

October 2013 Carelinks USA, Belarus, Ukraine, Sponsoring

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Acts 3 and 4, and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/acts34.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>; and God willing, we have our live video link service in English this Sunday at 08:00 a.m. GMT - you can view direct at www.carelinks.net [scroll down to the video screen] or if you want to make comments and participate in live chat, use <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/biblecenter>

CARELINKS USA

This has been a busy time for our work in the USA. We're delighted to report the baptism of a young married couple, GWEN and GERARDO in Florida.



They were baptized by Br Josh & Sis Heidi. Josh & Heidi came to the Carelinks Missionary Training program in Latvia a couple of years ago, subsequently got married, and are now a great help in following up contacts. Gwen and Gerardo have been studying the Truth in detail for a long time. Gerardo works night shifts and so the baptism was performed at dawn last Sunday in the Gulf of Mexico near Tampa- a beautiful start to new lives in Christ:



Here are a few clips from earlier correspondence which indicate just how deeply they studied the True Gospel before baptism:

"I already read the Bible Basics and the books Real Devil, Real Christ. I've been studying the Christadelphians doctrines the last 4 years. I read Elpis Israel by John Thomas. And other books from Robert Roberts... My wife and I want to have contact with someone to help us to be baptized. Please help us... My wife requests to be you and your wife's friend on facebook. We been praying a lot for God to provide someone to help us... I encourage Gwen to be patient and trust that God is in control of our lives. I have been looking for the truth with all my heart. Four years ago I found the writings of dr. John Thomas and Robert Roberts. I read everything I could on the Christadelphians... Thank you again and talk to you soon. The God of Israel bless you... I just want to say my wife and I are very excited and happy about our meeting with Josh and Heidi, and to be baptized..."

We're also pleased to report the baptism of JESSICA after completing *Bible Basics* and correspondence with Josh & Heidi as well as ourselves. In other news from Carelinks USA, sister Candice in Texas who was baptized some months ago has released another brief message of gratitude to Carelinks and all brothers and sisters playing a part in her spiritual growth- it's at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGH3yreYnTw>

BELARUS

A few months ago we reported a visit to Belarus and two baptisms there, commenting that we have many interested contacts there but so many fear to come forward because of the oppressive regime and persecution of independent Christians. We asked for your prayers, and

since then a number of our contacts have become more committed. Another visit was made this week, and we're pleased to tell you of the baptism of IVANA, who first came to us from requesting a Russian Bible with commentary. So, your prayers for Belarus were answers. Prayer does change things.

UKRAINE

Another fruit of this work of distributing Russian Bibles is the baptism of PASHA this week in Ukraine. Pasha works for a pittance as a nightwatchman at a deserted collective farm in a really remote rural area of Ukraine. The collective farm doesn't function much, but there are whole fields of rusting combines and heavy machinery which would otherwise be stolen for scrap value. So our brother along with three other men just sit around all day and night watching over it all. The tracks to the farm are overgrown and it'd be quite hard to steal anything in any case. The other three men live together in a room which has a wood stove. Since he came to Christ, Pasha doesn't want to be around the talking and behaviour of the world, where drinking home made alcohol is the main occupation. So he lives separate from them in what was once the gathering room in this once bustling collective farm, this is not heated and the temperatures are below zero at night. He has a bed, two bags of clothes, and a table in the corner of the huge room, where he eats what little food he has:



At 31 years old, life seems bleak- single, geographically isolated, no family. But he has one prized possession- a cell phone and internet connection on it. Sitting through the long days and nights, he came to think about God and Jesus, and so he went in search of a Bible online. He has a tiny screen and the connection is agonizingly slow. But he came to our site and asked for a Bible, which brother Maksim sent him. He studied further with us and came to a strong desire to be baptized. Despite the very low temperatures, Pasha was willing to do this in a river- there was no other option. It's very wild there, and we found a place with a disused fishing platform. The cows come to drink there and the 'beach' is basically cattle excrement. But we had some unexpected opposition from a huge ostrich. Ostriches were kept for meat at the collective farm, but with it breaking up, they escaped and now live wild. They are quite aggressive and very big, far taller than a man. Pasha had had experience with them before, and knew how to talk to the ostrich and calm it down- they can run fast and will chase if you run from them:



We performed the baptism in the very cold and dirty water (you can see the pollution from the cattle in the picture below), with the ostrich as witness. There's a brief low quality video at <http://youtu.be/10KeBuQl68g> And we just marvel at the power of the Gospel to compel a man to make that commitment to the invisible but so real Christ, and at the constant work of the Lord in (as we read recently in Acts 2) "adding daily to the church / ecclesia such as should

be saved", calling each in different ways.



APPEAL FOR SPONSORING

We have provided various brethren in Russia and Ukraine with good stocks of the Russian Bible with our commentary and Bible Basics at the back. This concept seems just right for helping people come to the Truth and baptism. They are thereby encouraged to read the actual text of the Bible rather than just what we say about it. We provide our brethren with funds towards the postage costs of sending out the Bibles within their local area. They account for this by keeping receipts of expenditure. At present we get about 15 requests / day for Russian Bibles from our various websites; we then ask each applicant to explain why they want the Bible, explaining to them our position on doctrine and hope that they will study towards baptism. This results in about 7 Bibles being sent out per day. We're wondering if anyone, or their ecclesia or group, would like to send funds for postage by WU or other means to these brethren who are mailing the Bibles out. Let us know if so and we can provide details. This is a great way to spread God's word to "the regions beyond", and is a proven, sound method for bringing men and women to baptism into Christ.

Here are some pictures of people in Russia who have gratefully received Bibles from us and are so thrilled to be studying towards baptism:



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks