

January 2017 Belarus, Latvia, UK Conference, Software

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Genesis 15 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://christadelphia.net/audio/gen15.mp3>

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

Download the *NEV Bible* with commentary and *Bible Companion* bookmarks at <http://n-e-v.info/NEVBIBLE.pdf>

BELARUS

Pleased to tell you that after much correspondence, OKSANA was baptized this week. Oksana is from the zone affected by the Chernobyl disaster, living just north of the Ukraine-Belarus border, which was most affected by the radiation. She has written about her experiences [in Russian] at great length.

She was studying to be a doctor when it happened, and originally was unaffected. Later, she started becoming weak and was identified as having received lethal dosages of the radiation which destroyed so much life and health in that area. Her otherwise promising life was changed very quickly. She had to be cared for by her parents, and was made a guinea pig for treatment against radiation and cases of thyroid cancer through gassing patients with mega dosages of thyroxine T4. This treatment went on for four years until it was given up.

The idea was that Soviet medicine could somehow undo the huge damage to millions caused by the Chernobyl radiation. It has left her with a pulse of 110 beats / minute, although humanly speaking, she is "lucky" to still be alive all these years later, although with very limited quality of life. All rather tragic for a young woman from an educated, military family who was about to qualify as a medical doctor. She was given a pension which is now worth only US\$ 65 / month, and invalidity status. Her parents are now very elderly and need care. She lives with them in a small town in Belarus. She's been inspired by our recent videos of our feeding scheme in **Riga, Latvia**- and tries to do what she can to feed 16 stray cats near her block. With the economic crisis biting deep over Winter, poorer people can't feed their pets and there are many stray dogs and cats in the Eastern European winter.

Our new sister searched for God, and became involved with Orthodox priests whom she found abusive; and found no answers in the Mormons and other groups. She was swayed for a time by Judaism, but left after they told her that Jews alone are the true descendants of Adam, and she as a Russian Gentile must just keep the laws given to Noah. She set out to find Jesus for herself, and came upon our Russian language videos and material [she watches them daily], with this happy result. Do pray for her in her rather bleak and depressive life situation.

LATVIA

Jesse, Cardia and Jim & Anne have been a truly great team in the kitchen at the *Bible Center*. We held a New Year's day special gathering, where Cindy, Jesse and Evia distributed the "*winter warmer*" packs to everyone; we also iced gingerbread cookies with the names of people and Cindy encouraged them to ice their own cookies with their names. Temperatures are very low here in **Riga** right now, -20 C [about -4 F]. Really we did give warm up their lives and hearts, for their lives are as bleak as the weather and grey, Soviet block environment here. It's really no fun living in night shelters when you are elderly, and having to tramp the streets all day with your bag of possessions. And some aren't even in the night shelters. You can see a heart warming video of the winter warmer packs being handed out, and our modest new year's day celebration at the

ecclesia, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rj21s8Krx1A>

Here are some stills from it, including Anne with the jelly and cream:



Daily Bible class and feeding meetings continue on weekdays from 4 - 8 PM.

This week we had two baptisms. ILYA is an invalid with spinal and other palsy issues, who lost his parents when young. A woman who now attends our meetings regularly kept an eye on him, and introduced him to us. Then there was VIKTOR, a man who first came to Jesus Christ from attending the Salvation Army over 10 years ago. He got a Bible and has read the Bible from cover to cover every year each year for eight years. He absolutely loves the Russian *NEV Bible* with commentary, which you can see here in his hand at the pre-baptismal discussions. He has a great Bible knowledge and so appreciates how our teaching has put everything in place for him; we were all really so happy at his baptism:



CARELINKS UK CONFERENCE

This is looking to be a wonderful event, with special guests brother Donald from China and brother Joseph from Italy. There will also be presentations by other brothers and sisters including: Roger Beck, Yvonne Dube, David Fenton, Duncan Heaster, Liz Hemingray and Dee Ward. And we'll be wrapping up Bibles for posting out as well. Do come along- Saturday, 25 Feb 2017: 10.30am to 7pm. God willing, St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8DD

PRAYER POINTS:

- For all those recently baptized
- For the work at the Riga Bible Center
- For our new sister Oksana in Belarus
- For the upcoming Bible School in Ukraine

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks