

November 2013 China, Chairs, Algeria, Israel, Austria

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Thess. 3,4 and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1thess34.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

Please pray for our brother John Aldersley who's currently doing a mission trip in **South Sudan**- a very crazy and dangerous place.

ISRAEL

Last week we asked for your prayers for our work here, and they surely were heard. We began by visiting and breaking bread with brother Vladimir and sister Galina near Haifa- great to see them strong in the Faith. We baptized Vladimir 13 years ago in the river Jordan, and Galina came to the Moscow Bible School to be baptized last year. Next we spent a day with NASIR, an Arab Israeli in Nazareth, who literally lives in a house "on the cliff on which their city is built" (over which the inhabitants wanted to throw the Lord). He turned to Christ 30 years ago and is very intense in his faith and efforts to preach the Gospel to both Jews and Arabs. These have led to many problems for him, including stones being thrown at him for passing out tracts in Cana of Galilee, just a few miles from Nazareth. It's really so hard to be an Arab Christian- so many Israeli Arabs who were traditionally Christians are now converting to Islam. We baptized him in the river Jordan. He gave a wonderful and intense prayer before his baptism, during which we sneaked a photo:



You can hear a video of his baptism and testimony in English at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbx-Nlmxh5M>

And he also gave it in Arabic at <http://youtu.be/0MpuyshoLOY>

On our last trip to **Israel**, we reported meeting SHIMEON, one of the many Russian Jewish intellectuals who left the USSR for Israel when the USSR broke up. We told his amazing story of survival as a child in the holocaust against all odds- see <http://carelinks.net/doc/1624658007>

We mentioned that he sadly and inexplicably backed out of baptism then and we asked for your prayers for him. This was nearly 18 months ago. Now he has turned the corner- we were delighted to baptize him and record a very, very compelling presentation from him about how he turned from atheism to belief, and how reading Bible stories to his grandchildren led him to believe the Bible as inspired; and then, accepting the Old Testament as inspired led him to accept the New Testament, and thence to accepting Jesus as the Son of God. There's much background noise in the recording, but it's a story that a cameraman would wait 1000 years to catch on film. It's in Russian, but for interest it's at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGZ7FH6K9VU>

Here's a still from the video of this wonderful Jewish brother in Christ:



Finally we went to **Southern Israel**, to the small towns of the Negev desert where many Russian pensioners have been settled. We had an encouraging memorial meeting with brother Nikolaj whom we baptized last visit, and met Emil, another Soviet Jewish intellectual who has been in touch with us a few years and studied Bible Basics to the end. But like Shimeon, something stops him getting baptized. Please pray for him- by God's grace he may follow the same path as Shimeon.

In their old age, these men have turned to God and their Messiah in spirit and in truth. Blessed are those who remembered their creator in the days of their youth and decided for Him and His Son then, so that they might serve Him in their lives, rather than having to spend a large proportion of life working through basic questions about God and Jesus.

AUSTRIA

En route to Israel we visited the Iranian brethren in Vienna, and baptized FARSHID and MEYSAM. Farshid was a Christian in Iran who was active in the underground church and was arrested. Many members of the group he was with simply disappeared after their arrest. This is another fruit of the work of distributing *Bible Basics* and Bibles, and encouraging those baptized to understand that sharing the great Hope with others is part of our natural and expected response to God's grace to us.



ALGERIA

The true Gospel continues to spread in the Islamic world through our websites. Please pray for the contacts in Algeria, one of whom wrote this week: "car bien sur j'accepte d'etre chrétien ... mais la pratique des rites religieux du christianisme dans mon pays est difficile et je crains trop de me tuer". He for sure wants to accept Christ, but fears death if he were to be baptized into Him.

CHINA

Brother Donald reports: "I baptized brother Lin in a pond, it was quite cold there, below is an excerpt of his personal testimony.

I was involved in a youth gangster when I was young, Because I didn't do well in my lesson at school, I often skipped school. I also felt that parents did not understand me at home and it was very difficult to communicate with them . So I did not like to stay at home. I didn't like school. I felt very rebellious and tattooed my right hand to get respect from other school boys. My father was a very tough man , he kicked me out of the house. My mother was very sad about this. but she did not give me up, she prayed for me for 2 years, it was also very painful for her in that period. I used to scold her: " It is useless to pray! It's like to speak into the air ! If you love me, please give me a little money" . Later I thought God really answered her prayer. One day we fought with other gangsters, I was seriously injured, stunned unconscious and sent to the

hospital. I suffered a lot so I promised to my mother that I must quit and have a normal life. I saw my mother kneeling at the bedside to pray for me and I listened to this prayer very carefully this time. She said: "My child, ah, neither revenge nor retribution! Hate is not able to solve the problem, but love can, Learn to love your enemy as Jesus taught, my mother loves you, Jesus loves you."

Since then I am reading the Bible all the time, I feel time fly very fast, it produced inner peace and joy, I thank God, thank God delivered me from misery, saved me out of the shadows. Thank God."

Here are some photos of brother Lin with his *NEV Chinese Bible* and *Bible Basics*:



You can hear a video of his baptism and testimony in English at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbx-Nlmxh5M>

CHAIRS IN RIGA, LATVIA

The badly needed new chairs arrived and are already in use- great fun for the children taking the wrapping off each of them!



Quite a while ago now we appealed for hair cutting equipment, and this was kindly sent over by readers. The hair cutting sessions have become quite a ritual. Our newly baptized sister Ilze was once a hairdresser and has now found her niche. Paul writes that there were "good works foreordained that we should walk in them"; we are given talents which we are intended to trade throughout our lives in Christ. It's wonderful when someone clearly perceives their calling, and Ilze has done this. Here's a 2 minute video of her cutting hair this Sunday after the feeding scheme- you can also see a donated chess set in use, and a local homeless sister fulfilling a niche she has found in cleaning the tables-

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZQgVz_A34k

This week we baptized SERGEJ at the **Riga Bible Center**. Sergej was raised in a childrens' home in the USSR period, and came to believe in God at an early age. He recalls how he was denied food at meal times and beaten up because he insisted there was a God. But despite spending his life going through many churches, he never really found what he was looking for in Christian teaching- but he read his Bible daily. His Bible wore out, and his flat mate gave him an *NEV Bible* with commentary. He loved the commentary, started attending our meetings- and is now baptized. He really, really appreciates the Truth and gave a wonderful confession of both faith and understanding before his baptism.



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

