

Russia, Parable of the chairs August 2010

Sunday's readings from the Bible Companion include 1 Corinthians 11, very relevant to the breaking of bread. There's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://aletheiacollege.net/bbread.mp3>

RUSSIA

Brother Alexei was a member of the underground church in Russia during the Communist years, and was baptized by us into the true Christ in the early 90s. Since then he has tried to contact as many people as he can with whom he associated in those years, and sought to persuade them of the truths of Scripture and to be properly baptized into Jesus, sending *Bible Basics* all over Russia and making very long journeys to discuss with individuals. One such woman is NADEZHDA, who had been searching for water baptism for a long time. Alexei and his very sick wife sis Vera travelled a long way to be present at the baptism. Here they are arriving after 2 days of travel, during which Vera suffered epileptic fits.



Alexei led the service, which was held in a quiet spot by the Kuban river. They said the service, standing up reading the Bible in a forest with women wearing head coverings, reminded them very strongly of how they used to worship in the underground church. They commented on their deep gratitude for now having the Bible's message clear in their minds; sister Nadezhda observed that they had worshipped God in sincerity, but now in sincerity and in truth. They also all commented how grateful they are for having copies of *Bible Basics* and other literature in Russian, and also copies of the regular magazine *Zvezda* which keeps the far flung community in Russia in contact with each other. Printing and posting this material is significantly expensive; only your donations enable it to happen.

Despite being in her 60s, Nadezhda works 24 hour shifts for low pay, and has a difficult domestic situation. Spare thought and prayer for our sister, and others locked into such abusive situations. She came straight from night shift, but although tired was absolutely thrilled to be baptized, and was quite overcome with emotion afterwards.

Photos: The baptism service; the baptism; our new sister with Alexei and Vera with *Bible Basics* and *Zvezda* magazine:



The Parable Of The Chairs

When we opened the Riga Bible Center, we stood in the shop thinking: We have 15- 20 people coming... so let's get 20 chairs. But no, let's show some faith here... let's get 30 chairs in the hope of increased attendance. Well, a year later, we have 50 people regularly coming and peak attendances of around 70, and the numbers trend upwards all the time. According to our vision... so it can be unto us, and far above that too.

We also have a computer at the Center now. Brother Vlad has his huge files of notes on the Bible, which he's stored for over 35 years. We recently asked him to write up an article about "Logos" in John 1 for our Russian language magazine "Zvezda". We opened up for him and returned 8 hours later, he was still at it, he had brought with him his files of various Biblical thoughts over those 35 years, and sorted out his various thoughts about John 1:1-14. And started typing them up. We put the zoom on the screen at 300 %, which is huge. He types painfully slowly because of his eyesight and his thoughts were written out in earlier years before his eyesight failed. It was great to see him working away there...We are so glad God allowed us to minister to him and provide the true spiritual family which he's longed for after his journey through so many groups. Here he is with his various notes all around him:



We made use of the last week of the Baltic Summer to baptize ANDA in the sea near Riga. Here are some pictures of her baptism, and Cindy's special baptism cake she made for the occasion:



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks