

January 2013 Winter Bible School, China

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

Genesis 44,45 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/gen4445.mp3>

Psalms 49 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps49.mp3>

Romans 1 and 2 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/rom1and2.mp3>

WINTER BIBLE SCHOOL

I was delighted to be invited to prepare presentations for the Winter Bible School in **Poltava, Ukraine**. Under God's hands, despite dubious circumstances due to bad weather, flights and connections all worked and our journeying was without incident. My talks were on aspects of faith, culminating in words of assurance of the faith we have in our salvation.



Photo: *Br Peter giving one of his talks with brother Alexei Tischenko translating*

I have been delighted to meet over 80 bre. and sis. from Eastern Europe and further afield, some travelling continuously for 3 days to get to meet with everyone else. I have very much enjoyed sharing their enthusiastic knowledge and fellowship despite the language barrier. Sadly local weather conditions stopped a few locals from attending on the first day of the Bible School but we have seen them since then. There has been a wonderful atmosphere, and a greater desire for the things of the truth than there is amongst these people could hardly be imagined.

We had the privilege to witness the baptising of **MARINA** and **SERGEI** on Friday - using the laundry room of the hotel, where there were a good many large washing machines making quite a din! It was a lovely occasion nevertheless and the background noise detracted nothing from the obvious joy and excitement that they both felt at taking on the name of the Saviour of the World.

Marina had taken time off work to travel nearly 4 days each way from Moslem **Kazakhstan** in order to be baptized; Sergei is one of a growing number of former JW's whom Carelinks have been baptizing in **Ukraine**. We had to walk some way to the laundry room and at -10 degrees our happy but soaking wet brother and sister had to be wrapped up against the cold:



Also present was recently baptized brother **ALEKSANDR** who had been baptized by local brethren and sisters in southern Russia. You can see him here, the one wearing a tie:



After the baptism we came back and watched the Carelinks movie about baptism, which is a very powerful and persuasive addition to the Carelinks arsenal of resources, and **LUDMILA**, one of the few unbaptized attendees was moved to ask also for baptism, which we hope to arrange before the end of the Conference. You can watch this video yourself at

<http://www.baptizo.info/movie.html> . Despite failing sight and health, Sister Vera wrote and read to us a poem about baptism which she had composed:



God's work through Carelinks continues to be apparent and to blossom and bloom, and it has been a wonderful thing to come and experience the fruits of that labour first hand, and meet so many wonderful people. After quite a bit of preparation of both music and words (even getting them written out in such a way that I could join in in Russian, despite knowing none at all) we did some singing this time, and it seemed to be enjoyed by many. Thanks to all who were involved in organising this, especially Sis Ludmila and Sis Cindy. I would like to add a special thank you to the ones who stepped up to the mark to translate, and so overcome the communication issues for us.

Bro Peter Cresswell (Derby UK)

CHINA

Brother Feng writes: "I was very happy to baptize brother ZOU in Tianjin city, an older man. He thought and doubted about the "trinity" issue which many churches always adhere to for a very long time. He is quite surprised to know us as in China those who don't believe in trinity are treated as non-christian. He felt that he found the true faith group to have fellowship, so he expressed his gratitude for sending him literature and baptismal arrangement when I met him.



Photo: *Brother Zou*

Two men and one old woman visited my group this Sunday, we talked about Jesus for the whole afternoon, that old woman was very old and seemed very interested in death and resurrection, it is human's nature that we are afraid of death as we are getting old. I quoted some verse from Bible and explained that we die and are unconscious but Jesus will raise us from the dust and make us alive for ever when the Lord Jesus returns if we believe in him and baptize into him, there are no spirits of the dead wandering around on earth or in heaven. At the moment everyone who is dead (except Jesus) remains dead and will not be raised from the dead until the Lord Jesus returns. Jesus delay his return because he wants to save more people from death, so hopefully the old woman will come again and be baptized into christ. P.S please pray for our meeting this weekend"

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks