

## March 2013 Fields White to Harvest, Needs, China

We have MP3 audio talks for the *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday:

Leviticus 17 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lev17.mp3>

Psalms 119:41-80 [http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps119\\_4180.mp3](http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps119_4180.mp3)

Luke 1 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk1.mp3>

The archives of our chapter-by-chapter MP3 talks are at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html>

### CHINA

The progress of the true Gospel in China is great, we report baptisms there every few weeks, and there is at least one significant house ecclesia. However, the Chinese Government is clamping down:

*"China's Christians felt a noticeable rise in persecution in 2012 as the Communist government began the first of a three-phase plan to eradicate unregistered house churches, a new report says. Incidents of persecution of Christians rose by about 42 percent last year compared with 2011, according to the report by human rights group China Aid. Many of these incidents involved groups of Christians. In total, the number of individual persecuted Christians rose by roughly 14 percent and total individual detentions increased by nearly 12 percent..."* - you can read more in a very concerning article at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/february-web-only/how-china-plans-to-wipe-out-house-churches.html>

Many of the Bibles and *Bible Basics* we post to China don't get through, and yet there's a huge interest there in the Bible. We have therefore prepared a Bible with commentary and with Bible Basics at the back, and it's already typeset and online at [www.n-e-v.info](http://www.n-e-v.info). However, we daily get requests for hard copy Bibles. We have got a quotation to print 3000 of them in China and our local brethren are willing and eager to distribute them. This works out at about \$3.30 / Bible. Please do consider sponsoring some. You can donate via the usual representatives listed at <http://carelinks.net/doc/otherdonations>; donations from USA are tax deductible. Please, don't just assume others are going to respond to these needs- please sponsor however many you can.

### LATVIA

In another development, Cindy's mother's church bought a \$25 license to screen the English language movie "The Face of Birth" at the Bible Center, a movie about the issue of home birth [ <http://www.faceofbirth.com> ]. They got a local midwife to give an introductory talk and various local women's groups advertised the screening throughout Riga. It was a great success, and attracted much attention to the Bible Center. A good number of English speaking women and young couples attended, many of whom had never been to our hall before. Thanks to all who helped make a great evening, with popcorn and drinks as well as free Bible literature for all the visitors.

IVO, RUTA, ANNA and VLADIMIR are the people baptized this week in Latvia. But they each are a great testament to how the Gospel is indeed good news for the poor which is joyfully received.

IVO has found true family at the Riga Bible Center; his mother died which has left him in a hard situation having to fend for himself, and truly he has turned to Christ. You can see him here at his baptism, second from left.



RUTA has had a fascinating life, has travelled all over Europe, and worked in Salisbury, UK for 2 years. But a stroke and other problems have brought her far down in life, but up spiritually. She finished all the lessons of *Bible Basics* and is now a very keen Bible student. The Gospel truly is for those who have been left with nothing, or those few who actually realize that without God we are nothing:

ANNA is in the same ward as three of our members who were all brought to the Lord by brother Viktor, who lives in sheltered housing attached to a hospital in Riga. Brother Viktor would've likely died from his stroke had not various brothers and sisters from the UK enabled him to have proper care and therapy. He will not be able to walk again unaided nor use his left arm, but he has shared the wonderful hope of the Kingdom throughout the wards he can get access to, and others are taking it from there. So stroke victims, terminal cancer cases and many others are now hearing the Gospel- and responding. Here's our new sister Anna by her bed and with the other baptized members in the wards:



Brother Aivars came all the way from Liepaja to the Riga Bible Center to be baptized about a year ago. He also spends a lot of time in a care home out in the countryside in Western Latvia, and he too has spread the good news. He says he really feels Jesus present with him after his baptism, and he so wishes to spread the message of Hope to others there. It really is "that blessed hope". We recently visited the care home, and were deeply impressed by how our brother spreads the Gospel there. He has given a Bible with commentary to many of the patients there and has got them studying Bible Basics. We were pleased to baptize VLADIMIR. Again, being brought low has brought him to Christ. Here is his testimony:

*"My parents were Communist Party officials and my father especially very much believed in Communism. I grew up without God, and progressed through the Communist Youth League to Party status. Of course one had to avow atheism in order to be a Communist. With the collapse of the USSR and the end of Communism in Latvia, my father had a breakdown. He had totally given his life to the Party and to Marxist-Leninist doctrine. He went out one night in his overcoat pushing a wheelbarrow with heavy rocks in it, went to the Liepaja Canal, tied the stones to his arms and legs, and drowned himself in the Canal- the same Canal where many Jews were shot and pushed into in the 1940s. My mother was badly affected too by the collapse of Communism, collapsing with cancer and then dying. My wife left me, and so far as I know is now an alcoholic walking the streets looking for scrap metal to sell. I held on- somehow. But I have no family now, no relatives. I was very, very interested in God. Potentially, I would say, I was even very religious. Although I admit that to accept we had been wrong for so long, was very very hard. But the churches did not attract me. Like Lev Tolstoy I wanted Christ but not "the church". I was told by several that suicide was the unforgivable sin and my father would burn in hell for ever. Dad was not a believer at all, so it all seemed unfair to me, if he was not responsible to God. Then here in the care home, where fate and destiny and the hand of God put me, I met Aivar. He told me he had left the Pentecostal church and had been baptized by your people in Riga. I remember he went all the way to Riga to be baptized. He told me so much which made sense*

*and which was what I wanted and needed to hear. That hell is the grave, no eternal punishment, knowledge of God makes us responsible, and most of all about Jesus. Now I read the Bible and not novels, thrillers etc. , of which there is an entire library here in the care home. I feel that really I now have Jesus in my heart. I do admit that I prefer the New Testament. In my baptismal photograph I asked to be photographed with me holding the New Testament closely to my heart because really my heart is with Jesus. I shall eagerly look forward to any and every visit that can be made to me here to explain the Bible more".*

In the photos you can see our brothers with more Bibles for distribution:



Truly the Good News is going in truth to the poor in spirit, and a people being prepared for the Lord. But so many of them need a lot of support... and as we have been mentioning lately, there are some major expenses to face up to at the moment.

**With love and joy in the Gospel from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**