

November 2014 China, Riga, Ukraine, Turkey / Iran

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Thess. 1 and 2 and there is an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1thess12.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>

CHINA

Brother Donald reports the baptism of brother HE; and our new brother wrote an interesting testimony:



I was born in a Christian family, in the mountains of the Zhejiang rural area, our family comprising my father, mother, sister and me. I grew up with the great support of my parents; my sister and I would often listen to the Bible on our father and mother's knee. My parents guided me to know the existence of God, telling me God loved the world, taught me to pray and to rely on the Lord. I accepted all they taught me, and at times it moved me even to tears. However, not many people in our village believed, most people laughed at my parents' beliefs, my sister and I tried to keep our faith private, because with China's atheistic educational background, people don't believe in the existence of God, they consider such faith to be superstitious, faith is seen as a shameful thing, and so without faith, there is left for the people just the pursuit of money, fame and wealth, status. When I was 6 years old I began to go to school, elementary school. I had good grades, my parents hoped I could be admitted to the university in the future, they wanted me to get on in life and get out of the mountains. So in 2001, I was sent to a boarding school, only coming home at the weekends. But there, with a new learning environment, campus, teachers and friends, my heart began to gradually change; "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know?".

In high school, I became a materialist, I chose to aim for money, fame and wealth, status. I moved away from God, I couldn't withstand the temptation of material things and entertainment, I began to slip, began skipping classes, having friends do not love learning bad friends; my academic performance began falling, often I told my parents at the weekends false results to deceive them. But finally my parents learnt of my bad grades and I was in disgrace. I fell into extremely low self-esteem and self-pity, I lived every day in the melancholy, finally I quit school, the dream of entering university shattered, and I fell very low. But when I was at rock bottom, then God could begin again with me. Truly "*In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps*" Proverbs 16:9. The year before last I experienced the pain of having both my parents die in a car accident. So after a lot of pain, I concluded that maybe God is letting me return to Him as the prodigal son. I now believe that Jesus is the only truth in my life, he is innocent, and the only way to forgiveness because He was of our nature! Thank God that He let me know my own smallness, weakness and sin. He wants to make me to be a child of God, to enjoy true peace and joy, I felt the truth set me free, it let me rediscover myself, I face life no longer confused, for the future road I face full of confidence. Regardless of what happens now in life, our loving heavenly Father will be faithful to His promise to me, and His righteousness and mercy help to build my confidence. I feel humble before the Lord, the leadership of my life is with Him, I want only to proclaim Him and serve Him! I would like to feel as Paul who pressed

towards the prize before him (Phil. 3:13-14). I hope I end my race like Paul at the end of his life, with a clear conscience, feeling I have run a good race (2 Tim. 4:7).

RIGA

We're delighted to report the baptisms this week of INESSA and PETERIS. At both the baptisms, brother Frantiszek gave his baptismal talk, he is developing it all the time. He's now 80 and is just so very thrilled with the Truth and the great hope. You can see him here:



UKRAINE

Since the supposed truce, hundreds if not thousands of people have been killed by the violence in Eastern Ukraine, although the Western media seems to not wish to report about it. The situation is really acutely bad for some of our contacts and brothers and sisters; please do pray for them all and continue to support them. Please also pray for our elderly sister Nadia, a Ukrainian sister who travelled this week to St. Petersburg, Russia to be with her daughters who are there. She had a stroke soon after getting off the train, and is in hospital, although as a Ukrainian in Russia this will not be easy for her.

TURKEY / IRAN

The internet has surely been raised up God to enable the spread of His Truth into all the world, including to areas which are off limits to many potential visitors. We're pleased to tell you that R, a doctor from a provincial town in Iran searched for Christianity online- and found our material. After a careful study of *Bible Basics* she travelled all the way to Istanbul alone in order to be baptized. It was a pleasure to have our local Turkish brother Remzi present too. This was the first time that R had held the paper version of *Bible Basics* in her hands, she had only accessed the PDF version. Our new sister made good use of her new internet freedom, downloading much Farsi material such as MP3s and our YouTube videos, which are blocked from access in Iran. Our sister had a very deep appreciation of the Lord Jesus and we marvel at the Lord's continued outreach. Thank you too for all your donations which enable this work, and for all the years of supporting the production of *Bible Basics* in various languages- this is now bearing great fruit worldwide.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks