

June 2011 Riga Bible Campaign

What's going on in Riga, Latvia is an unusually intense example of God's constant and eager working. Anyone able to make a documentary film would be most welcome to come and record it. Brother Viktor continues to make progress after his stroke over a year ago and being willfully neglected by corrupt health workers. He's now able to read the Bible and move around. We can say that humanly speaking, without the kind material support of brothers and sisters, our brother would be dead by now or a total vegetable. Here he is, doing a Bible reading with Cindy at the facility he's at- it's very hot there at the moment and no air conditioning, but the great thing is that he can dress and undress himself:



Our Iranian brethren continue to witness to many people both online and amongst the other asylum seekers in Latvia. One man, M, has attended our meetings on and off; he and his family were Jehovah's Witnesses in Iran and suffered a lot for that faith. But having studied *Bible Basics* in the refugee center in Latvia, he became convinced of the truth and has ceased being a JW. Seeing he suffered so much for the sake of belonging to that organization, it's been a big thing for him to leave them. But he has found true friendship and fellowship with other Iranian brothers here, who heartily greeted our new brother after his baptism earlier this week in a rain-filled quarry near the refugee centre; Sis Belinda Burns from Australia was also there for the baptism having just arrived in Latvia.

We also baptized MAREK, who wrote a song of praise after his baptism which he performed at the Bible weekend currently ongoing- the first time he has sung in public. He really is so thankful to have formed a relationship with Christ.



A great group of campaigners from ecclesias in the UK (Huddersfield, Totton, Maidenhead and Newport) have been with us, along with sis. Belinda from Australia, painting the Riga Bible Center and distributing fliers, attracting much local attention. They left leaflets on display as they worked; and were assisted by some of our African asylum seeker brethren:



We held a Bible weekend, and enjoyed talks from brothers Chris Thomas and Nick Cox. The campaigners also witnessed the baptism of RADFORD, who has studied *Bible Basics* for 18 months and who we allowed to live at the housing project in northern Latvia; his conversion is enough fruit of all the good work done in that project. Here they are at his baptism at the Bible

Center:



Many asylum seekers arrive from Africa with no documents at all, and if they can't prove their identity they are effectively nobodies, with no rights. Some pay smugglers to take them to the EU, and are released into the Baltic Sea on rafts and dinghies from the ships which smuggled them; they get to the shores of Latvia and their first question to the surprised village folk is "Where am I?". They are then picked up by the Police and put into the refugee centres, but if they can't prove their identity there's little that can be done for them. Some have been left in limbo for years. No wonder they turn to the Gospel for meaning.

The campaigners also helped out with cooking and distributing soup- here's a great photo of Br Nick Kennett caringly dishing out soup to an equally appreciative recipient:



All this work is ongoing in its need for funding; we really do rely upon your donations for it to keep going. And we'd also love to have your practical involvement however you can in all the work there is to do.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks