

## February 2015 Riga, Macedonia, UK conference, App

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Mark 11 and there is an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mk11.mp3> . You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html>

The videos of the recent Winter Bible School in Ukraine, including the talks in English, can be found at

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR\\_yFooOMA7vG9i7vPCcF0MQB](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR_yFooOMA7vG9i7vPCcF0MQB)

Brother Stuart has developed an Android app for *Bible Basics*, do let us know of any improvements in case we get to doing other books, or improve this one. It's at

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appypie.appypie4a45b108257a&hl=en> .

*The Real Devil* is

at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appypie.appypie69b1f68590b1&hl=en>

## MACEDONIA

Home groups based around families seem to have been the way the Gospel spread in the first century, and it is indeed how the now large ecclesia in **Riga** began. We're seeing the same happening in **Skopje**, Macedonia. First of all Kristian was baptized; then over time his wife and mother, his brother and his sister in law; then his wife's sister and mother. And now on this latest trip it was a truly happy duty to baptize Kristian's grandmother [and sister Jadranka's mother] JAGODA, family friend DAMIEN, and a local plumber / repair man, VOBI [far right in the photo], whom the family passed *Bible Basics* to in the course of using his services. You can see Jadranka and Jagoda so happy together in their kitchen below. This is what happens when ordinary, down to earth folks living in working class housing areas grasp the Gospel and start passing out Bibles and *Bible Basics* in the local language without pretension and with no sense of superiority, just sharing with family and friends about the great hope of the Kingdom. We have seen such development time and again all over the world. The strangest thing is that through much of this growth of the group, Kristian has been in prison, for a crime he insists his innocence of. The family's support of him and related problems has drawn them close to both each other and to the Lord and the reading of His word. Kristian is allowed home for visits and he was granted permission to come home for this special occasion- it was he who took the photographs. Truly God has a way of working through the darkest of human injustice and failure, as we have seen recently in re-reading the history of Joseph in daily Bible readings. We have provided significant welfare support for the family and so appreciate your donations which enable us to do this.



## RIGA

Brother David Corbin [Brooklyn, USA ecclesia] had a final report which was left over from last week's Carelink:

"2/2/15: 104 in attendance at the Bible class at the Riga Bible Center. We witness the baptism of NIKOLAY. This made the fourth baptism in the last three days. Two in Kiev on 1/31/15, another one outside Kiev on 2/1/15 and today 2/2/15. Truly as in the days of the apostles, the Lord added

unto the ecclesia daily such as should be saved. An observation: In the western ecclesias the rear seats are the first to be filled and are the seats of choice. Over here it's the opposite. You have to rush to get a front seat. With 104 in attendance the Lord blessed the stretching of the food, as Hannah and Bro. Andy were in full panic that we were going to run out. I certainly thought so as well and was consulting about contingency plans to feed the remainder, when word came that everyone was fed and some were welcome to get a second serving. It's was the third time I've heard Bro. Nathan spoke on lighthouses and I can say it' gets better each time. He really applied from the construction, to the design, to the purpose and management of lighthouses to both the believers and unbelievers lives. Great job Bro. Nathan may our heavenly Father continue to bless you to do his work.

... I've arrived back in NYC, safely thanks to our heavenly Father and the prayers of the brethren. I had a wonderful time there and can't wait to visit again, perhaps for a bit longer. All near and far will be hearing from me of the wonderful and exhausting you doing over there and great response we are still getting from the public. May God richly bless each and everyone of you who labor on in his service. May he prosper his work. I will never forget the faces of those poor souls who visit the center each day. I look forward to when we can offer the opportunity to them 7 days a week. The brethren in the Ukraine will always be in my prayers... And Bro. Maxim, a bastion of faith and goodwill to serve. May the Lord take care if his situation soon. Give him my love.

Love in Christ  
Bro. David  
Brooklyn ecclesia".

When you go out to the street people with the Gospel, you get all kinds come in. Nikolay confessed to being deeply embarassed by a Nazi tattoo and swastika he has on his chest. This is the kind of extremism which some are pushed to by their own experience of racism, discrimination and unemployment. He is really ashamed of his past and was very emotional after his baptism. The waters of baptism can't wash off the tattoo but truly he is now cleansed in Christ, and it was so appropriate that with this on his mind he was greeted after baptism by an African-American brother. God's ways are truly unsearchable; for it's unusual to baptize anyone with a Nazi Swastika tattoo before, and it's not every weekend that we have an African-American visitor to the **Bible Center**:



We all signed a Bible for our brother [here's Bro Nate Badger doing so]; and we were touched that sister Brigitta [far left in the photo], who is homeless and squatting in a room with no heating, electricity, water or toilet, and to whom we often take firewood, presented our new brother with a bar of chocolate as a baptismal gift- she is utterly destitute:



### CARELINKS UK CONFERENCE

Brother Adrian Burr from the **UK** and sister Arina from **Toronto** (Church Street) Canada ecclesia

have recently arrived to work in **Riga** and both attended Carelinks conferences previously. Do come along and check things out for yourself. The *Carelinks UK Conference* will be held God willing on Saturday 22 February and there's a most stimulating program prepared- see <http://carelinks.net/doc/events> for more information.

**PRAYER POINTS**

- For peace in Ukraine
- For brother Maxim's situation
- For the recently baptized in Macedonia and Riga
- For brother Kristian in prison
- For the Russian Bible School this week
- For good response to press adverts appearing in Australia and Israel this week, God willing

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