

February 2013 Lithuania, Latvia, Mali, UK Conference

We have MP3s for the Bible Companion readings for this Sunday:

Exodus 19,20 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ex1920.mp3>

Psalms 73 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps73.mp3>

Mark 6 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mk6.mp3>

LITHUANIA

We're pleased to report a revival of interest in Lithuania in recent months. This week it was our pleasure to visit Vilnius and baptize a Polish-Lithuanian, TADEUSZ, who has suffered much estrangement as a result of leaving the Catholic church. A great reader, our brother came to baptism as a result of coming across the Russian edition of the *NEV Bible* with commentary.

MALI

The group baptized in Bamako are facing various problems as a result of the war in the country, although not physically affected by the fighting, the economy has worsened and there are many shortages and difficulties associated with all that is going on there at this time. Please do remember them in your prayers and also the related group in Burkina Faso. We do not have any baptized brothers and sisters living in northern Mali.

LATVIA

Br Andy & Sis Mel Downton (Horley), Sis June Williams (Guildford) and Sis Mim Clark (France) have worked ever so hard this week at the **Riga Bible Center** and here is their report; we are grateful not only to them but to all those who are supporting and enabling the amazing work here. We broke a new record last Monday, with 130 present for Bible class- most of them baptized bre & sis.

"Our stay in Riga has, to say the least, been a real eye opener. Nothing can fully prepare you for the reality, as the conditions under which many live here are so far removed from what we have back home. It has been a truly humbling experience. The work Duncan and Cindy so is certainly a lesson to us all.

Conditions under which some have to live can be very challenging. We delivered wood to a brother whose mother is dying of cancer. He works but the little money he earns is spent on pain killers for his mother. The electricity in the couple of rooms in which they live has been cut off. In freezing temperatures, the only heat they have is from a small wood burning fire in the corner. Woodsmoke fumes fill the room which is lit by a single candle. Before we got out of the car, Duncan warned us not to speak English as if they were heard by neighbours, they ran the risk of being beaten up.

Photos: Delivering firewood



On a lighter note, the feeding programme has been great fun and we have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters here. Last night the four of us spent a very enjoyable hour or so singing songs from PTL accompanied by Mel on the guitar. It was a lovely experience.

Photo: Mel singing; there's a brief video of her singing before the feeding scheme at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dKu_33_ZEE Andy has been hard at work with some

of the many DIY jobs in the kitchen.



With the expert tutelage of Vladimir and Vanessa [Boler]'s wonderful booklet of tips, we have managed to produce food for numbers ranging from 70 to 130.



The hour long Bible study has taken place each day this week. Many of the brothers, sisters and visitors have walked a long way over icy pavements to attend. On Monday we were privileged to witness the 4 baptisms of brothers DZINTARS and ANDREJ and sisters VALYA and [another] VALYA. It is wonderful to see the eagerness with which they embrace God's word.



It is with mixed emotions that God willing we return to our homes this weekend. We might have helped in a practical way, but our brothers and sisters here have helped us to regain in some small way the correct perspective on our own lives which can so easily get swallowed up at home".

Here are the newly obtained dishwasher and ventilation system:



CARELINKS UK CONFERENCE

We warmly encourage everyone in the UK to attend our day long conference in **Croydon** on Sat. 23 February, God willing.

There's an exciting program- more details at <http://www.carelinks.net/doc/events>

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks