

September 2011 Latvia and Zimbabwe

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 3, and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://carelinks.net/audio/talks/HeasterJohnBaptist.mp3>

UPDATES

Brother Vitaly of whom we wrote last week has taken his bullet to the sea and thrown it away in symbol of the new life he's found. He is eager to attend every baptism and ecclesial function. You can see him below at the baptisms of LIJA, INESSA and ALLA.

Our sister writes:

"After my husband and son died so relatively young, I found myself with only a small pension and therefore forced to live in a night shelter. I hated it. There I met a young woman who worked for very low income and so couldn't afford to rent a room. She didn't drink or smoke, we talked a lot about God, about how to find Him, how to find meaning in life. We worked out that between us we could rent one small room with what income we had, and this we did. She became as a daughter to me, replacing my son whom I lost. We spent about all our money on the rent of the room, food was hard to get, and we heard there was a church who had food after their services. So we went along, not only for the food, but because we dreamt we might be able to get a Bible and to have it explained, as we had had so many talks about God, imagining what He might be like, what His plans for us and the world might be. So we came along and we never looked back, and now we were baptized together in the sea. Although we live in Riga we've not been to the beach for years. We praise God!"

You can see them in the photos below. We're coming to the end of the outdoors baptism season, already there are frosts, and the next Carelink will be our annual Winter heating appeal so please think how you could distribute that around.



The transformations of human life going on in this work are amazing. Brother Vlad is now leading a class every Thursday evening, sharing his understanding of the book of Genesis from a Hebrew perspective. He continues cooking for us and assisting with the Bible studies, despite failing eyesight and hearing:



We're getting increased attendances with over 100 often on Sundays and also at Bible class; we don't like to keep saying it, but the cost of running the Bible Centre is significant and we'd really appreciate any donations that you can make to keep it going.

One good feature is the growing group of younger people attending and being a magnet for others they talk to, lots of romances going on, and it's almost visibly evident that quite quickly these young people are perceiving the major adjustments they need to make to live in the spirit

of Christ.



We're grateful to say that the hairclipper need has now been sorted out. Sister Sandra whom we mentioned has now given birth, very prematurely, the stress of having nowhere to live obviously played a part in this. Cindy has been a great strength to her at this time. At present the baby is still in hospital care and will be for a bit longer:



The Riga Bible Centre now has its own website which you can view at <http://www.r-b-c.org>

ZIMBABWE

We have received the following update from our Congolese brethren in the refugee camp; we are glad that a local brother has been able to deliver *Bible Basics* to them, but you will note the need they express for Bibles, which we and others are seeking to fill. But they really do need our prayers with the limited food they have to live on:

Dear brother Marcus, May our joyous greets reach and find you steady in the Lord our Saviour. We may lie to if we bother to tell you how much we were happy upon reading your encouraging email full comforting message. May the Lord our Master richly bless you. It has showed us how much important it is to have a family in Christ and be part of it. What a happiness! We recently received *Bible Basics* through bro Moses, which we appreciated and looking forwards to receiving Bibles that you sent for us because we struggle when borrowing from outsiders... The way the country of Zimbabwe in which we sought refuge used to be supported by many other countries before, but today there remains a very small number of them due to the reason you may be aware of, this has become a big insecurity to us, particularly refugees, in terms of every day living which has become very difficult more especially when considering from the amount of a meal a refugee get per month: a 10kg meal, 2kg beans, 2kg rice, 2kg CSB porridge, 5g sugar, 300g washing soap, 750ml cooking oil and 125g salt. We survive only by the grace of the Creator. When you look at the insecurity that made most of us fleeing the countries of origin, including being forced to join the rebel armed groups which is totally against our belief, tribal discrimination, violence such as raping women and young girls as a result of infections... that create vulnerability of orphans, widows, widowers with whom we live around. All that provokes unending poverty in our countries and make our ministry too difficult. The fact been that we are truly suffering, failing to work out today living, yet we can't see what the future holds for our families. The photos you see are the whole Tongogara meeting members and Sunday School kids from whom we have orphans. Be strong in the Lord, Nondo



With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

