

January 2016 Riga Feeding Program, Walking Sticks, Carelinks UK Conference

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 5 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt5a.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>

RIGA FEEDING PROGRAM

Temperatures here have been very low, with significant winds and humidity, meaning that the -20 C temperatures 'feel like' far lower than that. With the night shelters open only at 8 p.m. and throwing people out by 8 a.m., our brethren and sisters have to be out all day, or take shelter in places like waiting rooms which are open to the public. Most of our number are middle aged or elderly, having worked during the previous regime but now given no or very little pension because of their ethnicity. Or others simply who cannot afford to rent or heat property, who are therefore driven to the night shelter existence. This really is a genuinely needy segment of society which the Lord has led us to. Jim & Ann Barton continue to assist greatly with the work. But we are all worked off our feet. Our folk arrive ever earlier in these temperatures and take about half an hour to thaw out on entry to the hall. Please remember that our heating costs at the hall can come to nearly 1000 Euros / month in extreme temperatures. The on costs are high, but the work done is absolutely necessary and relevant, and the welfare aspect dovetails seamlessly with the preaching of the Gospel and further teaching of the many who are baptized.

On New Year's Eve, about 110-120 came, Cindy's welfare packages were wonderful, plus we gave them a special seasonal meal... sincere thanks to all who contributed to enable this. You can see a video of the evening at <https://youtu.be/s72HjjFHR-A>

We read Revelation 21 and 22 according to the *Bible Companion* and reflected for an hour on the awesome, breathtaking reality that is ahead, eternally, for we weak, cold, tired, aging, handicapped, frail and weak mortals. Please do take a view of the video and enter into the spirit of these dear believers and the work here. And really, do consider coming over and assisting or otherwise supporting the work.

You will notice in the video and some of the stills below, that several of our number have walking sticks. Quite a few others are in need of them- many have suffered strokes, or with lack of medical care have been unable to fix breakages or sprains, resulting in mobility and balance problems. Such problems of basic stability when walking are made many times worse by the fact that many pavements aren't free of ice, and at these very low temperatures the ice is like glass and very slippery. We are providing walking sticks and related aids, but they cost around 40 Euros each. Health care is not free and so when you have no pension, it's hard to get such things. So you are welcome to donate towards the provision of such assistance.

Stills from the video:

Entering the hall frozen; brother Vyacheslav [pictured entering with his bag of possessions] was once a guard on the Berlin Wall in Germany, and he gave a lovely reading of Revelation 21 at our New Year's gathering; thawing out with coffee:



Taking free clothing; note the brothers with walking sticks [and they must carry what they possess in bags as they can't leave bags at the night shelters]:



Jim, Cindy & Evija distributing the Winter Warmer packages and the seasonal special meal; and some of the warmer packages waiting to be moved in to the hall:



CARELINKS UK CONFERENCE

Advance notice that God willing, this will be held on Saturday 27 February 2016 in Croydon, Surrey. An encouraging and inspiring program awaits!

PRAYER POINTS:

- For more workers at the Riga Bible Center
- Thanks to God for the amazing blessing upon our work in Riga over the years
- For our brothers and sisters walking the streets on slippery ice and struggling with the extreme cold

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks