

September 2012 USA, France, Sweden, Greece, Hand of Providence

The *Bible Companion* readings this Sunday include Luke 16, and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk16.mp3>

THE HAND OF PROVIDENCE

We previously reported the baptism of sister Ilze in a village deep in **Western Latvia**. Our sister is in quite some isolation from anyone much and after a very turbulent life [rural isolation isn't always tranquility!] she turned to God but like many people, had no clue how to start. She got a Bible, but couldn't make sense of it. One day she saw *Bible Basics* on the shelf of her mother's home. She took the book home- and after reading it 7 or 8 times, mastered the Truth and was baptized. She explained to us this week how the hand of providence had worked- her mother was the Postal Agent in their remote area and one day a very old man was also there at the postal agency who showed her one of our tracts and explained that if she filled it up, she'd get a free book about the Bible if she posted it off. She did so, received the book, but never opened it. This was 6 years ago. But her daughter took it off the shelf and read it so many times and got baptized. We have no idea who the old man was as to our knowledge there were never any of our brethren in that area. Ilze doesn't speak English much but we tried to translate her account of the story live, you can hear it at <http://www.hristadelfiane.org/audio/ilzetest.mp3> - only lasts 2 minutes but a great testimony to God at work.

A similar tale of providence comes this week from **Sweden**:

Brother D arrived in Sweden from Afghanistan with his wife and two young children. He was sent to live far from Stockholm in a picturesque town in central Sweden. He wanted to become a Christian but wanted to know more- so he went to the local library and asked if they had a Bible and Christian literature in Farsi or any Afghan language. They had a Farsi language section in the library, and gave him a Bible. He then sought to understand it and went online for assistance, and met with our brother Bashir, who tutored him through *Bible Basics*. It was our pleasure to baptize him this week in a sauna.

Our brother is very keen to place Farsi *Bible Basics* in Swedish libraries. It is normal in new converts to Christ to want to spread the good news to their family and friends, and the internet enables this. D has a best friend, who also was searching for Christ. This friend has been living for the last three years in Riga, Latvia, quite near to the Riga Bible Center... we hope to meet him soon. In all these things we feel the hand of a loving, seeking Father and His Son ever so much with us and it encourages us to continue. Please continue to support in prayer in all the huge range of obstacles we face.

GREECE

Our recently baptized brother Simon has been arrested along with many other Iranian and Afghani asylum seekers, although he's now been released. He writes as follows, and through the broken English we believe you will discern there God at work in him:

"Im Simon, I wish you be happy .Do you know you are realy holding me in my faith way , you are realy helpful , you are sending from Jesus Christ. As I can say I saw a sea in my transforming that made me like a child,I underestad littel about what is child, growing.Recently , I ve got a hard experience , I saw my before life with out Jesus Christ , I ve got shuck and during these recently times , I understand littel about life without Jesus Christ , you can image how it is shockful,but it is helpful to understanding deeply.Eventually Im in growing way, be happy your helps are work. I find a home but if I dont have money ,I dont think so , I could not stay there for longtime

because I told them my brothers wants to send me money but day told me no problem you can stay. I was arrested , and police just give to me 6 day paper not 1 month.I will show my arrested paper to lawyer. Jesus Christ protection with us. Amin"

There is another Iranian brother in **Athens**, and he writes as follows- with good news:

"in this week we will have new brother (B) God willing,i Will baptism him with Bro Simon and L as a witnesses. we need two bible in persian and i ask from brother Duncan to send them to me if is possible to do for him. and we will have another brother which is reading Christadelphian Studies but he is not ready yet for a baptism. there is some information about our new brother: he has 28-29 old years-from iran, he lives in greece about a year, he doesnt speak english, just turkish, persian and little Greek and georgian also. With Love in Our Lord Jesus Christ, f"

We believe that the great commission to go forth and preach-and-baptize is for all of us, and we are delighted when local brethren take the initiative to baptize others like this, leaving us where we should be, just in a support role.

FRANCE

We reported recently the baptism of brother Edgar and his wife and brother. Our new brother has been very active in putting his video editing skills to good use, and has subtitled *The Real Devil* movie in several languages- which has taken a huge amount of time. We're pleased to tell you that God willing, next Thursday 27th September, we plan on baptizing his mother in Paris and then having a breaking of bread service. All in the area who'd like to participate are welcome to contact us.

CARELINKS USA

Some more advanced notice, that our Carelinks USA brethren are planning to baptize a woman in San Antonio, Texas, next weekend 28,29 September (God willing), followed by a breaking of bread service. Any who'd like to participate together with them in this are welcome to get in touch for details.

MALAWI

The brethren baptized by Carelinks are now registered as Brethren in Christ Malawi and they are going from strength to strength, with at least ten ecclesias. Brother Leoard writes: *"very soon i will be in nortnen malawi in mzimba where another BCM ECCLESIA is about to be born, 10 people called me after introduced to them the Bible Basics ,and the book, called The cross of Christ written by brother barry c.hodson.Some people from one domination, were cast out of there church, because they were reading the books; so they contacted me on my phone and I am sure i will be there by this october, though mzimba is far, they already start gathering in mr khonjes house,God bless, Leonard"*

BIBLE POSTING PROJECT

A huge thanks to the many brothers and sisters who have been daily coming to Marcus & Gwladys' home over the last few days; the response was wonderful. Thanks to to the many who offered to come but had to be told that *"We have so many helpers we are rationing them to a few hours each!"*. As always, it was the weak of this world- 90 year old brother Hubert, some battling cancer, some *"not in fellowship"* [with some], pensioners and 82 year old Gwladys registered blind and with heart failure could still not be stopped from stacking up boxes of envelopes. The wall of boxes in the photo is simply of envelopes- the Bibles were far more of course. This is how

God is pleased to work, through the weak things of this world:



We pray, although we already know and believe, that God's word will not return to Him void but will accomplish what His grace intends.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks