17 Emerson Place, Menai NSW 2234 . Contact us for more details or call Robin & Steve on 02 95436810. Brother Duncan and Sister Cindy will talk about *God at Work in Human Life Today*.

This week we have been visiting contacts in Australia and are pleased to report that one of them, SUSAN, was baptized in **Brisbane** a few days ago. We're hoping she will get to Pine Rivers ecclesia for fellowship. Sister Nicky York reports:

"Linda, Duncan and I were delighted to meet Susan, who requested a Bible from the advertisement in a recent edition of Woman's Weekly. There have so far been over 900 requests!! Susan was one of those who requested a Bible and she treasures it! After correspondence and contact with Carelinks, she requested to be baptised and follow her Lord. Duncan, Linda Gulbrandson and myself were there to witness her confession and desire to do this and she was duly baptised by us. We met her in her humble housing accomodation where she has lived for 18 months but can't wait to find another place to live as she is surrounded by drug addicts and a very abusive neighbour who torments her. She was standing outside awaiting our arrival and had sandwiches already made for our welcoming!! What a delight to have shared that special occasion with her and we pray that our Loving Father will provide her with better accomodation soon. Another amazing event unfolded as we learned of her life: she knew and is related to Linda's best friend at school!! We sat and prayed with her for God's blessings to be with her. Then we went out and met Cliff [Nicky's husband] at a roadhouse and all celebrated with a cup of coffee, Cliff had just arrived in his truck from driving overnight. She said she would never forget this day!! Blessings, Nicky"

Photos: Sister Susan with her Bible, and then with the ever enthusiastic and dynamic Cliff next to his huge truck:



RIGA, LATVIA

The progress of the Truth at **Riga Bible Center** continues. We've had some record attendances lately, both at our main meetings and at Cindy's women's and kids church on Wednesdays. This weekend we baptized ARMANDS and ALEKSANDR. Typically a few members of the ecclesia crowd into the kitchen area for the immersion, and each gives a testimony as to God's work in their lives and a word of encouragement to the new brother or sister. At Aleksandr's baptism, sister Valya picked up on a discussion we had just been having about Job and the minor prophets in our Bible class, which looks at the *Bible Companion* readings. Valya spoke of how as a small child on December 8, 1941 she stood holding her mothers' hand on the Moscow Prospekt in **Riga**, watching the columns of Jews with their children being marched from the

railway station to the extermination camp at Rumbula, where on that day 26,000 Jews were exterminated. She told of how she watched the mothers holding the hands of their children, and how her mother called out 'Let your child run away, I will look after it, the guards won't chase after a child'; and how one Jewish woman replied 'No. This is God's will'. Duncan mentioned that sister Sue Woodin of the Erith ecclesia had visited us in Riga, and her mother had been one of those women slain at Rumbula. Sue had been sent to safety in England. We marvelled at God's providence; who would've known on that dark day that the daughter of one of those Jewish women would later be baptized into Christ in England, and how the little Russian girl whom she would've walked past would be baptized 71 years later. And almost 71 years to the day later, would sit in Riga and testify to these things at the baptism of another brother. Truly there is a God in the earth.

You can see our sister Valya in the photos as she spoke, being watched carefully by sister Judite [who just lost a second child], and others. In the group picture you can see brother Slavik on the far left, who continues to endure his struggle with AIDS. Here's Valya cleaning up the hall after the feeding scheme. And brother Sandis, who introduced Aleksandr to the Truth, greeting him after baptism:



As Winter closes in, the Riga Bible Center continues to provide around 150 meals / week and countless coffees and snacks to the many people living on a very low level of existence, often through no fault of their own. All our meetings feature Bible studies and extended discussion of the Gospel and various doctrinal and practical issues. We're pleased to report the baptism of VLADIMIR, who has been attending on and off for some years, going back to when we were meeting in the basement on Kalnciems Street. You can see him below, standing as he plays chess. In the next photo you will note that his chess partner has no arm on his spectacles; and sitting behind him is brother Viktor, about whom we wrote previously- one time star goalkeeper of the USSR hockey team who played in the Montreal Olympics in the 1970s.



BURKINA FASO

Sister Astrid has succeeded in locating water, drilling down to the water, and setting up a means for extracting the water for the community where we have an ecclesia in **Burkina Faso**. This will be such a blessing to the brothers and sisters there, as in the lengthy dry season in the **Sahel** [the area bordering the Sahara], water is more precious than gold. In the photo you can see brother Luc, the first of three men pulling the rope; he was one of those we baptized in **Mali** on a previous Carelinks trip. Sister Astrid's engineering abilities are one thing, but her hope and faith in pulling off this great feat in a remote part of the Sahel of Burkina Faso, many hours journey from the nearest air strip, is quite inspirational. And she had no human support with her apart from that of the local brethren. You can imagine her joy when water was finally

spotted at the end of the bore hole. May God bless His people there.



CHINA

Brother Donald reports:

"I baptized brother Li, he is retired and very interested in studying about the Soul, so I gave him introducing Bible Basics and invited him to my "church" in the apartment. We studied the chapter about the Soul in the English version Bible Basics. The soul is not immortal, the spirit is the power of life within us, which God takes back when we die. We don't go on existing in any conscious form after death. Jesus will resurrect us when he comes back and establish his kingdom here on earth. Brother Li will also come in the next few weeks, God willing. The church is not big so I setup bunk beds, then interested contacts can stay with me and make discussion further. God bless"

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks