

## Haiti, Winter Welfare, Refugee Brothers, Carelinks USA January 2010

### HAITI

Readers will be aware that we were able to baptize the first ecclesia here about 2 months ago, and that since then the group have grown mightily. And now the very area where they lived, in Carrefour just outside Port au Prince, has been one of the worst hit areas in the huge earthquake that's occurred. Current estimates speak of 100,000 dead and the area devastated- where 80% already were living below the poverty line. Readers have likely seen enough gruesome photos of the situation on the media, but there's a local Haitian website which has presently the most comprehensive collection at [http://www.metropolehaiti.com/photo/img.php?id\\_img=608](http://www.metropolehaiti.com/photo/img.php?id_img=608) . This must rank amongst one of the worst disasters of recent times. We had been enjoying some email chatting with Brother Esmath [presumably he was in an internet cafe where he usually emails from] until the last message was received at 20:48 GMT on 12 January. It was a Word document summary of his teaching the previous Sunday about how Satan is in fact our own internal desires. We made a response to the effect "Good job!" and heard no more. This was in fact less than an hour before the earthquake struck. Our brother had written just before that a mail as follows:

"If you were here physically close to me , you would see how happy and overjoyed I am while writing you these lines. My joy is overflowed every time I have opportunity to communicate with you Brothers. Now the light of the real Gospel is being shone and there is no more confusion. Let me present to you my deeply congratulation because yesterday I received a parcel contained some french documents that are very interesting , and can be very helpful to me in my teaching. Keep on praying God for that ministry because my dream is to preach the real gospel by opening the eyes of some many people all over Haiti, not only around Carrefour. Amazing things happened last Sunday! Last Sunday we had two services, the ordinary service started from 6:00 to 9:00 Am . I attempted a second service that was a success and was packed also. What was it ? the second service was an English service started from 9:00 to 11:00 , that is to say the worshipping was in English , I invited more than 60 people who speak English, specially my former students, It was a success because there were more people than the first service. many people remained standing but it was a blessing because the presence of God was there. Bonne journée mes frères!"

In the midst of our plans, we have to say "God willing...". Our brother worked for the United Nations and as such they informed his relatives in USA that he is in fact alive but his home has collapsed and like many others he is sleeping in the street. This is all the news we have, all phones are down. We don't know what has become of the other brethren. Clearly there is immense suffering all over and to even begin to think of where to begin coping with it is a daunting task. We have sent our brother US\$ 2000 and this will be used for welfare work. What's really needed is for someone to go out there and try to get a handle on what can really be done as well as to account for the rest of our brethren and their families.

Our prayers are of course with the whole situation, and to focus your prayers here's a picture sent by br Esmath last week of the Sunday meetings at his place [he is at the back in blue shirt and red tie]- which is now flattened by the earthquake to the point he's sleeping in the street outside:



## WINTER WELFARE

Meanwhile in Eastern Europe the very low temperatures continue, and we continue passing on assistance. We've been pleased to baptize the following recently at the Riga Bible Centre: Brothers VIKTOR and VOLODYA, Sisters VALYA, LARISA and INESA. Volodya passed by one day and took home a copy of *Bible Basics*. He had been researching the trinity-unity issue for a while since deciding to become a Christian but hadn't found any teaching which satisfied him. Having become persuaded of the real Christ, he naturally decided to be baptized into Him, after having first shared his understandings with his fellow Bible student Viktor. It was a pleasure to baptize them both and we look forward to their contributions amongst us.

Our sisters have been doing a great job preparing hot meals for our needy brothers and sisters from the night shelters. They have to spend all day from 08:00 outside and aren't allowed to leave anything in there, and so they take their possessions in bags with them all day. The older and sicker ones can't work and so life is really a struggle. Here's the now familiar sight, as brothers and sisters wait for sister Dzena to open up:



One of the issues is that being a basement, the steps down into it often get slippery and they really need a handrail. It's common to see our elderly bre & sis assisting each other down those steps. And always a miracle that sister Ludmila, who can hardly walk without a stick, never manages to slip nor fall. Brother Mark Leadbetter and his building team are keen to come over in the Spring, God willing, and rebuild the steps and install a handrail. Any donations towards this would be welcome [500 GBP?].



