

December 2018 Latvia, Ukraine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Hebrews 8,9 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/heb89.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>

Helps for the *Bible Companion* readings this week:

Job <http://n-e-v.info/NEVJob.pdf>

Micah <http://n-e-v.info/micnevcom.pdf>

James <http://n-e-v.info/NEVJamesCommentary.pdf>

LATVIA

We're experiencing a cold snap here with temperatures down to -15 C, i.e. 15 degrees below freezing. This is no fun for those living on the street, or the elderly folks in night shelters. They have to be out by 8 a.m. and are only allowed back in at 8 PM. Most night shelters don't allow them to leave anything there, so in the day time they must trudge the streets with their bag of belongings. We provide several hours where they can come in to the warm, have unlimited coffee, and have a Bible teaching session followed by a nutritious meal. We really appreciate your ongoing support which allows this to happen. The majority of those attending are now already baptized and there are always new people getting interested. They gather outside the hall well before opening time, and no words can quite describe the feeling when we open the doors and they all flood in to the warm. This is really a very, very hard life and we are with God's help making a huge material and spiritual difference. We made a short video, taken from the outside of the hall and then from the inside as the doors open, to try to give you an idea. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q03Khc8SLOA>



Many of these folks have worked, but because they are ethnic Russians they receive no pension nor medical support. Family life was largely destroyed in the Soviet years, with the idea that the state would always provide. But that has all ended. They had no pension system in those years, and so now if they have no family to live with, they are on the streets. All those people have different stories. Sister INARA was baptized this week. She explains in her baptism video how she grew up as an atheist, in Soviet times. She got married and then became very ill, but recovered. She turned to God at this time, and began reading the New Testament.

She has read it through many times and can quote it fluently. Her husband began gambling, and gambled away their flat and ran up huge debts in her name- and then died of a heart attack. So she was left homeless and bankrupt. She heard there were free meals at our hall and attended, and was pleasantly surprised to find we were a church.

She hadn't read the Old Testament and was enthralled with our daily talks about the Bible, often going through Old Testament stories and bringing out the practical and doctrinal lessons from them. It all made sense, and so she decided for baptism- and testifies that her life has really changed within, and she can sleep well at night. We marvel at the way God works to bring His chosen to His Son.

You can see the baptism and her testimony at <https://youtu.be/cdG4fqYbDGM>

Here are some photos, including of her drying her hair afterwards before facing the bitter Baltic wind outside:



UKRAINE

We are distributing Winter welfare to several here. The political instability due to the conflict with Russia is terrible news for the large number of elderly brothers and sisters here. Inflation is rampant, and pensions remain tiny- as well as all the practical problems caused by the low temperatures, martial law in many areas and the actual conflict itself in the east. Please pray for sister Tamara as she struggles with heart problems and cancer. We hope to make a visit to some in western Ukraine this week and appreciate your prayers.

PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For the work in Riga
- For all those suffering with the cold weather in Eastern Europe
- For our efforts in Ukraine this week

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks