

## March 2013 Newsletter, Riga, Latvia Needs, Winter Welfare, TB etc

We have MP3s for the *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday:

Leviticus 8: <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lev8.mp3>

Psalms 107 <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/ps107.mp3>

1 Corinthians 16: <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1cor16.mp3>

The following news includes a major appeal for assistance, and we ask you to at least pray for the issues.

### WINTER WELFARE

We continue distributing firewood, clothing, blankets and other welfare. Snow is still on the ground and temperatures are still below zero and this situation will continue GW for another 2 months. For those who are subsistence farmers, this time of year is always the worst, as they come to eat up the last of their preserved harvest but are still unable to plant new crops in the frozen ground. Rural poverty is of a different nature to urban poverty but is just as real. Some of our rural members survive reasonably well by hard work, others retain some vestiges of a previously prosperous life or a situation when work-fit family members were still alive or healthy, but others do things really very tough. We have just concluded a gathering in **Western Latvia**, and were encouraged by a record attendance of 15 at the breaking of bread at our sister Vija's home. She is supported by her sons who are hunters; antlers, rifles and skins adorn the walls as we break bread. We were able to distribute blankets produced by sisters and friends in Bodalla and elsewhere in **NSW Australia**. We're also pleased to report the baptism of BAIBA, who gave us all a great testimony as to the change in her life brought about by daily, systematic Bible reading:



And as ever, the Gospel continues to spread at the **Riga Bible Center**, with the baptism of ALDIS. Most encouraging for us all was to hear our sister Judite for the first time speak up publically about her faith and testify to the power of God's truth in her life. We invite all present to give words of encouragement to the newly baptized, and here she is doing so for the first time- a reflection of so much personal and spiritual growth since her baptism:



### SPECIAL APPEAL

There are now well over 350 baptized brothers and sisters in the Riga area. What began as a group of scattered individuals 20 years ago developed into a home group meeting in Duncan & Cindy's apartment, and this grew over the years to the point where they met in a basement hall, and from there to the present location. The development has admittedly been on a J-curve, but

it has also had very slow and steady beginnings on a solid foundation. Running a large church however does require a lot of investment and meeting of various regulations. We are eager to meet fire regulations and as such we need to have a major fire alarm system installed- and regulations require we have a regular service contract on it, with direct connection to the fire brigade. Such a system is not cheap. We have also been strongly advised by various professionals who have been consulted that we need to install a major ventilation system to recycle the air in the hall a few times / hour.

More details of this appeal are in the email version, or contact us.

#### **BIBLE BASICS NEWSLETTER**

Just a reminder that **Carelinks New Zealand** produce a Bible Basics newsletter every week. This is designed for unbaptized contacts, and presents a different aspect of Bible truth in a brief, powerful manner with nice illustrations. If you'd like a copy or would like it to be sent to your contacts, please let us know.

**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**