

June 2011 Sister Velta, Sweden, China

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Peter 2 and there's an MP3 on this chapter at <http://aletheiacollege.net/audio/1pet2.mp3>

RIGA BIBLE CENTER

Sister Nadezhda continues to make some improvement and is getting better care now. Brother ANATOLY was baptized at the Riga Bible Center on Sunday, and sister VELTA on Monday. Both have attended for over 2 years, from when we were at our previous hall. Velta lives in a night shelter, which means she has to carry her personal belongings with her. She was always to be seen with a battered red folder, which she would hardly let out of her sight. It contains documents relating to her colossal sufferings, and includes various personal letters which are now torn and fading. Initially, her sufferings were all she wanted to talk about, and every effort to teach her anything Biblical soon ended up derailed by her personal hurt. Cindy really deserves a medal for taking her through so patiently over two years. She has been helped by understanding her own need for forgiveness through Christ, and the motivation and perspective which this gives in forgiving others. It was therefore a great day to see her baptized. We all tend to carry our red folders with us through life and let others' poor behaviour towards us distract us from the sublime reality of God's love for us in Christ. Velta admits she still has a long way to go in getting over things which appear to have ruined her life permanently, in letting them go, and instead becoming filled with the new life and fully taking hold of that for which we have been taken hold by the Lord. We comforted her that we're all in this situation to varying degrees and in different ways, as we press toward the goal of utter, total devotion to Christ and His Kingdom.



SWEDEN

There is now a growing group of Iranian brethren in Sweden. M is the brother in the flesh of an existing Iranian brother, and it was our joy to baptize him earlier this week. Our brother fled Iran for religious persecution as a Christian and had an awful time in Turkey and on the streets in Greece before getting to Sweden. He is now living with the Iranian family whose baptism we previously reported.

CHINA

Brother Donald reports another long journey to baptize a *Bible Basics* contact, LI:

"I successfully baptized Bro Li and we break bread together to remember Jesus, I felt we worshipped the Lord in spirit and in truth together, reading the Bible. Remembering Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 20:11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For it was handed down to me from the Lord, as I gave it to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when Judas was false to him, took bread, and when it had been broken with an act of praise, he said, This is my body which is for you: do this in memory of me.

When reading this, I can really feel the Lord Jesus is so close to us, so dear. It made me think of how the Lord suffered for us on the cross, his blood and body. We prayed that an ecclesia could develop in our brother's area, so that he would have local believers who could worship and fellowship in an atmosphere of cordiality together. Lord, please help us. May Jesus come soon!"

Photo: Breaking bread together, using bottle tops for cups



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