

September 2014 Sweden, Winter Feeding Scheme, Riga Impressions, Paris

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 13 and 14 and there is an MP3 about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk14.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html>

Carelinks Bible Radio is at <http://r-b-c.org/listen.php>

Winter Feeding Scheme

We have had five visitors from the UK this week at the **Riga Bible Center**; br Jonathan & Sis Debbie Cwiecek from Erith ecclesia wrote this report:

*"We were able to stay at the **Riga Bible Centre** for a week. It was most definitely an uplifting experience. We came primarily to help Bro Dennis Leverett of the Chelmsford UK ecclesia to do some building work with replacing the baptism bath [the old one has done so many baptisms it has cracked!], and repainting two rooms at the back of the hall to be used as accommodation for the brothers and sisters that come over during the winter months to help with the winter feeding program. Now without trying to be over the top after spending a week in **Riga** one has a certain sense of certainty that without the help of the Winter feeding program and the presence of the ecclesia here in Riga, some of the brothers and sister would not survive the winter. And the most painful thought is that it's not due to their fault. I'm sure that it has been mentioned before but I will repeat it just in case, the current situation for many living in Riga is rather dire. Just an example of how this can affect the ecclesia is how on Monday a brother passed out during the Bible class, basically from malnutrition. We went to visit our Brother the next day to see how he is. He is staying together with a Sister also from the Riga Ecclesia. They are squatting in a vacant room- it would be condemned in England as a unsafe place to live but they were grateful that they had somewhere sheltered from the weather and had a fire place which meant that they went around looking for furniture or wood others had thrown out and to burn it to keep warm, as we arrived they were just dismantling a table. The place smelt thick of smoke. Bro Duncan commented that it was the best place they had found so far. There is no electricity, water or toilet. They can't get too comfortable as they don't know when the owner of the 'apartment' will return and kick them out. The only possessions that they have are the ones that they can carry. This is due to not knowing where you will sleep tomorrow. I think it's most worthwhile to note that both of them had their Bibles with them next to their makeshift beds. One of the few possessions they carry with themselves. Our brother handed Duncan a prescription for medication that the hospital had prescribed to him and so Duncan later bought him the medication. It is amazing how the good news of the kingdom of God is spreading here in Riga. The number of Brothers and Sisters in Christ is spreading. And so often was the case that it was the dire and desperate people in life that responded to Jesus when He was preaching and teaching. And by the work that is being done here is helping them survive. Something I will never forget.*

However I must add that it is not only people who are desperate and dire that respond to the gospel message. On Sunday afternoons at 4 o'clock there is an English language service, which are made up of students, teachers, and a mix of characters and people with life stories that are just simply amazing. There is a brother from an ecclesia in New York who taught English to translators working for the American army in Afghanistan, and now he is living in Riga; a brother from Australia and a sister from Greece, and other local contacts and believers who speak English. One last experience that I wish to share is on Tuesday as we were clearing some rubble

out of the hall and putting it in the skip – an older Russian speaking lady approached me after trying to speak with many other local people who just simply ignored her, she held her hand open to me with a few coins in it – I couldn't quite understand what she wanted so I offered to give her some money as this was what I thought she wanted – she instantly pulled away her hand and tried to communicate with me still, eventually I got the message that she was going blind and she needed someone to count her money for her before she went into the shop. I managed to count it for her in my best Polish which she seemed to understand and replied "God bless you" – she was not from the meeting but she might return just from a simple act of kindness".

In the photos you can see Deb buying building supplies, grouting the new bath; Dennis at work; and Jon clearing up:



We'd like to run the Winter Feeding Scheme from December to March, offering food and warmth most days. Please do consider coming and helping [no language skills are needed] .

We're really grateful for your various expressions of concern for brother Slavik; he's now out of hospital although very thin, and again doing his favourite service for the Lord, which is operating the sound system and powerpoint projector at the **Bible Center**.

SWEDEN

It was an honour this week to visit and baptize A into the Lord Jesus. Again we see the effectiveness of *Bible Basics* used by family members as a basis upon which to teach their friends and relatives the Gospel. You can see *Bible Basics* in the photos [in the email version] playing its role alongside the Bible itself and personal discussion.

PARIS, FRANCE

Just a reminder that we will be holding gatherings with various baptized brothers, sisters and contacts. You'd be most welcome- please contact br Steve Gretton for more information steve.gretton@googlemail.com

ISLAMIC STATE

Our videos about the Islamic State in prophecy are released copyright free and are now on many channels, and have had many thousands of viewers, with significant follow up contact. The latest one is about The Fall of the West, Will Jerusalem be Captured? Will there be an Arab Victory over Israel? See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GldUAmDY4Hw>

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks