

January 2016 Bible Stuffing and Conference UK, Latvia, Germany

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 26 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt26.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

Bible Stuffing and Conference UK

Carelinks UK are holding their annual conference as usual in Croydon, UK on Saturday 27 Feburary God willing. But it will be a conference with a difference. We have around 1000 Bibles to stuff into envelopes along with a covering letter. We previously held two very happy sessions doing this at the Chelmsford Ecclesial Hall; this is a wonderful opportunity to actually do something in the Lord's service rather than just sit listening to talks. The Bibles are going out to interested folks in the UK- another reminder of the level of interest there is in the UK these days. This is something you could bring your children along to help with. Anyone over 4 years old can help with this work- and there's a lot of it to do. So please book that date in your diary. You'll also get a chance to meet and listen to brother Vahid and other dynamic Iranian brethren. Cindy and children hope to be there, so yours will not be the only little folks there.

LATVIA

Heavy snowfall and very low temperatures continue, and we continue to distribute the walking sticks we appealed for a few weeks ago. Here you can see brother Maxim giving one to sister Medina ['Aunty Masha']:



Walking the icy streets and pavements, which are often not cleared, is a nightmare for elderly folks and those unsteady on their feet. Here you can see Cindy giving her heavy fur Winter overcoat to sister Ludmila, who now proudly wears it everywhere. It weighs really very heavy, and brings back memories of when dear Cindy first bravely came out to Siberia, Russia in 2001 dressed in a blue jacket which was thought by loving friends and family in Australia to be 'very warm' and 'just what you'll need out there in the cold'. Russians wouldn't even have used that for an anorak in Winter! Cindy experienced temperatures down to -51 C that Winter in Siberia, and Duncan bought her that coat second hand from an old woman out in Yakutsk. It remained as a kind of keepsake, but a rather heavy and cumbersome one, and Cindy never uses it. But it's a testament to 15 years of dedicated service to the Lord by Cindy in this hard land:



We were also very happy this week to baptize NIKOLAJ, an older man who lives in the apartment blocks local to our hall:



GERMANY

Thanks to the efforts of brother Vahid in Liverpool, UK, a kind of conference was arranged in Germany for the Iranian contacts who wished to be baptized. About 10 Iranians spent an intensive and wonderful time with us and we're pleased to say that the following solemnly dedicated themselves to the Lord: Sisters SAIDA, PARVANEH, MASAH and MONA; and brothers YASSER, HADI, MEHDI and REZA. They had been underground Christians in Iran, and are all related to each other.

They are nervous of appearing on public video on YouTube, which is understandable but a shame because their testimony was very gripping. Reza described how they crossed from Turkey to the Greek island of Mitylene in a tiny dinghy, with 62 people onboard- including Reza and his wife and two little children. They were told the crossing would take 30 minutes- they left at 1 a.m., nearly overturned several times, and were rescued by Greek coastguards, finally arriving on the shores of Mitylene at dawn around 6 a.m. This was in December, just 2 months ago, and they felt they nearly died of the cold and wet that night. Reza says he still has nightmares about the dinghy and his children gripping on to him all that night. Then they had to walk, bus and train 12 days with the two little children across Eastern Europe, with temperatures well below freezing, until they arrived in Germany. We naturally enquired if they remembered the border halt on the Macedonian border, where we had distributed so many soups and welfare packages to refugees before having to walk off down the railway tracks- and they did! They don't recall seeing us there when they crossed, but it must've been around the same time. It is a small world when we are all working in response to the Lord's promptings. They recounted the terrible persecution they endured from the Syrian Muslims on the journey. And even now in one of the camps where they are currently staying, they felt fearful to be baptized there because other Muslims there know they are Christian and are bullying them and warned them to bring no Christians into the camp. The situation is really awful and corresponds to similar testimony and observations we have made in these reports before. So please pray for them. Brother Vahid from the UK was present with us by phone and Skype- thank God for Skype and WiFi.

We had a meal together; here are the children enjoying pizza, chips and tomato sauce in a cafe for the first time in several months:



Here are their parents with their *Bible Basics* which previously they had had only as a PDF:



PRAYER POINTS:

- For our newly baptized brothers and sisters
- For the Ukrainian Bible School this week
- For all our elderly dear ones walking on snow and ice this Winter
- For the Iranian brothers and sisters living in camps dominated by aggressive Muslims
- For more to come forward and be involved in all this work, from Bible stuffing to visiting folks

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks