

November 2013 Japan, Riga, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Israel

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Acts 25,26 and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/acts2526.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

JAPAN

We're still waiting to hear back from the authorities as to whether we can visit our contact in prison near Tokyo, please do continue praying this may be possible. Sister Helen Pyper lets us know the following clip from recent correspondence:

"On a happier note, I received the most BEAUTIFUL new Bible (*New European Version*) . Its so lovely! I love how it has the commentary notes through it and the "*Bible Companion Guide*" - its so helpful and is great. As soon as I got back into my cell, I got straight into it! I find this version so easy to read and take in. ... I'm truly so grateful and appreciate it all so much. I'M JUST SORRY I CANT WRITE BACK AND INDIVIDUALLY EXPRESS THIS. The rules and limits I have are not possible for me to do this now"".

Thanks again to all those who give and have given so much to enable the distribution of those Bibles.

ISRAEL

There is much interest here and we invite your prayers as we seek to follow it up this next week, God willing. We feel a special duty to witness in God's land and to His people.

RIGA BIBLE CENTER

It was interesting that we made the appeal for more chairs in the last Carelink. Because this week we had very high attendances, if not our highest- there was literally only one spare chair [partly due to a few more breaking]... Cindy took a brief video with her commentary- see <http://youtu.be/LrJAuYFjr4>

We've now been able to buy more chairs. We have a membership of well over 350 baptized members but 'only' between 80 to 130 usually make it out to our meetings, which are held at least twice / week. This is due to lack of transport money, work schedules, health issues etc.



Last weekend we were pleased to witness the baptisms of ILZE and ANDRIS:



KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

We have supported the work of preaching and pastorally caring for those baptized in this very spartan camp on the borders of Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Brother Innocent recently made the nearly 1000 km. journey on hard roads to get there; he reports as follows:

Bro LovisMbongo joined me on a 5-day visit to Kakuma Refugee Camp. As always, the journey to Kakuma is never uneventful; our trip - this time round - coincided with a terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi and so we had to put up with security checks at roadblocks set up by the police. There had been allegations - by Kenyan authorities - that the attack had been planned by some refugees in the Kakuma Camp; therefore every one travelling to and from the camp was considered a suspect.

Bible Studies and Baptisms

The first activity of our visit started, late in the afternoon on the same day of our arrival, with Bible study session where Bro Lovis was the main speaker. He refuted the belief in trinity which attracted a heated discussion from the audience that was made up with many friends who believed in it. Due to a good number of questions which came up during the debate, we decided to extend the question-and-answer session to the following day in the morning. As expected, the ecclesial hall was full to capacity. We took great pains to answer to so many questions mainly about the basic teachings of the Bible (God, Jesus, Kingdom, Satan/ sin, Israel, baptism...)

The climax of the trip came after conducting interviews with eight of whom gave a good confession of their understanding and belief in the name of Jesus Christ and the things concerning the Kingdom of God. Immediately after the interviews, I announced to the 8 that nothing could prevent them from being baptized. I could see their faces shining with joy and one of them asked me a pertinent question: "Now, where is the water?" I kept silence for a few seconds because I thought - having travelled all the way from Nairobi - I was the one who should have asked that question. It was a sharp contrast from the account in Acts 8:36 where the Ethiopian eunuch said: "... Look, water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" I felt challenged and had no option but to devise a solution; thus, came the idea of digging a hole on the ground. But as soon as water was poured into, the sandy soil swallowed it up. A friend suggested we put in some water-tight material first and then pour water; we gave some money to buy a plastic sheeting which was promptly brought and fitted in the hole. The plan finally worked out well and the baptisms were carried out.

So, the mission was crowned with 8 baptisms: 3 brothers and 5 sisters were added to the number of the Lord's family at Kakuma. They were given the right hand of fellowship and then welcomed to partake of the emblems during the memorial service held on Sunday. The two following days were spent on a door-to-door preaching campaign to the homes of many friends who had shown interest in learning the Truth.

The previous visit I made to Kakuma was in April and the main mission consisted of helping brethren put up a meeting hall following an incident whereby Somali Muslim refugees had destroyed and vandalized the ecclesial hall claiming that it was built in an area they termed "theirs". We managed to present our case to the camp administrative authorities who dealt kindly with us by granting our request for a different site where a new meeting hall now stands. I was amazed at the unshaken resolve of Kakuma brethren to have a meeting place despite the challenge they bravely faced without dispiriting their stand in the Truth. From that backdrop, the

ecclesia at Kakuma has moved from strength to strength and - as a result - that saw an increase in the number of both those baptized and those interested in the Truth.

Every time I leave Kakuma, I always feel happier than when I arrived there because of the warm welcome from brethren and how people, in such harsh living conditions, are responsive to the good news of the Kingdom of God unlike those in urban setups. That makes me more than willing to go back there over and over again knowing that Kakuma is a field where the "harvest is plenteous" awaiting labourers.

May the Lord, who "is able to save completely those who come to God through him", strengthen their faith" for it is God who works... to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."Amen!

Bro Innocent Baruani

Nairobi/Kibera Ecclesia, Kenya



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks