

Haiti, Bible Weekend, Moslem Contacts, Refugee Progress February 2010

HAITI

Our relief efforts continue for the ecclesia in Haiti. We're pleased to say that the large tent and sleeping bags sent out have finally been collected, although our brethren had to pay an exorbitant customs duty on them. Many of our brethren are sleeping on property belonging to Brother Esmath's cousin. We're pleased to report that reconstruction efforts are moving ahead there, with cracks repaired and new walls built as you can see in the pictures below. Most encouragingly, large numbers of people are now attending the ecclesial meetings held there. A visit is planned for later this month and en route our visiting brethren hope to give a presentation about the situation in Haiti at a location in the New York area. Contact us for further details.



RIGA BIBLE WEEKEND

Brother Peter and Sister Julia Gaston of the Kenilworth UK ecclesia have been playing a dynamic role this weekend at the Riga Bible Weekend, the first such weekend to be held at the Riga Bible Centre. Brother Peter gave 5 very thoughtful talks, translated into Russian and sometimes Latvian. You can hear them at <http://hristadelfiane.org/av.htm> [scroll down to the bottom of that page]. A total of 82 brothers and sisters attended over the 3 days, and there were around 70 at the breaking of bread. The growth here has been phenomenal.



Brother Peter wasn't alone in making presentations; our newly baptized brothers Pavel and Aigars also spoke very powerfully. Aigars came to us from our 'Improve your English' courses:



A highlight of the weekend was the baptism of VLADIMIR, a Russian Jew whose sons and grandchildren live in Israel. He gave a most intense and compelling testimony to us all, speaking of how he decided at 19 to find God, and now at 60 he feels that he has found Him in His fullness through accepting the Lord Jesus as God's Son. Trinitarianism had been a barrier to him previously, so he was so thrilled to find us. He reads from a parallel Russian-Hebrew Bible at our meetings. Here's brother Vladimir giving a prayer of thanks during his testimony. On the left hand side you can see the urn kindly donated by Kenilworth ecclesia, this will be a real practical assistance to the meetings.



Peter and Julia broke through the language barrier with their activities- Julia's chocolate making was a great hit, with young, old, street people and professors. Their joint puppet show was watched in silent engrossment by the audience- you can see the movie at <http://hristadelfiane.org/puppets.html> :



Card making was another activity:



And then there was music. The large family who live at the Carelinks housing project came down for the weekend, they're very musical and they were able to join in singing, using the keyboard kindly donated by Maidenhead ecclesia and the guitar from New Zealand. In the second picture you can see Sis. Ingrida and her children singing, she was fruit of the mother's club Cindy runs.



Elsewhere, Carelinks continue their witness to the Moslem world and efforts to assist those persecuted by Islam. For some time we've been in correspondence with a small group in a Moslem country; they have now completed their study of *Bible Basics*, you can see some of their answers and correspondence at <http://tacomaecclesia.net/bapstand.html> . This gives some insight into how we preach and what we teach in preparing people for baptism.

This weekend Brother Charlie Klennert has been visiting various brothers and sisters baptized by Carelinks in Moslem countries, who are now in the USA. Sis. Guncha from Turkmenistan is well known to many because of the stuffed camels she made and which were sold widely in the brotherhood. She is currently temporarily in the USA at the Atlanta, GA ecclesia and we appreciate the warm welcome she received there:



Meanwhile, brother Sirwan from Iraq and brother Parviz from Iran- along with their families- have safely arrived in the USA; here's a picture taken today by Brother Charlie during his visit with them:

We do so appreciate all your wonderful support for these brothers and sisters over the last few years. Truly God is at work in the earth, and we see without doubt that He chooses to use our small efforts to His glory.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks