

October 2015 Russia, Winter Welfare

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 11 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn11.mp3>

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

RUSSIA

After the *Moscow Bible School* a visit was made far out into north central Russia to baptize a man who was every bit worth the long and arduous journey. After a two hour flight from Moscow, the next part of the journey was intended to be by helicopter to the town where ALEKSANDR lives. But the blizzards were so strong that the helicopter flight was cancelled indefinitely. A huge sink hole has opened up near the town as a result of potash mining which swallowed the railway line, so train was not an option. We therefore chartered a vehicle to go there... and spent 9 hours on icy roads, with vehicles in the ditches as testament to how slippery it was, and with the blizzards at times reducing visibility to practically zero. Rural Russia isn't the best place to drive in at the best of times, let alone in blizzards. Aleksandr had studied so much of our material. He was raised as a JW in Ukraine, and now like many Ukrainians is in Russia living with his wife and three little children aged 2,4 and 6 in a remote place, working in a factory. Their middle child has serious physical and mental invalidity and it's as much as our brother can do to work in the factory and then help domestically... he has no chance to travel anywhere. But his desire to devote himself to the Lord in spirit and truth was wonderful. He sent the most touching email of thanks afterwards, so moved we had made so much effort to get to him for the baptism. His wife Tanya was also impressed and we had some good conversations, which indicated once again how our understanding of the doctrines of the Gospel are in fact so appealing to an ordinary secular woman like her. She struggles with why she gave birth to an invalid child who needs constant support from herself, her husband, the other children and from society generally. We talked about guilt- false guilt which society and false religion puts upon us, and the necessary guilt we have for our actual sins. The one thing she is clear about is that there is no personal satan- for that was the explanation given her by Russian Orthodoxy and the JWs, and she finds it makes no sense at all. She has now decided to study the Bible herself far more closely, with a view to simply accurately knowing and following the Lord Jesus. For this is the essence of all our study and religion. So please pray for her and the whole family. And we also thank God for safekeeping on that awful journey.



WINTER WELFARE

Each Winter we distribute welfare to baptized brothers and sisters and their families, assist with Winter heating bills, firewood etc. throughout Eastern Europe and the former **USSR**. We also aim to provide a warm meal and coffee for 5 days / week at the *Riga Bible Center* in **Latvia**; the majority of those benefiting from this are baptized brothers and sisters. Typically attendance varies from 50 to 150 each day. Additionally this Winter we are seeking to provide very basic food and clothing to newly arrived migrants / refugees who are arriving in Europe at this time. Our approach is that our primary task is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom; our welfare work

seeks to back that up and exemplify the Kingdom life in practice, which is how we understand the Lord's feeding miracles. As this mail goes out, we are preparing stickers to place on food and drink items simply welcoming the migrants to Europe, and urging them to use their new freedom to consider Bible teaching about the Lord Jesus and in due course accept Him in spirit and truth.

You are welcome to donate towards this work through our usual channels, or *PayPal* to tiybible@yahoo.com

Donations from the **USA** are tax deductible and there are tax efficient ways of donating in the **UK** too.

KYRGYZSTAN

We're so sorry to report that our dear brother Anvar has had a stroke and is unable to feed himself. His wider family have all been baptized over the past few years. His daughter is caring for him, but her husband brother Boris has gone blind and they are still raising their 2 sons. It's very hard being Russian and Christian in Moslem Kyrgyzstan.

Welfare has been sent but they do need our prayers. In his days of opportunity, Anvar did so much for the Lord's work in this land.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For our new and isolated brother Aleksandr
- For his young family with health issues, and his wife to accept the Truth
- For our Winter welfare efforts this Winter
- For brother Anvar and family in Kyrgyzstan

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks