

Malawi, Belarus, Latvia December 2010

The Bible Companion readings for Sunday include Revelation 12 and 13, and there's an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/rev1213.mp3>

MALAWI

About a year ago, we reported on our visit to contacts in the Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi. Interesting that the brethren baptized there also feel the need to celebrate their baptism anniversary, just as they did in Haiti...

Brother Innocent writes of their progress:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters, Warm Christian Greetings! We are about to approach our 1st ANNIVERSARY of our Baptism into Jesus Christ. AS I used to tell you I have been called by GOD and His Son into the Ministry. I would want let you know that from JUNE I and Sister FLORA have been blessed and we got jobs. From then we managed to build a SHELTER which we will inaugurate on 31 DECEMBER 2010. It is a HALL of 5 mx10m. Thanks to GOD's help, we built the HALL for our BIBLE STUDY and other ACTIVITIES. We built with no aid from outside. I love GOD and His Son that is why I do so. Our Mission is preach the KINGDOM OF GOD Matth.24:14, Matth.6:33 Dan.2:34-45 and be in partnership with others worldwide as our brothers and sisters into the journey towards the Kingdom.

Brother Innocent"

It's such an encouragement that brethren who are so poor should build such a hall with as they say no outside help. Admittedly they don't have low temperatures to contend with but all the same it's a wonderful testament to the power of the human spirit when directed in God's service. Here's the photos they sent of the hall, and of Br Innocent and his wife sister Flora sitting in it:



Talking of Malawi, we've mentioned in previous carelinks that brother Esau returned from his stay in Norway, where he was baptized, and persuaded his former pastor of the Truth, Leonard. Local elder brethren in Malawi interviewed and baptized Leonard and his wife, and now they are teaching a group of 24 people from their former associates. Please pray this will mature into baptism. They have about 20 copies of *Bible Basics* and more have been sent over; they are studying weekly. Anyone interested in working with us in Malawi are welcome to contact us.

BELARUS

You may or may not have heard on the news of massive demonstrations and political unrest here, with mass protests numbering 40,000 people in Minsk alone, hundreds of arrests and brutal beatings. We've spoken to some of our brethren by telephone and all our brethren & sisters are accounted for. It's a very unstable situation, as Belarus is Eastern Europe's last remaining Soviet style dictatorship and whether the system can pass on without violence and damage to ordinary people remains to be seen.

LATVIA

Brother Peter Stringer is labouring away over Christmas day and the entire holiday period installing more benches and doing other work at the Riga Bible Center. He sets us all a great

example of self sacrifice, giving up holiday and home comforts to come and labour like this for the Lord:



Peter arrived just in time for the baptism of WERNER, a German-Latvian who's been attending our meetings. Werner was baptized after Bible class at D&C's apartment, and was accompanied by Br Armands, who we've encouraged to take special responsibility for our new brother- we're trying to develop a sense of individuals caring for other, newly baptized ones. There is good growth observable- at our last Bible class tonight, Br Armands and Br Jurijs gave some great reflections on Job 25-27, lasting about 20 minutes, and Br Vlad gave 20 minutes on Zechariah 2 and 3... it was great, really. Photo: Werner with Br Armands at his baptism:



Our brethren continue snow clearing around the hall and now the pavement near our meeting room is clear of snow down to the black asphalt, so everyone walks right past our hall on our side of the street, many stopping to read the notices of our meeting times [as in the photo]. There's a steady flow of people every minute past the hall because of this- for the other pavements are slippery and icy as the folks there don't work so hard nor use so much salt to clear them:



We're also really grateful for the arrival of welfare packs from an ecclesia in Toronto, Canada. Here they are being shared out along with scarves and other material sent over from members of the Maidenhead UK ecclesia, and a set of woollen hats donated by Selco Builders Merchants [on the prodding of Br Mark Leadbetter, thanks Mark for that!]:



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

PS Don't forget the Carelinks UK Conference, Feb 25-27 2011 God willing - see <http://carelinks.net/doc/events>