

June 2013 Carelinks UK, Kakomo Refugee Camp, Riga, Syria

There are MP3s for the *Bible Companion* readings this Sunday:

1 Samuel 2 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1sam2.mp3>

Revelation 5,6 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/rev56.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files

at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> ; *Carelinks Bible Radio* is at <http://r-b-c.org/listen.php> ;

and God willing, we have our live video link service in English this Sunday at 08:00 a.m. GMT - you can view direct at www.carelinks.net [scroll down to the video screen]

or if you want to make comments and participate in live chat,

use <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/biblecenter>

CARELINKS UK

We continue to enjoy lots of response from folk throughout the UK, some eager to come to Christ for the first time, others seeking more knowledge and clarification of doctrinal issues.

We're pleased to report this week the baptism of ANDREW who has been in touch with several of our team for some time. His baptism was a deeply spiritual occasion and a triumph for God's truth in so many ways, spiritual, personal and doctrinal. Our brother first came to us from the Real Devil material at <http://www.realdevil.info> .

We appealed previously for helpers to come and help unload a truck of Bibles and warehouse them at brother Marcus's home. The delivery has been delayed, and so the date has been moved back by one week to Saturday, 6 July God willing. Please let us know if you can come and help, or call Marcus and Gwladys on 0208 6571358.

RIGA

There are times when people respond to the Gospel initially as a result of a 'carrot'- maybe the opportunity to study English, to participate in a Bible quiz and so forth. Carelinks don't need to offer many such carrots because we seem to have people all over the world coming direct to us online and in other ways, simply asking to be taught Biblical Christianity. One very small 'carrot' at our **Riga Bible Center** is the opportunity to play chess before and after our meetings. A while ago, Carelinks readers responded magnificently to an appeal for chess sets. We have a wonderful collection, from South Africa, Holland, England, America and elsewhere. And they are well used. Sister SARMA was the former chess grandmaster of Latvia- unusual for a Soviet woman. And she is an unusual woman. She was an electrical engineer who rose to a senior management position and still found time to play chess with her workers. She was pensioned out of the workforce and lived quite well on her invalidity pension- until the collapse of the USSR. Now she has a tiny pension, and at 74 years old has various health issues which mean she speaks in a whisper. Lamenting the collapse of morality in society and what she calls 'a spirit of anti-intellectualism', she was fascinated to hear that a group of men play serious chess at a center where the Bible is taught and free meals are provided. So she came along- initially for some company and to play chess. Here she is playing with some of our brethren:



She stayed for the Bible talks, read *Bible Basics*, and we're pleased to say she was baptized this week. The social time after her baptism service featured her playing a nailbiting game of chess

with Duncan, which she won. She left the Bible Center rejoicing and very, very happy all round. And we rejoice that the Gospel continues to spread, to those whom society has no place for.

We're also pleased to report the baptism this week at the Bible center of ULDIS . Here he is being greeted:



SYRIA

We reported earlier that our one baptized brother in Syria has escaped to Turkey, but his village is in the heart of the fighting and many of his family are fleeing too. You will be aware that around 100,000 people have been killed in Syria, a few hundred thousand wounded, and a few million are now refugees. We are trying to support our brother and his family, and will welcome any financial support you can give towards this. We hope to make a visit to them in a few weeks, God willing, and will be able to report more.

KAKOMO REFUGEE CAMP

This refugee camp is notorious for its crowded, spartan conditions, the tensions and lawlessness amongst the thousands of desperate refugees there, and also its very remote location in northern **Kenya**, near the borders with **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**. We have been assisting the spreading of the Truth there and the welfare of our new brethren there as best we can. Here's a report from one of our local co-workers brother Innocent who visited the growing ecclesia there. Please do pray for them there, the situation is really quite awful:

*"Early this year, we got a report from the **Kakuma Refugee Camp** ecclesia informing us that, following a dispute that had been brewing between a group of muslims of Somali origin and our brethren, the ecclesia hall was pulled down. Bro. Katembo, the elder, told me that they woke up to a shocker when they went to where the hall used to stand only to find slashed iron sheets and vandalized properties. This happened after threats were repeatedly issued to them from the time when the construction had been underway. The group was opposed to the construction of a "Christian" meeting hall at the very site allocated by the camp administration citing that it's "their" area. Upon inquiring with the Refugee Affairs Office in Nairobi, I gathered that there's no part of the camp assigned to neither a particular religious community nor people of a particular nationality. To avoid any further friction, it was considered wiser to relocate to another site as the Bible advises: "And if any man will... take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." (Matt. 5v40)*

RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

Brethren and sisters of the Kakuma ecclesia did not back down on their resolve to put up a meeting place. On that backdrop, some funds were provided for the reconstruction thus; I had to travel to Kakuma Camp, early April, to help brethren on the way forward. After a tedious 27-hour journey, from Nairobi to Kakuma, I arrived in the wee hours of the morning, 3am, and was later met at the bus station by Bre. John Katembo and Assumani; that very morning we went to seek the approval of the Camp Manager to our new proposed site in order to avoid any further dispute with those in the neighborhood. Our request was gracefully granted. The Manager expressed even his regret for what happened (himself being a Muslim), thereafter, we proceeded to the office of the NCKK, the NGO in charge of the allocation of plots in the camp, to get the endorsement of putting up our ecclesial hall as required. The Field Officer of the said

organization also gave us the go-ahead and, so the construction work was started without delaying.

Photo: Reconstructing the hall



GENERAL SITUATION OF THE ECCLESIA

Brethren and sisters of the Kakuma Camp ecclesia are spiritually sound and firm in their faith despite the daily difficult living conditions they have to endure. The 5 brethren and 2 sisters were not deterred by the challenge which came their way but were determined to surmount it. The Kakuma Ecclesia has 8 friends who are taking Bible lessons and as a result, in our next trip, we will be expected to conduct some interviews and possibly baptisms. There is also a Sunday-school with 17 children aged between 3 and 12 years. On the other hand, due to heavy downpours pounding the area thus creating a favorable environment for the proliferation of mosquitoes; consequently, cases of malaria have become widespread throughout the camp affecting up to 50% of all patients admitted at the main Kakuma Camp Hospital. Among the casualties was one of the brethren, Byaombe Lumona, who was bedridden throughout my 5-day stay there. He went to the hospital to seek treatment but, to his surprise, was given a mere prescription and told to go buy the medicines from a chemist since the hospital was running out of anti-malaria drugs; this was indeed a tall order to our brother as most of the camp residents can not afford it. It is our prayer that our heavenly Father may continue blessing His work at Kakuma and may He strengthen our brethren and sisters to stand firm amidst the various challenges they are facing, till the return of our Master who will bring to an end all the tribulations undergone by those who are eagerly awaiting His peaceful rule.

Photos: After a heavy downpour, seasonal rivers soar to the extent of making roads impassable. We sometimes had to spend hours waiting for the levels of water to subside so as to cross over.



"Fridges" as they are commonly known by refugees of the Kakuma Camp; to keep their drinking water cold they wrap a piece of cloth around a jerry can and make sure it is wet by pouring water on it. The scorching sun is so unbearable that temperatures can rise above 40 C.



Bro. Innocent Baruani E'engele

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks