

January 2013 Feeding Scheme

We have MP3s for the *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday:

Genesis 34 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/gen34.mp3>

Psalms 37 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps37.mp3>

Matthew 22 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt22.mp3>

We have had an unusually busy week at the **Riga Bible Center**, with our three visitors from the UK working very, very hard to make the changes required in the kitchen, to feed up to 100 people per day who attended our series of special Bible classes, as well as assisting in so many other ways. They have been such a huge help. They wrote up their experiences as follows:

*"Michael, Vanessa and I have nearly finished our visit to **Latvia** and our stay at the **Christadelphian Bible Center in Riga**. Although conditions here are tough, and from that point of view it will be a relief to be home, one's feelings are mixed. It is all too easy to hop on a plane and head back to home comforts, but that option is not available to the 100 or so lovely people who have come each day to the Centre, both to hear God's word and to enjoy a brief time of warmth, Christian love and much needed sustenance, before reluctantly going back out into the far below zero streets in hope of securing a place in one of the night shelters, or of finding means to heat their sub-standard accommodation enough to survive a few more days. I have been privileged to experience at first hand the desperate desire of the brothers and sisters here for the appearing of their and our Lord. And the thirst of the unbaptized for the security we have in Christ. I have been filled with joy to be present at two baptisms this past week and have witnessed the sincerity and eagerness of the two new brothers and their new family in Christ. Above all I have been impressed by the magnificent response of brothers and sisters in the Western world to the unexpected need to upgrade the kitchen facilities- well done everyone. But for your generosity and especially the contributions of those able to donate to Carelinks regularly, their work would simply grind to a halt. May your sacrifice and love be blessed and may our Lord soon appear to bring the peace we all long for"- Bro. Jeremy Neate (Horley, UK)*

*"It has once again been a privilege to be able to help the Riga ecclesia with their winter feeding program, the need here seems to be even greater than when I was here last year. Many thanks to all who contributed the funds to sustain it all. We were so glad to be back and to see many familiar faces from last year. It feels we are really beginning to bond as brothers and sisters. Our time here is so fleeting and the need so great that our leaving will be with much sadness. May our loving Lord continue to bless the amazing work being done at the **Bible Center**. Your prayers, help and support are really needed and are much appreciated!"- Br Mike & Sis Vanessa Boler (Folkestone, UK)*

Our visitors were able to witness the baptism of ROMAN, who came to us after getting an *NEV Bible* and having passed through various churches in his search for the Truth. The camera just happened to catch brother Vladimir welcoming him in a way truly reflective of our new brother's sincerity and love for us and brother Vladimir's genuine loving care for all those we baptize.



Bible class has been well attended- it is quite common in the Riga ecclesia to get around 100 to Bible class:



There was a great spirit at the meetings and after one class we were pleased to baptize ANDREJ, son of sister Tatyana, into the Lord's Name. Both mother and son were clearly very moved and joyful. You can see the same mother and son [far left] being served their meal earlier at the feeding scheme, by Vanessa and Jeremy:



We really believe that this is exactly what social welfare schemes should be like- providing as it were the much needed and even essential bread and fish to the crowds who came to hear the word of the Lord Jesus. And in the midst of all this work, Mike and Jeremy have been working so very hard rebuilding the kitchen in line with the requirements made upon us. Cindy and brother Vladimir have had to take a course to give them a professional qualification authorizing them to handle and prepare food- Vladimir is very proud to have got through it and was presented with his certificate in a frame at a little ceremony before around 100 brethren and sisters at Bible class [he and sis Vanessa are standing in the glare of the projector, hence their faces look strange!]:



We are so, so appreciative of all your support we've received at this time enabling so much to be done.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks