

March 2016 UK Conference, Building Work, Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Corinthians 5 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/2cor5.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

BUILDING WORK

The facade at the *Riga Bible Center* is peeling, with large chunks of plaster falling off it and there's a need for some internal painting too. Is anyone interested in coming over this Summer and helping? Please contact us if so, or brother Dennis Leverett of Chelmsford at denisandjackie@btinternet.com

AUSTRALIA

We mentioned last week about the idea of Mike & Betty in Bundaberg, Queensland for a 'mini library'; well they've put it into action. They write: "*Thank you so much for the books and bibles. Attached are a few pictures. Please excuse the rough head of the bloke in the photo. The library has been popular from the first day. Let us pray that those seeking answers may be guided here and that they find rest for their souls in the hope we share. Love, Michael and Betty*"



Let us know if you'd like copies of *Bible Basics* or Bibles for similar initiatives.

CARELINKS CONFERENCE

We enjoyed a wonderful gathering in Croydon last Saturday. The work going on is truly being blessed by the Lord of the harvest. The videos of the conference are at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

Duncan opened the conference with a consideration of the great commission to take the Gospel into all the world, challenging us with the thought that at the Lord's return, there must be believers from every tongue [language], nation and ethnic group under heaven who are redeemed in Christ. The work to be done is great and yet there is every indication that Carelinks are being used to do just that, along with many others-

see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6hokp8Gang&index=11&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

Liz followed with a discussion of what is required for baptism, beginning with an account of how she was turned down for baptism when first interviewed. There was a lot of good discussion about this-

see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5TrDxgMB5M&index=9&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

Cindy shared with us how she had built up a 'Mums and kids church' over the years in Riga, beginning with talking to secular women in playgrounds. The challenge of converting secular European women is a major one and Cindy has certainly achieved a lot here;

see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn0kvRieRIY&index=6&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

April gave an emotional and compelling presentation about the ongoing work at the *Riga Bible Center*, talking about the feeding scheme, the poverty of many of the believers, and the regular baptisms which are ongoing. Again we appeal for your continued support of this work and invite you to come over and help with the

cooking- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDxQyGZlw2E&index=4&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

Two Iranians from South Wales attended and gave an interview about their journeys from Islam to Christ, and also their journeys from Iran to the UK. One of the brethren was in the notorious Calais jungle, and was one of the very few who managed to get on a lorry to pass through the channel tunnel. They spoke in detail of the threat to Christian converts from the current regime in

Iran: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiN4xEvVZUc&index=3&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

One of them had like so many refugees passed through the Macedonia border where we were serving food and providing material assistance whilst we witnessed to them. Whilst our brother didn't cross whilst we were there, we were encouraged that our witness must have reached many similarly searching former Muslims. Jon, Deb & Cardia gave an account of their work there and responded to the question as to whether these migrants appear to be sincere, or whether they are mainly Islamic radicals seeking to destroy Europe-

see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHdmN-GaoR0&index=5&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

In the afternoon we stopped listening to talks and did something practical to spread the Gospel. Nearly 1000 replies have been received to our 'Get a Free Bible!' advert in the Daily Mail newspaper. Most of these were folks who had filled out the form and posted it in an envelope with a postage stamp- reflecting a serious interest in receiving a Bible. So we were challenged to pray over each Bible we packed; there was a wonderful spirit as over 50 brothers and sisters worked together to pack up these Bibles:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz1OX3bbgZY&index=1&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

The star of the show was our beloved sister Jo Cottrell who from her wheelchair wrote extra notes on each standard letter enclosed with the Bibles she packed:



The Bibles are now arriving and response is being received, with one man already planning to attend the ecclesia at Totton. We were all encouraged that there is such a large interest in God's word amongst secular people in the UK- Daily Mail readers. We sung William Blake's Jerusalem with some slight changes to the words. The sword of the Spirit shall not sleep in our hands, until we have built up spiritual Jerusalem "upon our clouded hills", "in England's green and pleasant

land". You can hear us singing it, Iranians, Poles, British, young and old together, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQirjCL0C5g&index=7&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn



In the evening, various brothers and sisters shared in the prayer and praise session- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgwYNM-nv-8&index=10&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

During this, Sue shared with us some of the work being done amongst prisoners worldwide, including in places as far apart as Trinidad, Japan and Belgium- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgwYNM-nv-8&index=2&list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w-jvfB1WnzvOzrxWX5hTAn

We prayed specifically for brother Bahman in prison in Belgium. And unknown to us that evening, our prayers were heard in a rather dramatic way. He has free phone calls occasionally and he uses them to call his spiritual mentors Steve & Sue in the UK. They told us this week:

"We've just had Bahman on the phone. Last weekend he was attacked in prison with a knife and suffered facial wounds. He has been stitched up and says he is not in pain now. He is wonderfully accepting of the situation and says he feels no anger against the man. The other prisoners cannot understand why he does not seek revenge, but his faith is so strong it is an encouragement to us all! He just talks to us about the care of the Lord and the hope for the future. He really has a remarkable trust in the Lord to take this attitude so soon after the attack. He preaches by his actions and attitudes. He is applying to be moved to another prison but is waiting for a decision. He has given some of his books away, but he is limited to 25 books and is near that limit at present, but I've said we'll send him some more if he wants them. It must have been not long from the time when we were praying for him at the conference".

PRAYER POINTS

- For the hundreds of people in the UK receiving their Bibles and Introducing *Bible Basics* this week
- For wisdom as we continue to respond to all the needs and situations discussed at the conference
- For the work of refurbishing the facade and other things at the *Riga Bible Center*
- For Andy & Mel and Maxim as they hold the fort this week at the *Bible Center*
- For those in prison

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks