

October 2012 Winter Heating, Riga, Ukraine, Carelinks UK Conference

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 6 and there's an MP3 on this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn6.mp3>

WINTER HEATING APPEAL

Each Winter we seek to provide special assistance to those in Eastern Europe who can't pay their heating bills and thus risk losing their apartments and having to go into night shelters; most of our assistance goes to the elderly, for whom heating bills are often higher than their monthly pensions. We also seek to provide related assistance through clothing and seeking to fortify properties against the Winter cold. We spend something like 12,000 GBP on this each Winter and you are welcome to contribute.

UKRAINE

We previously reported the baptism of Irina and her son-in-law Dmitry, who were formerly Jehovah's Witnesses. Her daughter ANYA still needed some convincing, but having made a thorough study of our literature and the Bible verses quoted, doctrine after doctrine, she too became convinced of the Truth and desired baptism. About 100 miles from where they live in Slavyansk, there is brother Viktor in Donetsk. His cousin YURI had been given a *Bible Basics* by him, and although initially he was, as he says, the strongest proponent of the Trinity and the Russian Orthodox church, he eventually became convinced of the Truth. Like Anya, he has read many of our books in addition to *Bible Basics*, such as the *Real Christ* and *The Real Devil*. He is super convinced of the Truth and likewise wished to be baptized. It was a pleasure to be with these zealous folk and to baptize them. It's hard to find a place to do baptisms in small towns in Ukraine in the colder parts of the year. Most people have showers and not bath tubs. We found a sauna with a plunge pool which had not been used for some time. But the water was little above freezing. It took quite some courage and suppression of squeals of shock to immerse our new brother and sister :



But there was a warm welcome for them afterwards. Anya's mum, sister Irina, and her husband bro. Dmitry, welcomed her so warmly and with such uncontrollable joy; and then we broke bread together:



You can notice in the photo above that sister Irina is holding a Bible in her hand. We have now received delivery of Russian Bibles with commentary and a reduced version of *Bible Basics* at the back, and are distributing them amongst the brotherhood:



It's hard to get a Bible in small towns and villages in Eastern Europe; there are none in the shops and if there are, they are expensive. And few older people are online or have payment cards in order to purchase online. So we really feel that we are getting God's word out to people who otherwise wouldn't have had it, and we believe it will not return to Him void. We are concerned

that people these days are tending to read more about the Bible than the Bible text itself, and we see our Bible distribution work as seeking to correct that. Should you need a Bible in Russian, please let us know.

We were truly a happy group in Christ that evening and there are other brethren in the area who hopefully will meet with them and thus form a viable ecclesia:



The **Winter Bible School** is planned in Ukraine at the end of January and there promises to be a very good attendance, both of advanced contacts and baptized brothers and sisters- do consider coming over to it. Contact us for more info.

RIGA

The coffee, chess and Bible culture is growingly popular and attracting more and more men to the Riga Bible Center:



One man attracted by this was ANATOLY, but his main interest was in the Bible, which he knows extremely well and was tired of attending churches where the Bible was not discussed in depth and there is merely entertainment. He immediately found himself at home with our chapter by chapter approach, based around the day's chapters from *The Bible Companion*. We had to interrupt him several times during his confession of faith because he just wanted to tell us about everything he knew about the Bible:



CARELINKS UK CONFERENCE

This is planned for Sat. 23 Feb. 2013, God willing, in the same location as last year in Purley, Surrey. The theme will concern how God and Jesus work in our lives today. Let us know if you have personal testimony to contribute.

With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks