

July 2011 Moscow Bible School, Interest Worldwide, Malawi

This Sunday's *Bible Companion* readings include Matthew 11, and there's an MP3 about that chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt11.mp3>

MOSCOW BIBLE SCHOOL

Bible Schools are the highlight of the year for many of the 1500 or so baptized in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan over the last 20 years. At our last breakfast together, several were visibly in tears as they ate their food. They are all in isolation or small groups, and for many, the Bible Schools are their only experience of ecclesial life. The joy and enthusiasm to discuss God's word was amazing. We ended up having one hour sessions on average to discuss each of the Bible Companion readings for the day; brothers and sisters were so keen to discuss and share the thoughts that had been building up over the last year. Our Australian visitors, Andrew Fotheringham and Rick & Janine Hennig from Adelaide, were warmly received and their talks enthusiastically discussed. We're so very grateful for their coming and their loving enthusiasm in the Lord's work. One of the great things about giving talks in Eastern Europe is the high level of response to the teaching given and the practice of careful note taking. It's amazing to reflect that some of those now so deeply discussing Scripture and able to quote so fluently from it were atheists before their contact with us. We had with us the recently printed *Russian New Testaments* with commentary and reduced version of "*Bible Basics*" at the back. These will be very helpful. Brother Igor reminded us that he first came from atheism to faith after having been given a New Testament by a man for whom he helped change a wheel on a country road; he's delighted at the chance to distribute New Testaments with the Gospel correctly explained within the same volume:



The distances travelled were huge- most spent at least a day travelling, whereas some travelled up to 5 days to be present. Many thousands of km. were travelled by the entire group in total- a colossal achievement, bearing in mind many are in poor health. Here are three of our older brethren so happy in each others' company; note 2 of them have walking sticks, and the other is 84 and travelled four days on the train from Siberia in the cheap wagon. You can see Cindy seeing him off on that long return journey. The other photo shows bro Valerij from the north of Russia being rightly congratulated on his arrival at the school after several days journey; as usual he has just a small bag, water bottle and his two walking sticks. No wonder he has something to say in the discussion after every Bible talk; he has nobody at all to talk to about his faith where he lives.



One pleasing feature was to see the baptism of the grandchildren of those baptized many years ago- YANA and KSENYA, granddaughters of sister Galina from Kazakhstan; and ALINA, granddaughter of Br & Sis Georgij Chaplinsky from Ukraine; Georgij was baptized in 1993.

Photo: Alina with her grandparents:



Sister Galina explained how her granddaughter used to sleep on the same divan as her at night, and she would always cuddle her and pray with her as a little girl. As the girls grew up, Galina read the Bible to them; and then when she lost her sight, they continued, reading the Bible to her. Their baptism was a wonderful dream come true for sis Galina. Here they are at the Bible School together:



We also rejoiced in the baptisms of VIKTOR and TAMARA from Kazakhstan. Our community has been forbidden from meeting together in Kazakhstan, partly as a result of racism against Russians there, and also the growth of Islam in Kazakhstan. Because of this we are getting candidates for baptism to wherever possible meet us in Russia for baptism. The baptized granddaughters became best friends at the Bible School:



Here's Br Viktor from Kazakhstan being baptized, having travelled 3 days on the cheapest railway seats for it:



There were a number present who had had operations and cataract operations as a result of your support over the years, who would otherwise not still be with us, or not able to see. Here's sister Alevtina, who would've completely lost her sight were it not for a series of expensive operations, at her first Bible School for some time:



It was great to have sister Antonina with us, we reported in a recent carelink how this sister cares for her severely handicapped spastic grandson and has to carry him up and down 10 flights of stairs each day, as well as constantly care for him. So it was a great break for her to be away for a week and not even have to cook, and to have the chance to read the Bible all day together with others. She so so deeply appreciated your donations which made her presence possible:



There were many more who would've liked to have come but places at the Bible School venue and funds to sponsor them were limited. About 60 attended but there were another 200 or more eager to come. The last evening we had a good discussion about local brethren giving more talks, and we have prepared some guidelines for giving a first Bible talk; these may be useful for others in other parts of the world. See <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/ww/a8.htm> So again we give thanks, real thanks, to God for the work of His Son and the word of His grace which has so powerfully worked in this part of the world, resulting in a community of true servants of Christ and loving students of His word.

INTEREST WORLDWIDE

Carelinks are in touch with people worldwide who are seriously interested in our message. The following are extracts from emails received, including the hot spots of Algeria and South Sudan. We're always happy to hear from those interested in working with us to follow up this interest. And there's always the ongoing cost of printing and posting literature to these folks. Truly the Gospel is going into all the world, and we see this as a great sign that the Lord will soon return to His scattered people worldwide.

FROM ALGERIA

Hello! First, I would like to beg your pardon for my bad english. And thank you very much for replying to my request. I would like to make some things clear. I am called M, an only 17 years old algerian. I live in a small city called [] in the Tizi Ouzou state. Where I live, there are no christians. Neither were there any shops where I could buy a bible or any other bible books. The only church here is closed. It was left by the french colonizers and is not more in use. Sometimes it is transformed to a selling place sometimes a place for poetry exhibitions or it's just closed. And I find it really sad because in European countries they allow muslims building mosques. The only church which was exercising in our state used to be the one situated somewhere in Tizi Ouzou city. But I read in newspaper that it was burnt on 2009. My family members are all muslims. Maybe I am the only "futur christian" in my town. They are against my thoughts. So, this is the "ambiance" where I live. Actually, I used to be a very faithfull muslim but I discovered that it was a big hoax through an egyptian christian channel "El Hayat". Then, I started to be interested in christianisme. That was since 2009. I wrote to them, they advertised that they sent free bibles to new christians. And I wanted one. So, I wrote to them, even phoned them. And I waited but did not get anything. I really really wanted a bible. So, I began searching in internet and found some websites. I made requests but never got a bible. Then, I found your website. I thought firstly your book "*bible basics*" was a Bible ! I still don't have a bible . I would really like to have it. I would like to learn more doctrine about christianisme. But I don't have the means to. Sometimes, I read the bible online. But we don't have connexion at home so I have to go to a cybercafee to do that. And lack of money I can't do that everytime. After explaining you my situation I hope you'll understand. I hope also you would send me the copy of a bible, IF POSSIBLE of course. I can read, speak and write 5 languages which are: kabyle, arabic, french, english and german. So the language in which you may send me the book does not matter. Kabyle is my mother tongue. Again thank you very much for replying to me. I feel now like I do really exist :) Peace on you!

FROM AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your prompt reply. As per your response, I am indeed certainly still interested and have included my details for you below. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time. I too am disillusioned with the large church groups and personally feel that many (I won't say all in fairness as I am not all that experienced!) have more of a political motivation rather than spreading the message of God. I look forward to hearing from you, and once again thank you for your time. God bless and peace be with you. Sincerely, D

FROM SOUTH SUDAN

I am Isack and a missionary in South Sudan and I am from Kenya I would like to study online but I could not send the forms via your normal page as my computer could not so I have sent my forms through this mail I hope you understand me. My postal details are in Arua Uganda. Yours in CHRIST, ISACK

FROM USA

I am very interested in learning the truth about the Devil. I am confused, however, about the serpent in the Garden of Eden. It seems that God refers to Satan as a being... Please, I can't afford to buy this book, but if you send it to me I will pass it on to someone else to learn about the truth after I finish studying it. A used book would be perfectly fine for me. Maybe someone that is finished reading it. Give me an address to mail the postage to you and I will send you whatever it cost to mail it. Sincerely, Melissa (Louisiana)

Later:

I'm going to read through the Bible again and compare what you have written. I'm very interested in this. When someone is raised learning a certain way and believing a certain way it's hard to think outside of that "box". The way I do it is to read it for myself and then determine what it means. I'll let you know what I come up with and if I have any questions. Thanks again

FROM RUSSIA

You don't need to worry about my sincerity. I was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, then, for 4 years I was a Jehovah's Witness. I am still searching the Truth. I hope the *Bible Basics* will help me to find it.

Now I don't believe in Satan as a person opposite to God. I do not believe in it at all, because I found, it was just an instrument to manipulate people, invented by church leaders.

I speak Russian, English, Italian, Spanish, Ukrainian and a little Romanian. Waiting for Your answer: Roman Mikhailovich, Tambov, Russia

FROM MALAWI, CENTRAL AFRICA

Many thanks to all those who responded to the request to send materials to the new ecclesia in Malawi, Br Esau writes:

"God is really at work. I am glad to inform you that over the time we have still continued receiving the spiritual materials which might have been delayed over the post and I hope more are on the way. Just recently, we got another envelope containing books and writing materials for the Sunday School Children. Also most of the books you sent through Leonard and me have finally found their way into the hands of the Ecclesia. Praise God. For sure brother you have managed to support us with most necessary materials which can allow us to learn about issues of God's LOVE and his KINGDOM. We are trying to devise mechanisms as to how best the literature can reach greater number of people at the same time making sure that we don't lose it all. The small library we have has greatly taken its shape and is at work. We are aware of both the cost and the troubles you brothers go through to make these materials available to us. So things are not taken for granted. While we are going through the books it's my hope that you will still be available to

us to answer some questions and any other necessary support as we interpret the word. Thank you for your enlightenment over the issue of meeting place. Indeed the Lord is still blessing us with more people each and every day. We are also noticing some missing from the meetings but the balance is to the increase in number. It's our prayer that the Lord will sustain his group. The increase still gets us to have in our mind the issue of a more sustainable and neutral place. I am also glad to say that finally we are being put in the main stream and being strongly linked to Zomba main office. We are frequently being visited by brothers Muleso from Lilongwe and George Mayimba from Salima. Indeed it's wonderful. These are brothers in Christ who seem to have accumulated great knowledge of God which we will heavily draw upon. There are also many more brothers whom we are meeting for the first time both in Malawi and outside this country. The brothers have also briefed us on how we can get books in local languages including bibles from within the country and other developmental issues. Praise God. For sure we need your support through prayers. We are doing everything to preach His LOVE and the Kingdom to come. It's my prayer that we meet in the Kingdom of God when Jesus will be ruling. I am pleased to inform you that Sister Catherine Chaunga is ably handling the Sunday school and the numbers of children of various ages are also increasing. But until now they have one class but very soon will be separated into the designated ages. The books have done great job and very soon some exercises for some children may be presented to respective offices for marking. We have also made an effort to contact various other sisters and brothers you had given their addresses to us. I hope you will still be updating us in those areas There are a number of other issues which we may discuss later which mainly have to do with other ministerial activities as a social contribution towards the sick or the less privileged among the communities around us. Major areas have to do with the poverty, women participation, HIV/AIDs and education for needy children. I will later email these proposed activities and I will need your comments as to how they may impact on the doctrine considering the both the word of God and your previous experience in the ecclesia. Greetings should indeed go to you all. May God bless us all, Esau "