

June 2012 Powerpoints, Afghans in Germany, African refugee camps, Riga

This Sunday's Bible Companion readings include 1 John 3 and 4, and there's an MP3 about these chapters at www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1jn34.mp3

POWERPOINTS

There are now Powerpoint presentations available, based around the chapters in *Bible Basics*. You can view them on the left hand side of www.biblebasicsonline.com. We are producing them in other languages too. These presentations are very useful in systematically teaching someone the Gospel in order to prepare them for baptism; there are the questions from each chapter of *Bible Basics* at the end of each presentation. Typically more recently baptized isolated believers are using them in their teaching the Gospel to others. Apart from being useful on this one-to-one level, they could also be usefully used in *Bible Basics* seminars presented to groups. We have stocks of *Bible Basics* and *Introducing Bible Basics* and will be pleased to share them with any interested in using this approach to preaching and teaching the Gospel. These *Bible Basics* Powerpoint presentations are also now all up at <http://www.slideshare.net/carelinks/> should anyone need them; they can be downloaded or played full screen from that site.

ASYLUM SEEKERS IN GERMANY

We reported a while ago the baptism in Germany of some Iranian contacts of Iranian brethren who were at that time in Riga, Latvia. We're pleased to say that our appeals to the "powers that be" were blessed by God and they have obtained leave to remain in Germany. They have in their turn been preaching to others in the various camps they have been staying in. We're pleased to report the baptisms of three Afghani brethren, KASEM, SEYED and AFUR. They all have frightful stories of abuse and threat by the Taliban, especially to men like them in their 20s and 30s who are considered of military age. It is very dangerous there to openly profess ones' conversion to Christ, and the ordinary Afghans are lacking in knowledge about the Bible and have no chance of access to one. When our three brethren managed to get to Germany, they were put in the same camp as our previously baptized brother Sajad, who is a most zealous preacher of the Gospel. He has done a good job of persuading them of Christianity and also teaching them by practice and also from the Bible what it means in practice. Kasem particularly had huge difficulty accepting Jesus as Son of God but he is very persuaded now.

We took brother Sajad with us to visit Kasem and Seyed in the camp they are now in, in northern Germany. It's a rather spartan affair, with small rooms off a central corridor, rooms about the size of a prison cell, shoes must be kept outside the room in the corridor, minimum space type of thing. Toilet and showers are shared, barbed wire around the perimeter- all rather over the top, as the residents hardly want to escape:



But there in Room 22B, our brothers are studying the Bible and Farsi *Bible Basics*; it was with joy that after discussions, we assisted Sajad in baptizing them



These brethren have been traumatized not only by their experiences in their homeland but also those on the very long journey from East to West, across the Middle East and Europe to Germany. And they are constantly fearful about being returned to Afghanistan and the consequences if they have to return to their home villages there.

Please pray for them and the many brethren we now have who are in this situation. We are aware that several ecclesias worldwide are coming into contact with interested people from Iran and Afghanistan, as huge numbers of them are on the move seeking asylum and very often also renouncing Islam and seeking the real Christ. We have **Farsi** literature available at www.carelinks.net/fa and there you will see the first translations of the series of "*Bible Basics*" Powerpoints mentioned above. These could be well used in explaining to these contacts the basic doctrines of the Gospel; they have questions at the end of each presentation which could be useful in conducting discussions before baptism.

AFRICAN REFUGEE CAMPS

We shared news last week of the radical reduction in food rations in the refugee camps, and Brother Isaac Habonimana sends us the same message from a cell phone- rather ironic that the WFP [World Food Program] are not giving refugees food any more in order to force them to return to their wartorn homelands:

"Dear brother, greetings in Jesus Name .We do well I tell you that we are in difficulties where UNHCR and WFP stoped to give us food in order to do us rapatriete us involuntary while there is no peace in our country . So we sake for prayers and aid (help) in order to save our life. Try please to contact Brethern and Sisters who have a pity to helpe us .This decision is for all Refugees of Mtabila Camp in Kasulu in Kigoma in TANZANIA..Loving in Christ. HABONIMANA ISAAC."

We are doing our best as others in the brotherhood probably are to provide support. Meanwhile please pray for them there.

RIGA

The warmer weather is a blessing in Eastern Europe compared to the long Winters. The sisters in the Tukums ecclesia held their breaking of bread this week at the beach as you can see below. But the temperature doesn't change basic needs. It is a sober fact that we have brothers and sisters who take food from garbage cans in the richer suburbs, and who search those cans for bottles which they can get a few cents deposit back from. Here's a handicapped man in a wheelchair [not a brother] near the Riga Bible Centre, looking through the garbage and retrieving bottles with a hooked walking stick contraption.



The **Riga Bible Center** really is a beacon of light in the darkness, and is becoming known for that in that local people are coming to us and giving us clothes, some driving from some distance away in order to do so. We actually have a glut of clothing at this time; brother Vlad took the initiative to run some "open days" at the hall this week, displaying the clothes outside for people to take and engaging them in conversation:



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks