

June 2013 Health Challenges and Amazing Examples, Winter Heating Scheme, Special Challenge

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

Judges 17,18 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jud1718.mp3>

Isaiah 40 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/is40.mp3>

1 John 1,2 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1jn12.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>

SISTER MEDINA / HEALTH ISSUES

We continue feeding large numbers of genuinely needy people [many of them baptized] several times / week in **Riga**. The situation of many Russian people in **Latvia** is really desperate, especially the elderly. If they don't have Latvian documents and live in the night shelters, some receive only around 10 Euros / month in welfare. So they rely upon soup kitchens to survive. But there are also health issues as folk get older, and all health care has to be paid for. We try to do the best we can, and are regularly buying various medications for quite a number. Dr. Cindy does her best to advise but typically many need further testing and diagnosis. From head lice to cancer, we are doing our best to cope with a wide range of human need. Here's br Vladimir cutting hair of an old brother whilst Cindy applies some medication:



This week we baptized an old lady called MEDINA. Our sister's leg has been badly swollen for some time and it is infected. She has no money to get much attention, and when she did get some medical attention she was told that further testing and treatment would cost so much, but they would amputate her leg from the knee down for around 40 Euros. Here's our sister with her leg being inspected by Cindy, and Cindy reading through the rather unhelpful medical notes. Note our sister's one bag of belongings which she takes with her everywhere, her flimsy shoes, and tracksuit bottoms used as trousers:



Here's our sister at the feeding scheme after Bible class:



We've had similar cases where a sister with breast cancer has been offered treatment costing far more than she has, or, a mastectomy for a smaller sum- and has had to chose that.

These health issues often come to our attention suddenly and we have to act instantly, so we're really grateful for your donations to our general work which enable us to respond.

AMAZING EXAMPLE

Cindy's medical skills have been useful again with the work we are doing with many forgotten folk in care facilities in rural areas in the Baltic states. We're pleased to report this week the baptisms of YURI, LAILA, NORMUND, IVO, FRANCINKA, RIMMA, ILZE, EGILS and ILYA as a result of this work this week. We mentioned before the case of our brother Erik, who was baptized a couple of months ago. Erik has cerebral palsy and with no wheelchair or frame, drags himself around to get to the meetings, often losing his balance and bruising himself as he does. We have previously resisted taking a video clip of our brother struggling to and from the meeting place, but really he is such an example that we forced ourselves and took 90 seconds of his coming and going from the meeting hall. Because really he should become an international inspiration to those who can't be bothered to make a bit of effort to get out to meeting, and to all of us, to keep on keeping on. So the brief clips are at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr-vRqLGIU4>

Those of you with Facebook could consider sharing this with others. The folks with cerebral palsy are similar to the blind brother we mentioned last week- they long for some deeper spiritual and intellectual conversation and attention, quite apart from their physical limitations.

WINTER HEATING SCHEME / SPECIAL CHALLENGE

We have decided to try to operate daily feeding at the **Riga Bible Center** over our coldest months- January, February and March, 2014. During those three months we are looking forward to the presence of some brothers and sisters from England who will help co-ordinate things; but we are also looking for volunteers to come over for 1 or 2 weeks to do the work of cooking and serving food. Please get in touch with Br Mike & Sis Vanessa Boler vanessaboler@yahoo.co.uk or br Andy & sis Mel Downton meldownton@btopenworld.com / andydownton@btopenworld.com if you would like more info or would like to come and help.

Which leads us to seriously remind you all of the absolutely huge amount of work and potential which there is in the Lord's work at this time in Riga, Latvia. There is a large, established ecclesia, regular baptisms, and much potential for both pastoral as well as preaching work, as well as humanitarian work. Knowledge of local languages is not absolutely necessary. We wonder if anyone would consider committing to coming over for a year or more? That help is really, really needed. And without doubt it will be a fruitful experience. Please pray about it and think who you could encourage to respond to this Macedonian call- if you really can't yourself.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks