

March 2014 Four Baptisms, Videos, USA, Conference in UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 7 and there is an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk7.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> . You can view recordings of previous sessions at www.youtube.com/CarelinksMinistries

We believe what's going on in Latvia is one of the most major, visible movements of the Lord within our community in recent times. There were another 4 baptisms this week. Brother Charles Abel from the Horley, **UK** ecclesia has been over this week and has made a video to document the amazing work, featuring interviews with the team of helpers currently there. You can see it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwQI7peZklQ> . Charles also gave us the video of more general Winter welfare work, both in Riga and in the villages of rural Latvia, which he made last year. You can see it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mbivp6rAu8> . We believe both these videos are well worth watching and are inspirational for our prayers and in putting our own lives into perspective.

RIGA

We have been blessed with the presence of two sisters from the Christian Restoration Center in New Zealand, one of the few groups in the world who share Christadelphian teaching on basic doctrine. They have worked very hard indeed. Ruth is 17 and a fine example of a young woman who has given her life to the Truth; Sharon is a fine example of an older sister. This is the first time they have been involved in such missionary work and their testimony hopefully will inspire all who have been likewise blessed with the Truth to proactively trade their talents through sharing with others.

Here are their reports and impressions:

To come to such a remote country as Latvia and help with the Winter Welfare Programme has been such an amazing opportunity and experience for me. I have seen so many things that i've never seen in my life. These people virtually have nothing and they are so grateful for what we are doing for them and to see a smile on their face is such a delight. We have so much and they have so little yet they don't complain. They just take every day as it comes. To see where these people are living and under such conditions is unimaginable and a big eye opener, especially to me. To witness 4 people give their life to the Lord was amazing and it was and is the best decision that they can ever make. One man who got baptised was quite emotional and commented to Duncan and said that he couldn't believe that people come all the way from New Zealand and other countries, and would bother coming to a poor country like Latvia to help people like him. He also was in awe at God's amazing grace and love towards us and the free gift He has offered us of eternal life in His kingdom. To be amongst these people helping them and sharing in their faith has been a privledge and I pray that a door will be opened for me to come back again one day. We are so blessed and may we never take one day for granted.

Ruth Aldersley

You can see a brief clip of Ruth playing her ukulele and singing to those receiving food at <http://youtu.be/VRjsC8A7JII>

Firstly I wish to thank our Lord for opening the door to allow Ruth and myself to come all the way from New Zealand to Latvia, to experience being a very small part of the Carelinks 'Winter Feeding Programme'. Also for the prayers of the CRC members and for John Aldersley (Ruth's father) – who has done so much of the organising. I was particularly interested in the people who came along to the centre for a Bible lesson, fellowship and a hot meal. Carelinks provides warm clothing which has been donated and has recently commenced giving out spectacles to those who need them.

Majority of the people who come are homeless, have literally nothing – except the clothes on their back. They sleep in shelters, under bridges, bus shelters or wherever they can. The authorities do not like anyone visiting the shelters and definitely no photos, but we managed to get a quick look inside the entrance the other evening. There's a security man on the door, and a large room off the reception where the men sleep and upstairs room where the women sleep. They get a thin grey blanket to sleep on the floor with, not sure about toilets, but they don't have any washing facilities. We saw bodies of men sleeping on the floor in the reception area because the mens' room was full. Some of the people use public toilets to wash in and their clothes seldom get washed. For a lot of the people who attend the feeding programme, this is their only hot meal for the day – and in winter it is desperately needed. Most of the people attending have no citizenship, therefore are not recognised as belonging to the country and have no rights. Unemployment is very high, I noticed alcohol is a big part of street life, also drugs a huge problem on the streets.

They have lots of health issues which come from lack of nutrition and hygiene. Most have rotten teeth – dentists cost money, which they haven't got. When we are serving the meal, we know these people are hungry. Despite this, there are many who express their gratitude (language is no barrier to a nod or smile). At the end of the evening, when we start to clean up – usually everyone rushes off to get to the shelters by 8pm; otherwise it's too late the doors are shut. I noticed a young woman, who every day vacuums the huge meeting hall. She asked me, "What I was going to do now?". I told her that I would be going home to cook a meal for us all. She replied with a smile, "I don't have a home."

Sharon Winduss

Here are Sharon & Ruth serving food- including to a sister who needs support to feed and clothe her baby; and standing outside a night shelter with Andy Downton:



Sister ULRIKA and brothers AINAR, DMITRY and YURI were baptized this week. In the photos you can see Mel helping to baptize Ulruka, Sharon waiting to greet brother Ainar, and Yuri with his wife who attended the baptism [next to Sharon]



Here's a typical scene in the baptism room. You can see a brother holding his blue coat which doubles for him as a sleeping bag at night. After reading Romans 6 and the baptismal address,

most present give some words of encouragement and personal testimony to the candidate.



Dmitry came with his wife and expressed his shame for the tatoos he got whilst involved with satanism. Again, we marvel at the range and penetration of the call of Christ in this dark world:



Mel and indeed all the team here in Riga are using technology well; Mel is great at using an IPad in order to converse in Russian with people. There is voice recognition as well and it's possible with patience to communicate well across the language barrier:



USA

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of our friend ROBERT FRISBY who has been an avid reader of *Bible Basics*, the *NEV Bible* with commentary and our other materials. Our brother is a long distance truck driver and was baptized by Christadelphian brethren in Mexico. Again we thank God for the penetration of His Truth so widely in these last days. Let us know if you'd like to congratulate our brother by email.



CONFERENCE

The **UK** Conference is planned in Croydon, Surrey for March 29th, God willing. More details at www.carelinks.net/doc/events . You can download the UK Conference program from www.carelinks.net/docs/CarelinksConference14.pdf Do share it with others. It's an exciting program, featuring reports from the British team who have been 3 months in Riga, Latvia; and also personal testimonies from some of those baptized by Carelinks in recent times.

And the Carelinks **USA** Conference will be a long weekend gathering at the South Ozone Park, New York ecclesia Friday 18 - Sunday 20 July 2014, God willing

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

On the home front, we're pleased to thank God that Duncan & Cindy welcomed DAVID STEVE HEASTER into the world two weeks ago. All is well with him.