

October 2011 Malawi, Brothers Vitaly and Janis

This Sunday's Bible Companion readings include Galatians 1 and 2, and there's an MP3 on these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/gal12.mp3>

MALAWI

A letter has been received from brother John, originally from Congo and now in a refugee camp in Malawi. Please pray for our brother, his wife and his children; and for our other brethren in such camps.

"I thank a lot to get your letters and Scriptures, 12 New Testaments, 8 Bible Basics English, 4 Swahili *Bible Basics*. We have distributed these to brothers and sisters and children. According to my health I was admitted to a private health post at Lilongwe for 2 and a half months. My wife sold all the food allowance in order to assist me with the payment, and all that period my children were living like rats begging for food in the camp. By now I am back in the camp but my health is not yet good enough, the heart is paining me and the eyes have difficulty of seeing. You told me that you sent brother M to me, but I never see him at my place up to now and I know he will never come because of shame. Brother another bad situation is that one day my wife went to market in the evening looking for food. In her return she met a group of 12 Ethiopian men who raped her. We took her up to hospital and then we reported the event to the Police station. By the time the Police came for investigation, those people had gone away to South Africa and they are not now in the camp. When they examined her at the hospital they observed that she had been injured at the sexual organs and the belly and found evidence of the sperm from those men. She was admitted for one week by now she is at home. But her health is not yet good. Brother the problem we have is that our children are here in the camp and they are mocked by other children saying that your mother has been raped by force, or saying that she is a prostitute for Ethiopians. When she has to go to fetch water she is an object of mockery by women and men alike, saying and insulting her that she is a prostitute for the Ethiopians. All the camp knows about the rape, so she has no respect in the camp. Whilst facing that she sometimes comes crying into the house. When the children meet their mother crying they all start crying. So I myself don't have peace while seeing that, and that increases my hypertension problem, and I pray God sometimes to end my life instead of seeing a such kind of shame. In my tribal tradition I am supposed now to divorce my wife but this I will not do. So I remain ashamed in the camp. I cannot return back to Congo because all my family was killed and I was listed to be killed even. I am facing many problems. Please help me in prayers, I am facing the situation of Job now. I have the problem of eyes, I beg the assistance of glasses. I wish you all the best in the work of God. Yours, John Abwe"

We have sent glasses and other assistance.

Here's a file photo of women lining up to draw water from one of the wells in the camp where they are, taken on a Carelinks visit about 2 years ago. You can imagine our sister or her children in such a scene, being mocked in the long lines for food and water which there are in the camp:



CARELINKS USA

We've received the following happy communication from a *Bible Basics* contact:

Dear Brother, Baptized this morning at the Ann Arbor Ecclesia (Michigan) Can't really express the joy that i have. Thank you so very much for your books and prayers. Your Brother in Christ.
Jerry

Brothers Vitaly and Janis

We reported the baptism a few weeks ago of brother Vitaly, an Afghan veteran who had turned to satanism, had "666" tatoood on his neck as a sign of his submission to 'satan', and then totally rejected it, becoming first of all interested in our rejection of a personal satan being, and then learning the true Gospel and being baptized. We noted in a subsequent carelink how Vitaly had given himself over totally to the things of the Lord. He has gone to others whom he knew had also become disillusioned with satanism, and has been bringing along a man called Janis who had likewise become disillusioned with satanism. Externally, Janis would never seem the type to have been in to satanism; he dresses conservatively, wears a shirt with a high collar and tie- which actually conceals how he too had had satanic tatooes on his neck, to symbolize his submission to the yoke of 'satan'; in his case, the word [in misspelt English] "Sinfull". He has read and re-read *Bible Basics* over the last few weeks and has become totally convinced of the truths of the Gospel. Whilst most of those we baptize have been studying with us for some time, we could see no reason to delay his baptism. He gave an excellent confession of faith and like Vitaly, bitterly regrets allowing disillusion with society leading him into satanism. The Gospel has truly taken hold of Janis and in front of a good group of witnesses, all of whom were somewhat fascinated by this amazing story, our brother was baptized. One lesson to us all is that there's a story beneath every face and underneath the most conservative of clothing. There's more interest in our message than may appear on the surface of people.



Brother Vitaly was simply so happy that his witness had been blessed. He now has a sweatshirt with a hood on it which further conceals the "666" on his neck which he is so ashamed of:



But the hand of providence was still outstretched on the day of the baptisms. We had just taken delivery of electric hair clippers, appealed for on a previous carelink. The intention had been that our multi talented brother Vlad would cut the hair of those in the night shelters or those who can't afford to go to a barber. He set up a chair and invited "candidates" as he calls them to have their hair cut. Vitaly became very excited; in his army years he had had the job of being the hairdresser for his entire company, of about 200 men. He really felt he had found a niche, something to do in the Lord's service, and that day he cut the hair of no fewer than nine brethren, and looks set to be our resident barber for the **Riga Bible Centre**.



We rejoice that more are coming under the yoke of Christ, the real Christ, having rejected the perversions and falsities which surround us in these last days.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

PS We're pleased to say that Duncan & Cindy welcomed a healthy baby boy into the world this week, name still to be announced.