

## December 2016 China, Latvia, Housing Project

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Revelation 10 and 11 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/rev1011.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://christadelphia.net/audio.htm> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

Download the NEV Bible with commentary and Bible Companion bookmarks at <http://n-e-v.info/NEVBIBLE.pdf>

### LATVIA

The Winter feeding project continues at the *Riga Bible Center*, with continued good attendance and hard work from our volunteer visitors in the kitchen. There have been four baptisms this week: MARIS, YURI, INNES and JANEK. This confirms our approach of focusing upon teaching the word of the Gospel, in one hour sessions, with the provision of food to support that work. Each of our new brothers have interesting stories. One was an alcoholic, who was caught stealing vodka from the local supermarket. Usually, supermarkets prosecute; but he was let off. He stood outside the supermarket, thinking that this must be God's grace. He noticed a man from the night shelter standing there, and asked him what he was doing standing around. He explained he attended our church, because we taught about God's grace. And thus he attended, stopped drinking, and has now been baptized. Another man had lived in London, **UK** for 7 years before returning to **Latvia** to nurse his mother to her death. He wondered why he hadn't found the Gospel in London; clearly, "each man has his time". Another was covered in tatoos, but seriously ill, with various pads on him resulting from a recent operation. One of the tatoos was of a swastika, and we believed him when he said he wanted to kneel first in the bath tub, because he had so much sin to be forgiven. Our outreach work is indeed penetrating society with the true Gospel. Here are various scenes from the baptisms and confessions of faith:



We operated on Christmas Day, with a good crowd waiting to get in even before we opened the doors; there was as usual the breaking of bread after Bible study, a baptism- and standing room only in the canteen area at lunch time. These lonely folks have really found some community here, and it is a pleasure to serve them. Over the New Year holiday we will operate as usual, and Cindy hopes to distribute her Winter Warmer packs- you can still donate towards this.



This whole project costs a lot to run, sorry to say. Please do donate as you are able.

### HOUSING PROJECT

Over the years, Carelinks built and maintain a large property used for housing for brothers and sisters and their children, and where there is regular weekly Bible study attended by local folks.

This property really is a warm light in a dark place in that village. Sister Liga continues to be so spiritually strong and caring for so many. She quite naturally asks you to pray or read a chapter with her, as the conversations go on; even shedding a tear at again reading some of the teaching she knows so well:



The utilities and running costs on this property are beyond what sister Liga can pay; we need around 200 Euros / month for it. Please do consider donating.

## CHINA

Brother Donald continues following up contacts in China and baptizing them, as he has for so many years. He is really a star convert, from his baptism many years ago in a hotel room in unusual circumstances, providentially arranged. He is going to be at the *Carelinks UK* gathering last Saturday in February God willing; do come along and meet him. He reports:

"I baptized brother HUANG in a public sauna pool. So I couldn't photo the baptism process.

Below is his personal testimony:

I was born in a peasant family in the southwest with two younger sisters. Life is tough, the only way to get out of the door is to study hard. I was admitted to the normal school, so my family is very pride of me, it also indicates that I can become civil service. After 3 years of my college career. I was assigned as a teacher with 58.8 yuan monthly income. Then I got married. Then 5 years later something unexpected happened, my wife was cheating, the flames of anger ignited me and under the influence of alcohol, I began to carry out my plan for revenge and with a knife stabbed that man. This behavior also changed my destiny. I was arrested and taken to the police station, I confessed the crime, and was then taken to City Detention Center in custody. Stayed there for 5 months, waiting for the verdict of the law. Meanwhile my heart seems to be burning red iron drops as a drop of water, neighing and groan and suffering. Finally I was sent to prison for 4 years..... all days long with groups of the dregs of society, I was one of them. The captain in the prison only blame me dislike good to others, as if I killed his parents. I suffered a lot in the prison, 4 years later I was released from prison, the streets was very spacious, bright, everything is so beautiful and fresh. After returning home, I felt very shame. No work, no money, no status. But my parents worried about me, I kept wandering.

One day I met an missionary, who distributed me a Bible. Then I read it, At night, I sat alone in bed praying. My heart become very quiet.

I started to plant agriculture, I am doing part time job in the town when I am free, I know that God put me through all of this, countless hardships, touched, pain, save me the prodigal son, reshaping me. I'm a brand new me now. Thank you, father! All glory belongs to the Lord Jesus!"



## PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For the housing project in northern Latvia
- For the work of the Riga Bible Centre

- For all those cold and hungry in Eastern Europe this Winter

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