

## March 2014 Northern Russia, Riga, UK Conference, Statistics

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 22 and there is an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk22.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](http://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](http://www.youtube.com/CarelinksMinistries)

### RUSSIA

We're delighted to report that NIKOLAJ, the interested contact in a remote part of far northern Russia, was indeed baptized this week. He was an active JW, but began to disagree with their teachings. He was told that only JWs reject the Trinity, but he doubted this. His brother is an elder of the JWs, and he has internet access. So Nikolaj used his computer to research groups who also reject the Trinity, and found us. He requested a copy of our Bible with commentary, which brother Bondarenko faithfully mailed out to him. He was thrilled with the commentary and *Bible Basics* summary, and requested a copy of *Bible Basics*. But then his brother refused to let him use his internet connection- and he's been offline for a year now, reading and re-reading the literature sent. He is thoroughly convicted of the Truth, and travelled 200 km. to meet us at the nearest airstrip. He was eager for us to come now, because the rivers will unfreeze and transport over the rivers is easiest whilst they are frozen. We've baptized people in these remote areas before, and here are some photos to give you the scene [notice the boat pulled up onto the ice in the first picture]:



Brother Bondarenko travelled as planned to meet our brother and spent two days travelling there and two days discussing doctrine with him. Duncan then arrived and after more discussions, Nikolaj was baptized. But finding water was difficult. We went to the supposed swimming pool in the town where the airstrip was, but it was closed. The watchman there told us of the vodka factory he had heard of which had built a sauna for their workers. We were desperate for water, as the hotel had only a shower. So we got a car to take us out to the vodka factory, far out in the tundra like surroundings of the town. And sure enough there was a sauna there, albeit with cold water in it. The caretaker was very surprised that we should turn up out of nowhere and ask to use the workers' sauna, but readily agreed [for payment]. There we baptized him, and you can see a video of the simple but intense ceremony at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3x4VSOe7RRM>

But we had no transport back, and the only flight was due to leave soon... After an hour of trying to hitch lifts in the cold, prayers became more intense. Then a vehicle drew up, and the driver said he had been searching the factory for us. Someone had told him there were men looking for a vehicle to take them to the town. Time and again, one senses that greater hand in human life, blessing every effort to spread the Truth and bring others towards the Kingdom.

## STATISTICS

The baptism in far northern Russia continues a theme- of the Lord working with us [and many others, of course] to spread the true Gospel to the whole world, which the Lord said was a precondition for His return. We have put together the statistics of baptisms performed by Carelinks over the last ten years [2004-2013]. They are at [www.carelinks.net/docs/stats2014.pdf](http://www.carelinks.net/docs/stats2014.pdf) or as an Excel file [www.carelinks.net/docs/stats2014.xlsx](http://www.carelinks.net/docs/stats2014.xlsx) Of course, you can't quantify glory to God or the movement of God in doing His work in this world. And we were involved with very many baptisms occurred prior to 2004- these are just the statistics for the latest ten year period. Some areas [especially Haiti, Malawi, Pakistan ] are now functioning independently and yet baptizing many more people, which aren't reported here. But in total there were reported 1480 Baptisms in 74 countries. Many of them are countries where the true Gospel has not been spread before [to our knowledge]; certainly the first Christadelphian baptisms were performed by Carelinks in at least 50 countries over the total years of our operations: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Madagascar, Mali, Moldova, Moldova, Morocco, Namibia, Oman, Serbia, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

There were 415 baptisms in Latvia in the last 10 years, of which nearly 300 were in Riga [and many before 2004 too].

We thank God for this increase, for without His calling, none can come to Him. And we thank you too for your prayers, hard work and donations, without which [from the human side of things] none of this would've happened. Even if not all finish the journey, by grace we have every reason to rejoice in the prospect of eternal fellowship with many of those 1480 people.

## CARELINKS UK

The Carelinks conference was a great success. The video recordings of the sessions will God willing be online within the next few days at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarelinksMinistries>

Before the conference, it was a pleasure to visit and baptize BRYAN in **Wales**. Bryan has studied the **Bible Basics** course with us and shown great humility to God's word, resulting in him rejecting belief in the Trinity and other inadequate theologies, and instead focusing very much upon building a relationship with the Lord Jesus. We stood together in the central square of his quaint home town, with churches and chapels all around the square, and lamented all the wrong understandings and attitudes of the various denominations. We spoke about Jesus, and Bryan gave a wonderful testimony of his desire to come to Jesus personally, in spirit and truth, without the theology of the Trinity, personal Satan etc. getting in the way. You can view it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyV9B1Nh-kE> . You can see some of our brothers' answers below. He's a true Christian gentleman with much humility to God's word and you can see examples of that humility in his answers to the lessons, some of which you can see for interest below. Our brother is one of a growing number in the UK who have a good grasp of the Truth and yet appreciate the need for a graceful and Christ-focused approach.

Here you can see our new brother, hair still wet and Duncan still with towel in hand, near the swimming pool:



## **RIGA**

It was very hard to bid goodbye to Mike & Vanessa Boler and Andy & Mel Downton of the **UK** after 3 months working so very hard at the **Riga Bible Center**. Over 140 brethren & sisters and friends attended the emotional farewell session. Mike & Vanessa summed up the program and you can hear their speech

at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywxDOfTRgu8&list=UUpIDdj92Z7GAxNBNSVwc\\_eA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywxDOfTRgu8&list=UUpIDdj92Z7GAxNBNSVwc_eA)

Again we appeal for any interested in coming over to assist in the feeding program to get in touch with us or them. Please do pray for and support Duncan & Cindy and their local helpers- they are left running the feeding and teaching programs alone, with far more visitors than ever before thanks to the interest built up during the last 3 months.

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

HERE ARE MY ANSWERS FOR STUDY NUMBER 1 : GOD

1. *B - PRAYERFUL BIBLE STUDY*
2. *D - A REAL BEING WHO TELLS US OF HIMSELF IN THE BIBLE*
3. *A - A UNITY xxx please see note below xxx*
4. *B - HE WHO WILL BE REVEALED IN A GROUP OF MIGHTY ONES*
5. *C - MESSENGER*
6. *NO, ANGELS CAN NOT SIN BUT IF ITS A HUMAN MESSENGER FOR GOD THEN YES.*
7. *I KNOW THERE IS A GOD BECAUSE OF EVERYTHING WE SEE AROUND US THAT IS FULL OF BEAUTY AND FULL OF AWE - LIKE WHEN YOU LOOK UP IN THE SKY AT NIGHT AND YOU SEE THOUSANDS OF STARS, THERE IS NO WAY THEY CAME BY CHANCE.*

*Note: In regards to answer 3 - for years i used to think that God was part of the trinity. but thinking about what i read in lesson 1 it is not true. can you send me more information to prove that the trinity is 100% unbiblical.*

## **BIBLE BASICS STUDY 2**

HERE ARE MY ANSWERS FOR STUDY NUMBER 2 : The Spirit of God.

1. *C - Breath*
  2. *C - God's Power*
- Note: Up until now I had believed that the Holy Spirit was part of the trinity. Lately the course is showing me the truth and I give thanks to the Lord God for opening my eyes to the truth.*
3. *C - Men wrote down God's Words, inspired by His spirit.*
  4. *A - To back up the verbal preaching of the Gospel.*
  5. *C - Only through prayerful Bible reading*
  6. *Prophecy, Healing, Tongues*
  7. *The gifts was withdrawn when the Bible was complete..*

*It is not possible to have them now.*

*I refer to 1 Cor 13 v 8 - 10*

*8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

*8. Yes, via Gods word the bible. and leading us to all truth*

**BIBLE BASICS STUDY 3**

**HERE ARE MY ANSWERS FOR STUDY NUMBER 3 : THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

*1 B: THE PROMISE IN EDEN*

*2 B: CHRIST IS THE DESCENDANT OF THE WOMAN.*

*3 B: ON THE EARTH, IN A KINGDOM CENTRED ON THE LAND OF ISRAEL*

*4 B: THAT HIS GREAT DESCENDANT WOULD REIGN FOREVER.*

*5. BY BEING BAPTISED IN TO JESUS*

*6. NO, THE EARTH WILL NEVER BE DESTROYED.*

*7. WHEN GOD MADE A PROMISE TO NOAH AFTER THE FLOOD HE SAID: I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."*

*8. I ALWAYS FIND GENESIS 3 V 15 HARD TO UNDERSTAND. BUT THE DESCEDANT OFF THE WOMAN IN JESUS WHO WAS BRUISED WHEN HE WAS PUT TO DEATH ON THE CROSS BUT ROSE AFTER 3 DAYS THUS BRUISING THE SERPENTS HEAD. PLEASE EXPLAIN IF I GOT THAT WRONG.*

**How do I go about getting rebaptised in to the true Jesus?**