

## February 2015 Russia, Riga, Azerbaijan, Israel, UK conference

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Corinthians 4 and 5 and there is an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1cor45.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html>

### CARELINKS UK CONFERENCE

The *Carelinks UK Conference* will be held God willing on Saturday 28 February and there's a most stimulating program prepared- see <http://carelinks.net/doc/events> for more information.

### RUSSIA

The *Russian Bible School* took place last week; due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict we're holding separate schools in Ukraine and Russia due to the difficulties of crossing the borders. There was a reduced attendance but this was compensated for by the deeply spiritual quality of the school. The Russian brethren made a special message of solidarity for their Ukrainian brethren from whom they are now politically separated- a great testimony to the unity of the Spirit. With their full agreement this is now up on YouTube as a witness to the world, at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDNBOH9oe9w&index=7&list=PLtFaNqvleAvm7gmfrgPgVEzmE3lq1h\\_O9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDNBOH9oe9w&index=7&list=PLtFaNqvleAvm7gmfrgPgVEzmE3lq1h_O9)

Brother Pavel, now 87, travelled all the way from **Siberia**, 3 days of travel, all alone. Humanly speaking, of course. Brother Zhenya and his mum sister Ira attended. Zhenya saw one of our early advertisements for *Bible Basics* in around 1993, whilst in prison. He responded, was baptized by us in around 1995 and has been strong in the Lord ever since. He gave a great personal testimony about how he has been 21 years free from alcoholism [in Russian at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4x6mklQfvA&index=16&list=PLtFaNqvleAvm7gmfrgPgVEzmE3lq1h\\_O9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4x6mklQfvA&index=16&list=PLtFaNqvleAvm7gmfrgPgVEzmE3lq1h_O9) ]

and this has been played to the folks visiting the *Riga Bible Center* who are still on the journey there. Sometimes it seems that the addicted are never going to radically change. But 21 years is a long enough period to see the proof of the change; and Zhenya is a living testimony to the fact that God's Truth really can change people, radically and permanently. And it's also a reminder of how our work has been blessed in reaching good ground for the Gospel here in an area where it had not had great distribution in the 20th Century.

The collapse in value of the Ruble means that peoples' savings have lost much meaning; wages and pensions haven't increased and yet prices have. No longer were we trapped in endless traffic jams in Moscow; and the endless new building projects stand half finished and forlorn. People really are suffering because of the economic crisis in Russia. Brother Zhenya's mother, sister Ira, is in great pain because of chronic arthritis and needing knee replacements. She describes how when she walks it feels like walking on sharp needles, and how the nearest treatment is 60 km away from her home. She was unable to come to the canteen for food most days and we had to bring food to her. You can see a movie of Ira walking with difficulty on the ice, and explaining her pain [in Russian] at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yW4sRaXJRuc>

Photo: Brother Pavel distributing Siberian garlic seeds at the Bible School- he is a keen gardener. You can see arthritis crippled sister Ira on his right; and note how our brother wears multiple trousers to insulate against the cold:



Material assistance has been provided but there are many others in similar needs. Please do pray for them. And please pray especially for young Oleg, 6 year old son of brother Slava and sister Antonina. Slava came to the Bible School with his son in order to be as close to God as possible before leaving to travel for at least 2 days to Novosibirsk where Oleg is undergoing a life threatening operation at this time- please do pray for him. His response will depend on whether or not he develops any infections. His father will be staying at the hospital all this time , whilst mum and the rest of the family are back home in their small town, 2 days travel away. Slava's love for his young son was wonderful to behold, and you can see it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed19S8UA27c>



#### **AZERBAIJAN**

We reported some months ago the baptism of a sister from Iran, a doctor, who came specially to Turkey for baptism after studying *Bible Basics*. Our sister has encountered major problems in Iran and has fled to Baku in Azerbaijan, which borders Iran. We don't have any details but her last email says: "i am very scared. i dont know what do. i dont know this city and im alone". Please pray for sister R.

#### **RIGA**

Our thoughts, prayers and strong hopes for the Kingdom are with sister Mel who is currently serving here at the *Bible Center*, after the falling asleep of her dear father, our brother Bob. He was one of the very best and we long for the Kingdom which we preach yet more. Brothers Maxim and Andy were able to baptize DAINIS this week at the Bible Center . Again we appeal for brothers and sisters to consider coming out and assisting here for a month or more- the work is really huge and the potential for fruitful service is very great. Here you can see sister Arina from Toronto [church St.] ecclesia along with local sisters at the baptism:



#### **ISRAEL**

Thanks for your prayers for the advertisements there in the Russian press- please continue your prayers. Response is coming in and we are sending out Bibles and *Bible Basics* to interested people throughout Israel most days. Postage these days costs more than the actual printed material. We are open to donations towards the cost of sending Bibles and literature to these contacts- it costs around 10 pounds / response. Here's a typical scene at the back room of the *Riga Bible Center*:



### **PRAYER POINTS**

- For peace in Ukraine
- For brother Maxim's situation
- For sister R alone in Baku in fear
- For the recently baptized in Riga -
- For good response to the press adverts in Israel
- For Oleg's operation
- For sister Ira's pain as she walks, especially walking on ice at this time of year

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