We're so pleased to have received many welfare packages in response to our appeal, and these have been thankfully received. Sister Ina has only her one bag of possessions, and so it was a great thing for her to receive a welfare package. Here she is reading the card in it; and then sisters Valentina and Nina with their packages:



They're really so appreciative. Sister Valentina simply has nobody- her father was killed when she was little, her mother, husband and daughter have all now died. She's very often moved to tears by the slightest act of kindness to her, not least the parcels.

## CARELINKS USA UPDATE from Br Charlie Klennert

Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers".

### **Carelinks USA ongoing preaching efforts:**

Last week in the USA alone there was over 900 requests for *Bible Basics*. At the same time coinciding with our stocks being empty. Yet, an anonymous donor printed up copies for us to continue with our goal of helping people towards the kingdom. Some of the requests have been amazing. We note these as examples of the emails we get along with the request for the books.

1. I have to say that after reading your email to me, I would now be more excited than ever to receive *Bible Basics*. Approx. 3 yrs. ago, I left the church in which I called "my church" and chose to study and teach my son the bible from my home due to my disappointment of the "politics" and corruption that had seemed to take over. I too believe Jesus to be the son of God and not God himself. I have opened up my home to many homeless who wish to bible study with my son and I and feel very blessed to do so. I believe it to be my calling.

2. I can do this online if it would be better for you. I am interested in studying more about the Bible and like you, I also believe that Jesus is the son of God and not God himself. If he wasn't, why would he be talking to himself? Never did make sense to me.

We also note a letter from one of our sisters who sends out *Bible Basics* in Oklahoma.

This weekend I got a letter from this lady thanking me for the IBB asking for me to send IBB to three of her friends and gave me their addresses, one is in California, but the other two are in Oklahoma, one in Okla. City. I am going to send her a copy of *Bible Basics* since I have some extras. I was so excited. No one has ever responded before!!

We truly praise God for help getting the books printed and using us as tools to help others see the doctrines we hold so very dear. Truly the message of the return of Jesus and the reestablishment of the kingdom is getting into all the world!

Also thanks to the initiative of an American brother, a radio interview was set up on the Voice Of Reason show hosted by John Anderson. Brother Duncan was interviewed by telephone for an hour regarding *The Real Devil*. Amazing thing was that John Anderson eloquently and Biblically came out in support and appreciation of our beliefs in this area. You can hear the podcast at [http://podcast.gcnlive.com/podcast/voice\\_of\\_reason/0110101.mp3](http://podcast.gcnlive.com/podcast/voice_of_reason/0110101.mp3) [the commercial breaks are rather long and tedious, be warned!]

### **Carelinks USA lost sheep update:**

>From time to time we hear from people who no longer go to any meetings. We do what we can to help bring people back to God. We have struck up some amazing friendships with those who have left for whatever reason. Recently we helped a sister go back to meeting after many years. Again we thank God for helping us help others. If you know of anyone you would like us to try and contact do let us know.

### ***Bible Basics* and *The Real Christ* in Public Libraries**

Brother Marcus has been sending BB and Real Christ books out to the most remote libraries in the world. His computer broke down a couple months ago and he was offline and couldn't do anything a week or so. So having a bit of free time, he went down to the public library with a pile of envelopes and got a list from them of libraries in remote areas, and copied the addresses onto the envelopes, went home and stuffed them with books and mailed them out. As you can see below, this means that there are people on the tiny island of Yap in the Western Pacific

reading about the Gospel. When you get computer frustrations, God may be trying to use you some other way, that's the message.

\*From:\* Yap Public Library

\*To:\* bible.basics@onetel.net <mailto:bible.basics@onetel.net>

\*Sent:\* Tuesday, January 05, 2010 1:49 AM

\*Subject:\* Thank you

First I would like to thank you for your donation of two Christian books for Yap State Public Library. The books were received today and I can't wait to email to you and say thank you. I also want to let you know that I am interested in the books and will read them first and then add them to my library collections. Once again, thank you for your kind contribution and considering our only library that serves our island community. God bless and Happy New Year 2010.

I. Rungrad, Librarian

According to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yap> : ""Yap is an island in the Caroline Islands of the western Pacific Ocean. It is a state of the Federated States of Micronesia. Yap's indigenous cultures and traditions are still strong. The "island" of Yap actually consists of four continental islands. The four are very close together and joined within a common coral reef . Mangrove swamps line much of the shore. An outer barrier reef surrounds the islands, enclosing a lagoon between the fringing barrier reef. 2003 population was 6,300. The state has a total land area of 102 kmsup2; (38.7 sq mi)."

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