

## October 2012 Carelinks USA, Kenya, Mali, Burkina Faso

This Sunday's *Bible Companion* readings include Ephesians 5 and 6 and there's an MP3 on these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/eph56.mp3>

### CARELINKS USA

We were pleased to get news that the planned baptism of SARAH in San Antonio went very well, brothers Josh and Ted and sister Heidi all met up there and baptized our sister. This is truly the spiritual outcome Sarah has been seeking for a long time. Here she is with br Ted after her baptism- joy and smiles all round:



### KENYA

We previously mentioned the amazing testimony of brother Calvince, and we are pleased to report that he and many in his groups of Bible students were baptized this past week. You can read his gripping life story at <http://www.carelinks.net/doc/1235034705> . It really is gripping- his father died when he was 3 and his mother turned to prostitution and died of AIDS when he was 9, how he lived on the streets and somehow survived; then became an active evangelist, became dissatisfied with the standard doctrinal positions about the trinity, satan, baptism, the death state and the Kingdom, learnt the Truth from *Bible Basics*, and devoted himself to going around teaching the Truth to the seven small groups he is associated with. It's a great story and a sure proof that God is indeed active in human lives today. The whole story seemed too wonderful to be true- until we spent last week with our brother visiting his groups and getting to know him personally. We're very satisfied with our brother's genuineness and deep understanding of and commitment to the Truth. We went through the basic doctrines of the one faith very carefully, and recorded audio and video of some of the talks as a resource for future use of the brotherhood in Luo and Swahili speaking areas. Already our brother has translated a list of our doctrinal positions into Luo with a brief explanation of them. You can access all this Luo material at <http://www.carelinks.net/luo> and the Swahili *Bible Basics* powerpoints are at <http://www.carelinks.net/sw> The problem with rural Africa is that it has largely been forgotten by Christian groups. The local Protestant churches are all eager for tithes, and so they concentrate mainly on the towns, where people are earning cash salaries. The subsistence farmers, elderly and handicapped who live far from asphalt roads are largely forgotten, although many of them consider themselves "Christian". But often they have no churches, no Bibles and no real idea what the Gospel is really all about. There is absolutely huge potential here. Many of them are literate in their local languages, and so if Bibles and Bible teaching is provided in their languages, they are eager to respond to it.

After first baptizing Calvince, we spent time visiting his groups, and also bussing in key people from those groups to a seminar. At times our brother walks up to 16 km. to isolated groups to teach them the Truth. Some meet in mud huts they have built, others meet under large trees. We pay our respect to brother John Aldersley; this brother was a true missionary for Christ, walking along tracks and addressing meetings under mango trees, as well as teaching at the seminar. On one occasion the nearby primary school shut down for an hour to send the children to crowd around the mango tree and hear John hammer home the good news of the Kingdom of

God on earth, the need for baptism, the promises to Abraham, the non-existence of Satan and the Trinity... and the real love of God and His Son for each of us:



[Notice Eutyclus 5th adult from left, front row!]

We mention brother John's example because... are you sure you couldn't likewise take time out from your career in the West and also do trips like this, to take Christ to "the regions beyond"? Maybe indeed it's not your calling... but maybe it is.

The seminar was well attended, with around 45 people very attentive and taking notes on all that was said:



We were very concerned by the scarcity of Bibles for these people. They are not only expensive for people who live in mud huts at a subsistence level [no matter how amazingly neatly they turn themselves out for meetings]- but they are hard to obtain. Brother John went to great lengths to obtain about 90 Bibles- there is a huge hunger for God's word and a Bible is a prized possession. When we opened the boxes containing them, it was hard to restrain people from almost grabbing them:



There are many inspirational stories to tell of those baptized. People walking many kilometers to the main road and then travelling on borrowed money on transport or hitchhiking in order to get to us for baptism; women who had done that with nursing babies; other women who had forgotten to bring with them a change of clothes, were baptized in the clothes they stood up in and then made the long journey home in soaking clothes. Especially inspiring was blind brother Peter. He can find his way along the tracks he knows, but is very unsure of himself in the towns. He had to be led every step of the way into the baptismal pool, and was reluctant not to take his stick with him right under the water:



This was a great expression of faith and trust in both the Lord Jesus and in us.

Brother Calvince and his home group have constructed a mud meeting room, where they meet regularly:



So there is now a small network of baptized believers in this remote part of rural Kenya- meeting in mud huts and under mango trees, loving God's word and awaiting the return of Christ for which they clearly long. We will do our best to support them. Without doubt God led Calvince to the Truth through an extraordinary life, and then led him to the Truth; and he has run with that, very well. We are all desperate men and women, with nothing, nothing at all, but the Father and His Son. May we respond to their insistent calls upon us like blind brother Peter did, and follow wherever we are led.

### **MALI and BURKINA FASO**

Sister Astrid keeps in touch with those baptized here, and is bravely planning another trip to see them. Astrid provides the following update:

It has been a while since you heard from the situation in the Sahel countries. From the news you may have heard about the droughts and famine affecting at least 15 million people. Right now, during the rainy season, hunger hits peoples lives fiercely. International aid is insufficient. Relief is only to be expected in October with the first new harvests. Although late, the rains fell steadily since early July and crops were growing nicely. People's hopes grew that they might, after 3 years of poor results, be able to reap a rich harvest which would enable them to catch up.

Until 2 weeks ago. The rains fell and fell and fell. Too much to drain away. Lower lying fields and houses were inundated. Crops destroyed. Mud-and-clay houses collapsed. Hunger was aggravated by homelessness. And, worse, all hope lost. Most of these people do not know God in their lives. They have no living relationship with Jesus. Imagine the gaping black hole they're looking into, devoid of all hope or peace. Despite a Malian saying "an empty bag cannot stand upright" (without food one can only think how to fill the stomach), our brother Luc is trying to console people with God's word and promises. And he needs our support in prayer.

Please pray with us that God will find a solution. Pray that those who already know the real Christ, can share Him with those affected. Pray for brother Luc and his work. Pray God's victory over the deep-seated belief in the 'punishment of the ancestors'. Pray that these people who don't know the truth will see that Christ is the only way to freedom and fulfillment, now and for eternity.

Love in Jesus, Astrid

Photos of the flood damage sent by our brethren:



**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**