

## June 2012 Brazil, Ukraine, African Refugees, Riga

This Sunday's Bible Companion readings include James 5, and there's an MP3 on these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/james5.mp3>

### RIGA

Cindy has been very active lately in getting new shoes for the children of some of our bre & sis. One 3 year old girl's toes were pushing through the leather of her shoes and may well be deformed for life now.

The women and children's group at the Riga Bible Centre got permission to plant flowers in a local park. Such an act of grace is really unusual in this dark and selfish country. There was much scepticism about whether the flowers would be stolen, and whether anyone would come and assist in digging up a piece of land and planting it. Cindy and the women and children put up adverts on lamp posts, inviting people to come and participate in and view this unusual activity- of planting flowers in a park:



We were amazed at the response. Despite a prediction of rain, it turned out a nice day and many people came both to help and participate. A portion of land was dug in the shape of a heart, and the flowers duly planted; ice cream and invitations to our meetings [which are held just over the road from the park] were given to lots of people, all of whom commented about how and why are you doing this- which gave us an opportunity to speak with them about God's love and grace.



### BROTHER ONALDO (Brazil)

We have just heard from one of our brother's sons. Onaldo continues unconscious in a coma in Sao Paulo. His devoted sons sold the family farm and moved to be with him in the hospital, staying in a cheap hostel. We are heartbroken to tell you that one of Onaldo's sons, brother Rubens, baptized at the same time as Onaldo, caught meningitis in the hostel and died last week. The other son is distraught as you can imagine. Please do pray for this beloved family in this very difficult and tragic situation. They were quite rightly devoted to their father, an unusually spiritual man who will shine brightly in the Kingdom. We are so grateful that Rubens decided for baptism along with his father and sleeps in sure hope of the resurrection. Following are some pictures of our brother Rubens and Onaldo at their baptism last year.

Photo: Brother Onaldo's sons helping him to the baptismal pool; brother Rubens on the right; Rubens being baptized with Onaldo watching



Photo: Rubens [standing, left] waiting to assist Onaldo; Rubens (far left) and Onaldo (far right)



Brother Onaldo's surviving son Derich assisting Onaldo down the hotel steps to the taxi afterwards



We are glad that this family responded so quickly and deeply to the Gospel and that we were able to quickly respond to their response. The great hope of the Kingdom remains ahead of them.

### **AFRICAN REFUGEE CAMPS**

There are hundreds if not a few thousand of our brethren in various refugee camps around the world, especially in Africa. Carelink readers will be aware that we do visit some of these camps and try to keep in touch with the needs. We have heard from several sources the news about decreased food rations which brother Isidore informs us of in this message below from a large camp in Tanzania, largely full of Congolese and Sudanese:

*Greetings in One Faith. We are sad to inform you that , yesterday May 8 there was a meeting in the camp held by the WFP , UNHCR , Tanzania Government and other NGOs working in the camp and Refugees community Leaders were invited.*

*It was said that the Food Assistance to Refugees is again reduced until they get more funds , but we don't know when. Pray always for Us .*

*Regards and much love in Christ, Isidore*

We have sent food and assistance but do ask for your prayers for these brethren.

### **UKRAINE**

We reported last week our trip to Ukraine and the baptisms there of Vitaly and his mother in law Irina. They are really so happy to be baptized, reading the Bible together as a family using the Companion and breaking bread- something they had longed to do but were forbidden to do by the JW's. Vitaly's wife, Irina's daughter, is now studying for baptism. Here they are together:



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