

July 2011 Refugee Brethren, Carelinks USA, NEV Bibles

This Sunday's Bible Companion readings include Matthew 18, and there's an MP3 about that chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt18.mp3>

REFUGEE BRETHREN

Our many refugee brethren all over the world continue having a hard time.

This is especially the case where they have ended up in poorer countries who are already fully stretched looking after their own poor people. Black skinned asylum seekers in Russia have a really hard time- a recent BBC report confirms what we have heard and seen many times over; it's worth a read - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13131359> . We are doing our best to support many brethren physically and spiritually. Our brethren were the subject of a 2 page spread in the main Latvian weekly last week, the journalist wrote very positively about them, and got us some publicity!

A new center for asylum seekers has been opened in Eastern Latvia, 4 hours drive from Riga. Our Iranian brethren preach a lot online and contacted an Iranian there, O. He had been kept in a detention centre in England for 3 months where in his room there was another Iranian who from somewhere- well, providence- had a Farsi Bible Basics. He read this and was persuaded of the Gospel. He was then returned to Latvia as he first entered the EU in Latvia. And there he made contact online with our Iranian brethren in Riga online, who on their own initiative went down to see him and encourage him in his studies and give him another copy of Farsi Bible Basics. It was a pleasure to go there and baptize him, and to see again how God's hand works. You can see on the table a copy of Sis. Robin's timeline of Biblical history which he found helpful in getting everything in place in his mind, we still have hard copies available for anyone interested.

Whilst in Daugavpils we reconnected with Brother Piotr [Shlomo], baptized in 2000 and who whilst he doesn't travel much has been a careful and daily student of the Scriptures and all the books we've sent him over the years.

As we reported in the Carelink at the time [yes, we were doing Carelinks in 2000!], he is the son of the late rabbi of Daugavpils, who survived the holocaust but lost all his first family in it. The synagogue was burnt to the ground, but Piotr's father took with him a few prayer books and prayer shawls and part of the candlestick. Piotr lives in a high rise block and keeps those precious things under his bed. He has no relatives left, and does his best to spread the Gospel but with no response as yet. He is very zealous at trying to persuade Messianic Jews to reject the trinity. He knows Hebrew and corresponds with such folk worldwide. Now on a small pension, he supplements it by gathering glass bottles in a bag, from which he also distributes our tracts to folk around the town. In the photo you can see him with his bag, and his NEV New Testament with commentary in Russian, which he's really thrilled with. The new center for asylum seekers is actually built where the ghetto used to be where his father's first family perished. Such coincidences all build up the strong sense we have that God is at work in what we're seeking to do in Eastern Europe.

Soon Messiah will return and gather together His jewels, one of which is Piotr, and it will surely be your joy to meet with him in that great day.



In other news from Latvia in connection with previous announcements, Sis Ksusha and baby Rodrigo continue to do well, far far better than we thought possible.

And in the kitchen you can see some of our youngest and oldest working well together whilst Vlad has been in hospital.



CARELINKS USA

We mourn the sudden falling asleep in Christ of brother Michael Griswold, who learnt the Truth from Bible Basics and was baptized a few years ago.

Our brother was in isolation in Utah but followed up on our contacts and intended to go into the mission field on his retirement. He was a great encourager of our team and we look forward to his resurrection at Christ's return.

Prison Preaching

We get many requests to send Bible Basics to prisoners; sisters Helen Pyper and Marilyn Seagoe follow up on these. Marilyn writes:

The prison preaching has really kept me busy. Here is some good news regarding KN age 31 in prison in Mississippi for (attempted) aggravated assault. I won't go into the details here, but it was a set up by jealous individuals who did not like the fact she was being promoted at the poultry plant where she worked. She admitted the Judge believed she was innocent and yet sentenced her. Kisha has three children. She was taking care of her two grandchildren, ages 3 and 7 at home. She has been married to her husband for 10 years and he supports her. This young woman never went to church before and never owned her own Bible. She asked for a Bible and so we mailed her one. We focus on the future and rehabilitation and not the past. K wrote this after I mailed her the new Bible. This is her reply:

“Yes, I got the Bible. Thank you very much. It's so beautiful, you just don't know how much it means to me to own your own Bible. Everybody was so jealous of it. Now they wants to write you for a Bible, not a bible study, but I didn't give them the address because they are not thinking about God or Jesus, just a free gift. Forgive me for being hard on them, but they shouldn't take advantage of someone who is so sweet and kind as you. I can't put my Bible down. Everybody says I think it is a 1,000,000 dollar book in which its worth all the money in the world and some. I sleep with it under my pillow, but sometimes it sleeps next to me, cause I fall to sleep reading it. It's the best gift anyone has given me. Thank you very much. I carry it everywhere I go. Now they call me “the Jesus people” cause I keep the Bible close to me. Some things I don't understand in it, but I keep reading anyway.” After K received the Bible, we sent her the Bible Reading companion along with a bookmark listing the books of the bible on one side and questions to ask yourself as you do the readings.

She wrote back: "Well thank you for the bookmark. Now I'm learning the names of the books of the Bible by heart. I got the New Testament already learned, but the Old Testament is a little trickier, but with God's help I can do it. I really enjoy the Bible study summary. Thank you for letting me know what it is that you all do in your church. I'm reading what y'all did in you all church. I thank God that He is and has let me to know a warm and sweet person as you. It's funny! One day I was just walking to get me some water and your book was lying on the phone. An inmate left it by mistake and I picked it up and starting reading it and it touched my heart and something told me to start a Bible study with you all, and I'm very glad I did. You take care of yourself and looking forward to hearing from you real soon."

On May 11 K wrote: "Thank you for taking time for a person like me, who didn't know God and Jesus, but now do." K has finished the course and does want further contact with the Christadelphians. Sis. Char Kirsch is working with me on a Bible Reading Focus letter, which we send to the inmates who have finished a course and do want further contact with us. This Bible Reading Focus letter consists of a theme for the year for the inmate to follow answering questions and filling in the blanks. It gets them more familiar with God's word and they are reading their Bibles more. During this year the inmates have been noticing verses in their daily readings that pertain to the theme of 'The Kingdom of God'. Inmates tell me that they really like the questions because it keeps them in God's word and away from the distractions of the prison life. Good News regarding Bro. David MacCharles. He was released earlier this year and was deported to Canada. He is living with his sister and is a member of the Cambridge Ecclesia. He has a job painting and is adjusting to his new life. Praise the Lord!! As we do the preaching, we can see that God's word is working. It is a 'living word' especially when people apply it in their lives because it causes them to change. It is most precious and wonderful! Praise the LORD!! Love in Christ, Sis. Marilyn"

Meanwhile from Michigan we're pleased to update you on Jerry whose interest we mentioned earlier: "If I had one hour to explain the Christadelphian beliefs to a group of non-Christadelphians, could you recommend any printed material to use? I have downloaded items from the web site. But I want something clear and to the point. Just to let you know I am hoping to be Baptized this coming August. Love in Christ, Jerry"

NEV Bible

Thanks to over 20 volunteers we are moving ahead with producing the entire Bible with commentary. More news later, but if you'd like to assist with proof reading and critiquing the commentary, looking for typos and expositional errors, do contact us. We're pleased to say that Brother Steve Gretton has now completed a dramatic reading of the NEV New Testament, and the MP3 files of this reading have been recorded onto CD and are available in an attractively produced jewel case. Please contact us at info@carelinks.net if you'd like to obtain copies.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks