

January 2018 Latvia, Ukraine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Romans 3 and 4 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/rom34.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>

UKRAINE

The *Winter Bible School* has just finished, and we are pleased to record a very good attendance of over 60 brothers and sisters, including some from **Russia, Belarus** and **Moldova**. These schools work out expensive but are the only way many of these dear brothers and sisters get any fellowship with each other. But **Ukraine** is rapidly becoming a basket case economically. The heating was very low in the accommodation we stayed in, with many wearing fur coats both in bed and at the talks; and no hot water for most of the school. With temperatures down to -16 this made things most uncomfortable. The war continues in the east, with transport between the east and the rest of Ukraine very difficult. Sister Tamara (in her 70s) made a special effort to come, having to travel nearly two days through Russia to avoid the border area. She was made to stand for five hours in the freezing cold waiting to be fingerprinted by the Russian side. She eventually arrived, and had a cardiac arrest; she struggled on but then had another one and is now in hospital, far from her home in Lugansk region (in the Russian occupied zone).

She told us of the awful situation there, with the economy in the hands of the Russian mafia, a mass exodus of professionals to Russia or the west, hospitals with no doctors, young people leaving in droves, many homes just abandoned. Pensions remain very low in Ukraine, although prices have shot up with the collapse of the currency, and health care now has to be paid for even if you paid your health contributions for decades.

We were able to give help for operations and medical issues to several. There is understandably an increasing turning to alternative and herbal medicines and therapy. Here's sister Nina from Moldova trying to put herbal eye drops in the eyes of very elderly brother Jozef from rural Ukraine. Note she's wearing her coat even in the lecture room:



It's very difficult for ordinary people to cross the border from Russia to Ukraine and back, as both sides suspect anyone doing so of being a spy, as there are constant rumours of a full blown Russian invasion of the rest of Ukraine. Sister Iya and her child and her aunty set off from Russia to Ukraine but her aunty was turned back at the border, and our sister bravely continued the journey in very low temperatures with her child- no fun travelling with a young child for a day over 1300 km. , let alone in such cold weather after being roughed up at the border. Please pray for her return journey. Here's our sister in the lecture room:



Brother David Corbin and his daughter sister Davian came over from the Brooklyn ecclesia in New York, **USA**. David gave us many good studies about Jonah and Bible prophecy, and he was impressed at how folks took careful notes, eagerly discussed the talks afterwards and even disagreed about things with him. Some of these brothers and sisters were first given a Bible by us over 20 years ago as they emerged from Soviet atheism; to see them so fluent with the scriptures is a wonderful testament to the Lord's continual working through our efforts to bring the Bible and Bible teaching to those who seriously want to hear it. And we thank you for all your prayers and donations which have enabled the distribution of so much literature over the years.



We were very pleased to baptize MARINA from Kharkov. Our new sister had had her passport stolen, and you can't travel on trains without a passport. She decided at the last minute that she would come anyway, and hitchhiked (in those very low temperatures) the 500 km. from Kharkov to Kiev to be baptized, arriving on the Sunday morning when the school was coming to an end. It was really a pleasure to baptize her in a bath tub there. Please pray for her return journey.



So again, our warmest thanks to all who donated to make these gatherings possible. If you'd like to visit or speak at a future school, please let us know.

LATVIA

The feeding scheme continues with Rob & Deb in the kitchen and Sam and Daniel running the teaching sessions. And attendance is quite up at the moment. On Wednesday it was a great joy to baptize INESSA, who speaks some English and gave a short testimony. Typical of many people in the former USSR she was raised a Communist atheist, and then started looking for God. But she was soon disillusioned with the Russian Orthodox church and began a long search for God and His Son in spirit and in truth. She heard about us from a friend and started attending, and was so impressed to see young people, still teenagers like Daniel and Sarah, working so hard to care for and teach people. And so with quite some joy she was baptized; you can see a video of it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXpbMmsVJzA



PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For those in need of medical help and operations who can't afford them
- For those returning from the Kiev Bible School to their homes
- For those elderly or with young children now making long journeys in the cold and icy conditions

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks