

England, Ukraine, Notes July 2009

Response to our work on the web continues, with a few thousand people per day visiting our websites from about every nation under Heaven.

ENGLAND

We're pleased to report that response from Western countries continues, and last Thursday Brother Marcus travelled on our behalf to the Stockport ecclesia near Manchester, UK, to witness the baptism of PETER, a Bible Basics contact with whom we've had a lot of phone calls and contact. We're grateful to the Stockport ecclesia for their assistance of Peter. And it looks like another baptism on the way- please pray for the man below, also from the UK... it's just so thrilling to see an unbeliever becoming a believer. Here are some clips from his emails:

"I've been reading '*Bible Basics*' and have found it a well written, easy to read and exceptionally helpful in clarifying and reinforcing my understanding of The Bible. I did notice something that I need to question as I fear I may have misunderstood. In section 2.4, toward the end, you state "There were no failed attempts at performing miracles in the first century." I remembered reading something that seemed in contradiction to that comment (I'm a new believer, coming from an atheist background and being strongly atheistic myself all my life, and wanted to read the whole Bible before I knew what 'type' of believer I was). Anyway, it took me a while to find it again. It's the section Matthew 17:14-20 where the man has brought his son to Jesus because the disciples had not been able to cure him.. .Anyway, I'd like to thank you again for this book. It's fantastic and really clarifies so many things which I'd already read and thought I understood when I read the Bible over the past few months. On an additional note, it has helped me over (mostly) the only real 'stumbling block' which has held me back ... satan/devil . Thank you very much for helping me get closer to God ... I have a hard copy of Bible Basics I was sent for free - you also sent me the Introduction 'booklet' which I read through first of course. I've also considered doing the Aletheia College course (which is how I heard of your page in the first place - watching your video on the Song of Solomon). Might delay on that a while - need a more solid understanding of the Bible before I start (I have a science degree so it's not so much the ability as the totally different mindset of studying).

My journey from atheism to belief was in one way slow, but as seen by others very sudden. All my life, even as an atheist that was very vocal in putting down all religion, I thought that every house should have a Bible in it, just as they should have an encyclopedia and loads of books. Because people should have the option to 'turn the silly religion if the want'. When my son got old enough I thought I'd get a Bible. Got a free one from Jehovah's Witnesses (I had a friend in America who said they'll give you one). Anyway they did and gave me a few long chats before I worked out that (a) what I was told as a kid is not what the Bible is about and (b) some of the things in JW don't sound right. So I got a KJV and started reading and then a NIV version (to read it through the first time I thought that would be OK if I used e-sword which I'd found, to compare versions and even look at the opinions of scholars). I often disagreed with assumptions the scholars made and even with certain Bible versions in some verses. So I decided to read the whole Bible before I decided which, if any, 'church' I would join.

I'm a believer in God and Jesus, his son. I'm already there. And I'm scared now in case the 'end' comes before I am baptised properly (I always thought the baptism of a baby couldn't mean anything even if you were a christian and had my doubts about non-immersion baptism - it just seemed a little like a simple way to deal with baptism by a lazy clergy). My reading of the Bible seemed to suggest a weakened but solid, personal Satan. Though everything else I read seemed

to point me in one direction, that was a hurdle. As you were kind enough to give me Bible Basics I'll buy The Real Devil as I think that is a start in repaying some of your costs. I'm sorry this email is so long - the Bible is so new and 'big' a thing to me that I tend to want to do stuff related to it and God all the time but real life often feels like it gets in the way (I have a family and keep reminding myself they are important too). Thanks again for your works and for your fast and open reply. God bless you for your work in your mission. Even though I'm not yet baptised maybe my prayer might get heard. God willing."

UKRAINE

Yesterday evening beneath a busy bridge in Kiev, Ukraine, VLADIMIR was baptized in the Dnepr River, with trucks and trains thundering overhead. This was the culmination of a long path for Vladimir. He first encountered the Bible on a business trip to America, where he found a Gideons Bible in a hotel room. He read it, and longed to understand. Returning home, he went to the Orthodox Church, asking simply to be taught the Bible. But he found politics and money making there, not Bible teaching. So he then began a relationship with the JWs, and became deeply persuaded of the unity of God. But their stress on Satan didn't make sense to him, and someone of his intelligence soon perceived that they were baptizing into an organization that wished to control him, rather than into Christ. And so he began to search for other groups who were non-Trinitarian and yet loved the Lord Jesus and His word. And so Vladimir encountered us on the internet, read Bible Basics, and after a lot of correspondence with us and brother Andrej in Rostov, finally made the great decision to be baptized. Truly our brother has not only grasped true theology but has come to the Lord Jesus as a person; every moment of our conversation was just a delight.



THANK YOU...

to the anonymous donor who kindly transferred funds into the Carelinks Australia bank account on 21 and 22 July. Truly it was much appreciated at this time.

CARELINKS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

Advance notice: God willing, on Saturday 12 December we'll be holding our *Carelinks Australia Conference* at the Hurstville Christadelphian Hall, Sydney NSW. Program and speakers to be announced later, let us know of any themes you'd like to see addressed.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks