

Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan June 2010

Our daily readings for this next Sunday include Ruth 1 and 2, and there are video and MP3 files on Ruth for download from <http://aletheiacollege.net/ruth.htm>

KYRGYZSTAN

Readers may have read on the news of the continued violence and instability here this last week, according to http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/asia_pacific/10347472.stm it seems 2000 have been killed, many thousands injured to the point hospitals are full; many homes burnt and over 500,000 having fled as refugees out of a population of 5 million. The scale of the violence is huge and the anarchy is ongoing. Most of our brothers and sisters are in Bishkek and physically safe but affected by the collapse of the economy and infrastructure which the violence brings with it. Please remember them in prayer. We will try to get to see them

CHINA

We're pleased to report another epic journey by our brother Feng to baptize TAN, a Bible Basics contact from the internet. Feng reports as follows:

Tan used to be a very devout Buddhist, his family were Buddhist devotees . He found Buddhism to be somewhat pessimistic and he had tangled himself in the Buddhists doctrine for a long time, until he met a man in the village and learnt about the Christian way . He found it very painful to accept the Christian faith because of his long affinity with Buddhism.He hesitated for more than four months .Finally he believed in the Lord, because it was not like what Buddhaim teaches, where everything is pre-destined. Now, after learning the Truth, he found this decision to turn to Christianity was not wrong . He has had many problems because of his decision. I used a passage in the Bible from Job to encourage him to grow in faith . Job lost all of his family, all of his property. But finally God not only healed his body, but also bless him much more. As long as we always trust, always rely on Him, God would like to provide Tan the strength to get through these sad times. He will comfort and lead him. Amen".

Photo: Brother Tan about to be baptized



RUSSIA

Carelinks have been preaching and baptizing people throughout Russia for over 20 years now. Most of those baptized came from atheism, and it's wonderful to see how men and women who were once ignorant of Christ have now matured in Him and their conversion has stood the test of time. They are however very scattered and isolated, so we try to sponsor gathering them together whenever possible for Bible Schools. Russia is no longer a 'cheap' country and the distances are huge. We recently conducted a Bible School for around 20 mature believers in a city in central Russia. Due to opposition from the Orthodox church [a growing force in Russian society] the facilities we had booked for the School cancelled out at the last minute, which meant we had 20 brothers and sisters to house at the last minute, only by God's grace did we find a hostel where we managed to pack in. We found a place which had no conference room and we managed to hire a meeting room 15 minutes walk from where we stayed. Our group made a fine and happy sight walking between hotel and meeting place several times / day,

Bibles in hand:



Accommodation was truly cramped- 4 small bunk beds in each room. We lived truly on top of each other. Not content with all day Bible study, the Bible discussions continued in the evenings too. It was true fellowship around God's word, sitting on the bunks reading together, or cramming into the tiny kitchen together:



Sister Raisa, well in her 70s, had been 10 days in hospital for her heart problems but came straight out to come to Bible School. She took a train for 12 hours, sat in the station another 8 hours with her eggs, sandwiches and water she'd brought from home... then on the way back she had another 8 hour wait in a station. And still stubbornly disliked us offering to carry her bags for her:



Viktor and Galina were baptized 10 years ago when they were 65. Now at 75 they travelled 1000 km. with two changes of train, waiting in the railway stations a few hours each time. To be with us at the Bible School. The daily Bible readings are what keep them going, they say. Brother Viktor gave us a wonderful exhortation at the breaking of bread about the hand of providence in his life [he was a survivor of Stalingrad] and how his life changed all around when he started reading the Bible and was baptized- and he also got to the final of the Bible School Chess tournament [which was declared a draw]:



Brother Zhenya first got in contact with us in 1992 when he was in prison. He was baptized at that time, and one never knows how life will turn out after prison for offenders. Duncan says he was a cynic about Zhenya's chances to change. But was proved totally wrong. In this brother's case, the Gospel changed him powerfully. He has a stable job, has done quite well for himself, is married with a child, and has managed to buy an old Lada, which he proudly drove to Bible School:



The rare opportunities to meet make the fellowship the more intense. If you can, do come along and join in some day if the Lord tarries:



With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks