

January 2013 Baptisms, Winter Welfare, China

There are MP3s for each of the chapters from this Sunday's *Bible Companion* readings:

Genesis 24: <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/gen24.mp3>

Psalms 29: <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps29.mp3>

Matthew 15: <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt15.mp3>

SPECIAL APPEAL

At this moment, brother Jeremy Neate from the Horley UK ecclesia and bro Mike & sis Vanessa Boler from Folkestone UK ecclesia are at the **Riga Bible Center**, where we have had a slight practical upset which needs resolution. Brother Jeremy writes as follows after returning from delivering firewood to two brothers living in really awful poverty:

We are a party of three who have left the comforts of the UK to spend 12 days in freezing Riga (temperature -12 and 'feel like' temperature of -18 C as this report goes out). At home, a bit of snow and ice can be fun once in a while, but week after week of -15 or less when you live in a single unheated room is quite another matter. Add to that having nothing to eat because you've spent all your income on medicines for your dying mother, no light except for a single candle because you cannot pay the electricity... and the reality emerges of lives that are tougher than anything we normally think of as "Dickensian". Yet some of those enduring these grim conditions are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hence the Carelinks Winter feeding program which is about to roll into action with hot food and other support aimed at keeping our brothers and sisters from starving and freezing.

Photos: Jeremy and Mike delivering firewood to the brothers living by candlelight, huddled with all their clothes on in a literally freezing room, with the dying mother of one of them lying on a couch.



BAPTISMS and WINTER WELFARE

Our distribution of Russian Bibles in rural Latvia has produced much interest and we were able this week to visit and baptize JADVIGA, who lives in great poverty in an isolated home in rural Latvia. She has had contact with various groups and dearly wished to read the Bible for herself. We talked of how God leads us to Him... she explained how at her parents' death she had sold the family home for cash but was robbed of the money and for 20 years has eaked out an existence in the room in tumbledown house the Government allow her to live in, having lost the desire for a materially stable life and just seeking God. She was a welcome recipient of firewood and Winter heating support, her room is terribly cold and she sleeps wrapped up in an overcoat each night. Again we rejoice in the clear hand of God in human life, leading men and women towards His Kingdom.



We're pleased to report that yet another group of visitors to the **Riga Bible Center** have matured to baptism and it was our pleasure to baptize VITA, OLGA, SERGEJ and LARISA into the Lord's

saving Name last Sunday. You can see them standing in that order from the far left of the photo. Note the *NEV Russian edition Bibles* on the table, hundreds of these are currently being mailed out all over the Russian speaking world. May God's word continue to not return empty.



CHINA

The growth of the Bible center in southern China is quite amazing. Brother Don writes:
"I baptized two people this week in the church. One is a building labourer who visits our church often, another is a construction supervisor who comes to my university for a junior college degree . Some times I also met some difficulties in preaching nontrinitarian idea to people in the government registered church, please pray for our efforts here, God bless"
Brethren from New Zealand plan to be visiting the center by the end of the month, God willing.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks