

December 2014 Opportunities for Youth and others

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include James 1 and there is an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/james1.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>

With temperatures down to -10 this week and snow covering **Riga**, the work of the *Bible Center* in providing not only God's word but also warmth, clothing and hot food is once again so evidently needed and relevant. This Sunday was an unusually cold and bitterly windy, snow covered day. Despite opening the hall well before we start, there is still a small crowd gathered outside eager to get into the warm. We took a video which sums up the spirit of opening the doors and letting these dear folk in- to warmth, hot drinks and hot food, clothing and above all, the news and Biblical teaching of God's love in His Son:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bni5p0zAmn0>

To care for the cold, underclothed and hungry seems indeed the essence of Christianity on a cold day like this.



Sister Hannah has arrived from New Zealand to spend nearly 3 months serving in this way, and she has already got deeply involved. Five years ago, Hannah came to **Riga**, as a young person raised in the Truth but not baptized. She returned having made the decision to be baptized, which she did, and has not looked back. Our sister's wonderful enthusiasm has been seen in her cooking, cleaning and indeed doing the Winter 'cleansing' of the kitchen, and helping our local sisters . Hannah writes:

"It has been five years since I was last here in Riga. It was in the company of Duncan and Cindy that I first experienced the mission field and decided to get baptised after some words of wisdom from Cindy. I am so happy to be back in this growing church which is bursting with potential. It is run with love and pure dedication and I feel so honoured to be a part of the work here. So far we have fed the homeless, kept the hall spick and span, and organised rooms in the hall. I have also been able to apply my nutrition knowledge by researching nutrient deficiencies in alcoholics /street people to provide some inspiration for the menus of the feeding program. Currently we have Dennis from the UK busy assembling and rearranging furniture and next week a Canadian couple will God willing arrive to help with the feeding program. Ieva, Anna and I have plans to decorate the hall for Christmas and organise some musical items to perform with Rowan Barton and sisters Dace and Daiga. Ieva and Anna have been living with Duncan and Cindy in their home across the road from the hall and regularly help out with the feeding program etc. They have amazing willing hearts for God and the work here is so much more enjoyable with them around. We are planning on visiting a nearby hostel to hand out tracts in English to the young international residents as a lot of them speak English and there is great potential for an English church in the hall. Being here is a blatant reminder of how truly blessed I am and how much I take for granted and it is great to be able to feel truly useful for God".

Not sparing Hannah's blushes, in just a few days our sister has been involved in painting, cleaning, cooking and street preaching- despite only knowing English. And she's forged a great

partnership with our local sisters here. In the photo below, brother Sasha gives his first public reading almost a year after his baptism [Hannah in the foreground]



There's truly great potential for baptized believers to come over and really make a huge difference, both in preaching and in practical ministrations of God's grace. We wouldn't like funds to be a barrier for anyone wanting to come for a longer period- please let Duncan & Cindy know if you're interested.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks