

## **January 2012 Winter Welfare, Belgium, Germany, NEV Bibles**

This Sunday's Bible Companion readings include Matthew 10, and there's an MP3 on this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt10.mp3>

### **BELGIUM and GERMANY**

We have noted in recent Carelink messages the very active spread of the Gospel in the Farsi language as a result of our Iranian refugee brethren preaching so actively online, and those baptized in their turn taking the message to their friends and families. Please pray that this continues, for the strengthening of those baptized, and please consider ordering some Farsi Bibles online and getting them sent out to our new brethren and their contacts.

There are strong groups of Iranian brethren and contacts developing in Belgium and Scandinavia, as reported previously. This week it was our pleasure to visit again the group in Antwerp and to assist them with the baptisms of two brethren, D and D

These brethren both have wives and families, and they need our prayers in the difficult situation they are all in. Darius had been attended a church for a year but they refused to baptize him because he couldn't pay tithes. He then started searching wider for the real truth and was providentially led to us by a meeting with another Iranian brother.

We also drove into Germany and baptized sister A, in the presence of her very interested family members; she was truly joyful as she began the new life in Christ:

[More details in the Carelinks report by email]

In all these faces and lives we see God's work through His Son.

### **WINTER WELFARE**

The Bartons have just made another visit out to our very isolated sister Nina whom we mentioned in a previous Carelink. They took her more welfare, appropriate warm clothing etc.

Sister Jeannie Barton writes about another situation:

"On Sunday I noticed a very quiet young man (14 yrs ) watching the chess games. Many of the poor brethren present are elderly folk so he stood out from the crowd. I did try to make a conversation with him, but he was too shy. After the meeting I was distributing some clothing for the winter and one of the coats was for his dad (this coat was very large and this particular coat was just right for him). The dad was busy playing chess and with Cindy interpreting, we gave the coat to the son for his father. There was this lovely big smile on his face as I think not too much help comes his way. It is a strange feeling that comes over you when you know that some action is needed on your part to help someone. And of course this young man did not leave my mind. At the next visit to the Ecclesia, Adrian [the young man] and his 72 year old father brother Gennedy were there at the feeding scheme. As I was talking to Cindy during the conversation I was made aware of the problem of Adrian's eyesight. So now there is a very happy son and father as the eyes have been thoroughly checked and two pairs of glasses have been ordered. They were ever so grateful. At the same time the optometrist pointed out that the father has very bad glaucoma of the eyes which could lead to blindness.

So what is their story. The father explained that he has a Ph.D. in Metallurgy and he worked for the Russian Army. When Latvia became independent he lost his job, home, papers etc. Now, they really are now on the poverty line. Russia does not recognize him as a Russian citizen either, so their family like many others are caught in "no mans land." Gennedy is now 72 yrs old and his wife has passed away, they had a 36yr old single daughter and the 14yr old son. Gennedy is a very intelligent man and is very passionate about rearing his son appropriately and in Christ, and is quite proud of the studies he has done. I have noticed that Gennedy is not a well man, coughing, cyanosed finger tips and he becomes quite breathless on exertion. How would

you feel in such a position, a son still to raise while being concerned about your own long term health. There is no subsidized hospital treatment here for these folk. So they pay what international travelers would pay, full price. Eye drops for glaucoma would cost him \$60.00AUD a month. He does not drink and lives a good life as he feels he needs to "set a good example for his son".

His daughter continues to try to find work. She is out all day everyday picking up small amounts of work or trying to sell odds and ends to help make the monthly bills. They visit the Bible Education Centers "soup kitchen" to help sustain their diet and that's how they came by the Riga ecclesia. Adrian has been attending Bible classes now for some time proving to be a very keen Bible student and Duncan says his answers to *Bible Basics* are very good. Also we learned that Adrian has just received an academic award for his school studies and recently earned 3rd place in the national Chess Competition in Latvia. After the optometry session, we were invited back to their home. I really was in for a very pleasant surprise. Yes, very tiny, yes, hardly any furniture, yes the fathers bed was made out of books covered by a blanket for him to sleep on. Some of the books were academic books going back 50 years to his university days. No cupboards to place things in, BUT clean. I was soooo impressed. You may be poor but you can still have pride and care. I could see this was a good man. So I feel God has put him in touch with our community and we have a responsibility to care. And so we will".

Sis. Jeannie

Photo: Jeannie with br Gennady in the optometrists.



Nearly all of Gennady's monthly pension goes on heating bills and as all such medical visits must be paid for, people like him never go to the doctor nor get their eyes or teeth fixed. He and his 14 year old son are wearing spectacles they picked up, of totally the wrong prescription. The visits and spectacles which Jeannie arranged have radically changed the lives of Gennady and Adrian and if the glaucoma treatment is pursued then Gennady may well, under God's good hand, avoid blindness. Here's the typical after meeting scene at the Riga Bible Centre which sis Jeannie mentions; Br Gennady is 2nd from left, with back to camera; Adrian is standing watching the older brethren:



### **NEV Bibles**

The ***New European Version*** Bibles with commentary and *Bible Basics* have now been received. The New Testament edition has already been widely distributed and appreciated. Now we have the entire Bible available; we're grateful to the team of around 25 brethren and sisters worldwide who've worked so hard on them, and to all those who donated. We've already posted out around 2000 of them to brethren and sisters in the mission field who were lacking Bibles. Let us know if you know anyone genuinely lacking a Bible and we will try to send them one. If you'd like your own copy and can afford to pay, the standard version costs about 4 GB Pounds plus postage, and we have 500 de luxe editions available too for 6 GB Pounds each- they have high quality

leather covers, guilt edged paper etc. If you'd like larger quantities for preaching use, please let us know.

### **BRAZIL**

We've sent funds to our suffering brother Onaldo, and he is now in Sao Paulo undergoing tests. He continues in great pain and need of our prayers.

From another part of Brazil we received the following, typical of much such interest we receive from the very ends of the earth:

"My name is Marcelo, I would get you all the materials available to enjoy the knowledge of God's word and be able to pass the people next to me, I believe you will help me, I am Brazilian, live in the heart of the Amazon, we have few resources to do God's work. I think you are an open door in my life! I am hoping to get that stuff, all you have books and bible to help me in this mission! grateful for the answer! I'm praying for your family."

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