

November 2017 Latvia, China

The **Bible Companion** readings for this Sunday include 2 Thessalonians 1 and 2 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/2thess12.mp3>

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

Download the *NEV Bible* with commentary and *Bible Companion* bookmarks at <http://n-e-v.info/NEVBIBLE.pdf>

LATVIA

Attendance at the *Bible Centre* feeding program keeps up, between 50 and 90 every day. Many of these are already baptized, and the daily one hour Bible teaching is able to run deeper than previously. We've now nearly finished going through every chapter in Genesis this season. But the reality for these dear folks, many of them elderly, doesn't get any better in this world. Even if like sister Tanya, you worked all your life, if you're Russian you get no state support. So without supportive family, they have to live in the "Gulag archipelago" of the night shelters, they can only spend the night there and spend the days walking the streets or sitting in the bus station. No wonder we have been able to so powerfully connect with this large group of people. And night shelter accommodation is only available for about 300 days out of 365, so there are times when they have to fend for themselves. It all seems so unjust- work all your life, but now in old age, no accommodation, free health care or security. Who in their 80s in the land of their birth should have to sleep in derelict property with no heating in these hard winters... But the injustice of it all of course leads some to God and His word and the salvation in His Son. About the only positive change to report is that one night shelter allows people in from 5 PM rather than 8 PM as previously:



We went in there, and found so many crowded in there that there were old men sleeping in their clothes on the stone floor corridors. We could only quickly video it, but the few seconds we got we've included in a new video of various scenes from the lives of the homeless in Riga, including collecting bottles and then getting pennies back in deposit, scouring garbage bins for scrap metal; as well as our team at work in the hall. It's

at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrTYAm1k4U&t=21s>



Sister Tanya whom we just mentioned, old enough to remember as a little girl walking with her mother in Riga and watching the Jews being marched from the railway station ghetto to the extermination camp on the edge of town, is currently not in a night shelter. And so she is very vulnerable- here she is as she turned up at the *Bible Centre* recently with a black eye:



And then if you're Russian and a single mother, for whatever reason, this is also a bad place to have to live on the streets. And again we try to provide what material and spiritual help we can at the centre:



And yet through all this, many seek to uphold some basic human dignity despite the indignity of their situation. Two faithful attenders, br Andre and sis Judite, celebrated their wedding anniversary at the hall, in clothes picked up from the clothing boxes we have at the back of the hall, and into which local people donate their spare or used clothes:



We'd like to ask your special prayers for brother Daniel Aldersley from New Zealand who has come out to run things at the *Bible Centre* for the next three months. This week Duncan is trying to train him up and he is trying to immerse himself in Russian. He has a lot of faith and zeal for the Lord but the task before him is huge.

Please do continue supporting the work; we have a bill for the land tax at the property for about 2000 Euros which is upcoming in January God willing and bills each month for electricity, water, heating etc.

CHINA

Our wonderful brother Donald reports:

"I baptized brother Zhu in the swimming pool. He is a Shift Line Leader in an electrical company and first knew Jesus from youku.com (the same as youtube in western countries). Brother Zhu was impressed by the video about Jesus as the bread of life. After that he spent a lot of time viewing the videos and got very excited. Then he applied for our free Bible literature, as there are few groups offering truly free Bible literature in Chinese. We sent Chinese *Bible Basics* to him and then I went to baptize him.

I used my annual leave for preaching in the villages near to Hefei. Rural villages here in China are all nearly the same. The land is rented to them by agricultural companies. Most people living there are elders and women, more than 70% of the male labour force in villages go out to work in the fields. People living here have nothing to do when they are free apart from to play cards, fishing, grow vegetables. So I took two cartons of the Chinese *Bible Basics* you sent me, just waiting on the village streets for people to come and take them. Several teenagers came and asked for the books, one of them told me her grandparents were believers and took me to their home and they had lunch with me together. I spent a long time in conversation with them. They were in their 70s, illiterate and with a simple, strong but almost blind faith. I talked about the lack of Trinity etc., but they didn't really understand things at that depth, all they cared about is

believing in Jesus and eternal life. I comforted myself that at least they have Jesus in their heart. I distributed in that village about 30 copies of *Bible Basics* to the people. I pray to God that the seeds we sow will grow to big trees and that Jesus comes soon".

Obviously brother Donald couldn't take photos of himself distributing the books, but he has sent us these photos of the baptism, a carton of the books in the village street, and the elderly couple eating in their village home. Truly the Gospel is going into all the world, another sign that "then shall the end come":



PRAYER POINTS

- For wisdom as to how best to help all the needy folk and brethren and sisters in Riga
- For sister Tanya and other vulnerable elderly brothers and sisters
- For brother Daniel
- For those recently baptized

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks