

December 2013 Syria, South Sudan, Riga, China, Some Homework

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Revelation 3 and 4, and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/rev34.mp3> .

You can see the archives of our MP3 files

at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> ; *Carelinks Bible Radio* is at <http://r-b-c.org/listen.php> ; and God willing, we have our live video link service in English this Sunday at

08:00 a.m. GMT - you can view direct at www.carelinks.net [scroll down to the video screen] or if you want to make comments and participate in live chat,

use <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/biblecenter> . You can view recordings of previous sessions at www.youtube.com/CarelinksMinistries

SYRIA

We have been receiving very bad reports from our Syrian refugee brethren in Turkey about the awful situation for their elderly parents and families who are still in Syria. Many people have fled to the mountains to escape the wholesale slaughter that is going on, and are living in tent camps now smothered in snow and with little warm clothing or heat. Some of our Syrian brethren have returned through the mountains to take what aid they can to their families. They are planning to go again soon, and we will be visiting our Syrian brethren in Turkey in two weeks' time, God willing. We would like to give them as much financial support as possible in order to buy vital basic things for their suffering families. Please donate what you can. It is not feasible to transport warm clothes, food and fuel to them, so these things have to be bought where possible in Syria, at hugely inflated prices. You can see photos sent by our brethren in the email version of this report which is sent to those who request it.

These reports from our brethren about the dire situation there are confirmed by media and Red Cross reports such as at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25398012> This reports that "The United Nations is announcing its biggest ever appeal, seeking \$6.5bn (pound;4bn; 4.7bn euros) for humanitarian aid to Syria... starvation is now threatening the Syrian population. Bread prices have risen by 500% in some areas... This goes beyond anything we have seen in many, many years, a... Terrifying situation... Lady Amos described the Syrian situation as "one of the biggest crises in modern times". She said Syrian refugees "think the world has forgotten about them". Circumstances have worsened further with the onset of harsh winter weather. International aid agencies say they have been struggling to provide medical aid to the sick and wounded... starvation is now threatening large parts of the Syrian population... He called the Syrian conflict "the defining humanitarian crisis of this century so far". More than 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed since the unrest began more than two years ago".

How much of the 4 billion pounds being appealed for by the UN will ever find its way to the likes of the families of our brethren in the mountains... is, in our experience, questionable. We have no doubt that the situation is indeed dire, and we would encourage our community to donate specifically to our brethren's families in need through our far more modest appeal. Donation details are at the end of this email or at <http://carelinks.net/doc/otherdonations> or you can PayPal to tiybible@yahoo.com

RIGA

We're pleased to report the baptism of RITA, bride of our brother Aldis. Aldis, his brother [middle in the photo] and his father [far left] have all been baptized over the last 12 months and it's great to see the Truth taking hold upon families..



It was also a happy occasion to baptize MARINA, whose first contact was as a result of receiving first aid care from sister [Dr.] Cindy.

CHINA

Bro. Donald reports yet another baptism here, again originating from the work of sending out Bibles to those wishing to investigate Christianity for the first time:

"I baptized CAI in a sauna. He experienced a lot a few years ago when He worked in a construction company near to the border with Vietnam. He was also a communist party member, but from then he left the Party and never trusts any human government. This began his search for the Kingdom of God. He had a close shave with death and then started to think about life . For example: Why do people live? Do we have life after death? Do we die just like animals? Until one day he found the answer, that there is only one God in the universe, and He sent His only son to save us. So He decided to learn more and get a Bible and study it, and now he has been baptized into Christ".

SOME HOMEWORK

The amazing baptism of Danielle in prison in Japan comes at a time when the press is reporting on how many naive young women from the West are currently serving long terms in prisons worldwide. It seems that many countries are building special prisons to house foreigners, and surely these would be good places to penetrate with the good news of God's grace. Many of these prisons have some kind of prison library and we would be happy to send copies of the *NEV Bible* with commentary and *Introducing Bible Basics* to these institutions, in various languages. Someone willing to spend some time on the internet could surely come up with a list of postal addresses for prisons which specifically house foreigners. If someone could do this, please send the addresses to us at info@carelinks.net and we will do what we can to send Bibles and literature there.

SOUTH SUDAN

Please remember our brothers and sisters and contacts here- you may be aware from the news of the terrible situation there with hundreds killed and tens of thousands fleeing for refuge to UN compounds . So far we have not received news of any casualties amongst our brethren there.

Finally, some advance notice of our Carelinks UK Conference to be held God willing on Saturday 29 March 2014 in Croydon . Details at <http://carelinks.net/doc/events> . Bookings to Steve Gretton: steve.gretton@gmail.com Accommodation requests to Barbara Ryder: bar_ryder@yahoo.co.uk Offers to help with meals to Yvonne Dube yvonnedube@gmail.com

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks