

November 2011 Russia, China, Turkey invitation

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Thessalonians 3, and there's an MP3 on this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/2thess3.mp3>

RUSSIA

We've reported in the last two Carelinks about the situation with a family in far northern Siberia, Russia. They are surely the most isolated of our brethren. Ivan and Anna live with their 8 children about 600 km from the nearest large town. This 600 km must be travelled in a small bus with exhaust blowing back into the saloon on a road which in places is without asphalt. You then reach a village on the banks of a large river. You can try to sail across this on a small open boat in the brief Summer, or try to charter a light aircraft over it. In the deep Winter it's possible to charter a vehicle to drive over it or you can use the limited daylight to try to walk over it - a distance of about 2 km. But recently a truck attempted to cross and cracked the ice, falling right through.

Photos: The frozen river, with a warning sign for drivers; and a boat hauled out of the river



As the river isn't yet frozen to its bed, and the temperatures have risen a bit, the river can't be safely walked over. And the light aircraft breaks down often, and has been known to crash. If and once you get to the other side, you have to travel another 10 km. to the very small settlement where our dear family live. You can get there by horse and trap or occasionally by car, but the problem is that absolutely everything that side of the river must be taken there over the river, including fuel. Beyond that settlement there is deep impenetrable forest for over 100 km. with absolutely no roads through it. Double tragedy struck the family in that the twin sons need heart operations for a congenital defect; and a plague wiped out all their animals and their horse, without which they can't easily get to the lakes where they catch fish through the ice, neither can they get around much at all without it. It means they will have a very limited and protein deficient diet without fish, chicken, eggs and meat this Winter. This week an attempt was made to visit them but we failed to get them any animals as we had hoped. We have however given significant funds so as to enable them to buy some extra food and for the children to have the operations needed, and also to hopefully get some more animals. But the problem there is simply transport, getting things to them over that river is really so difficult. However we are delighted to report the baptism of three of the teenage children: YAKOV, VASILY and OLGA. May we all finally come to meet together in God's Kingdom. The New Testament with commentary [the Russian version] has, they say, livened up their daily Bible reading sessions, and they are looking forward to the complete Old and New Testaments. They send their very sincere greetings in Hope of the Kingdom to all world-wide.

CHINA

Every month or so we report baptisms in China, and now we are pleased to say that our local brethren are also teaching the Gospel and making excellent use of the internet to do so. What's going on there is really wonderful. We're grateful for the donations to the *Christadelphian Advancement Trust* which enable the printing of our literature in Chinese, and the brethren in the UK who so faithfully send out Chinese *Bible Basics* and also English literature to China every week. We have replies from China most days; there is so much potential there for the Gospel. Brother Ai sends the following report of yet another journey to baptize two contacts:

"I travelled and baptized two more brothers into Christ this week. Brother GUO is currently learning psychology at university and very interested in religion, but he has never gone to church before, so in talking with him and teaching him he had no problem being without any trinitarian background. He learned the Old Testament history from English books he obtained. He found it spoke to him personally and he says he quickly realized that the whole plot of Gods plan is very deep and not just fascinating the historical things are all of significance to us. He treated baptism as a very serious thing and finally insisted to intensely study much knowledge of the Bible with us every day for around 10 days in order to be eligible to be baptized. Brother CHEN learned of Jesus and Bible from seeing things on the TV several years ago , even then he believed in him as the Son of God, not God Himself and then recently he went through 2 month's Bible Basics online study with me. Then he decided to be baptized and accepted Jesus Christ as saviour in the true way. We thanked our Father in Heaven that we have the opportunity to meet together and perform the baptisms, reminding that the angels in heaven rejoiced when Bros Guo and Chen got baptized. Here was our prayer we made:

"Lord God, Please bless the preaching in our country as this is most populous country in the world,take care of us everyday, even though we face all sorts of pressure,difficulties. please guide us as we know that the sheep's food is grass, Christian spiritual food is the Word of God, God's Word is our grass. Let it be so for us.In Jesus, Amen!"



TURKEY

[see email version of Carelink]

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks