

## September 2016 Australia, UK, Latvia, USA

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 3 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/lk3.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

Download the *NEV Bible* with commentary and Bible Companion bookmarks at <http://n-e-v.info/NEVBIBLE.pdf>

### LATVIA

The situation here is much the same as before. The Russian minority continue to be unrecognized- and with the mass exodus of Latvians to Western Europe they are not a minority any more. The older ones continue to have to live in night shelters without medical care unless they pay for it. The food many of our brethren get is from us. Do consider coming out to help cook for them over the Winter period. Over the past few weeks we've been providing food and nappies for sister Ineta's baby lest she lose it to an orphanage; and there are many similar cases. Old brethren are still searching the rubbish bins and streets for glass bottles, for which they get a few pennies. It's no fun having to be out of the night shelters by 8 a.m. and only allowed back in at 8 p.m. , and having to carry your belongings with you all that time. And they can only be in the shelters around 280 days out of 365. The other days are a huge problem and we try to fund some of the older ones to be able to remain in the shelters [which they can do if they pay].

Here's a photo of a blind woman taking her bottles to the bottle totalizer to get a few pennies, you can see her white stick on the left and the red bag she had her bottles in; and sister Ineta at the hall with her baby:



And Cindy and the kids on a cold wet windy day preparing to go visit such contacts:



Let us know if you can come over to cook or support in any way.

### AUSTRALIA

We had a request for 32 of our *NEV Bibles* with commentary by a hotel in Sydney who wanted to put one in each of their rooms. We were pleased to oblige and John Thatcher duly delivered them all and gave the managers a *Bible Basics* for good measure. This makes us wonder whether other hotels could be persuaded likewise... in your areas?



We're holding a Carelinks publicity talk at the *Pine Rivers ecclesia* in **Brisbane** after the Sunday meeting on Sunday 16 October- let Ruth Stibbs know if you'd like to come or for more details [john.ruth.stibbs@gmail.com](mailto:john.ruth.stibbs@gmail.com) We've got all kinds of interested contacts we're following up- groups of refugees in Queensland to one of the few native speakers of Assyrian [Aramaic] in Victoria. Do pray for them all.

## UK

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of ALEX, a Farsi speaking contact who now has a UK passport and is settled in the UK although living very poorly in a very run down inner city area. HE was a Muslim, who was first given a New Testament by an evangelical at Hyde Park Speaker's Corner in London. He then got a complete Farsi Bible. Over the years he has tried to understand the Bible and didn't find standard churches and teachings helpful. He works as a roofer and carpenter and in the evenings he reads his Bible, in his one room. An Iranian brother gave him Farsi *Bible Basics* and it helped him to understand the Bible which he so loves reading. So we made a trip along with another Iranian brother to baptize him:



## USA

Some of those baptized from our outreach are in turn taking the message further. Sister Candice in Texas is distributing *NEV Bibles* to her contacts, brother Robert in Vermont likewise , and brother Jay in Ohio writes with such enthusiasm:

I have passed on some of the bibles and other literature to three people since I last E-mailed you. They were either co-workers or students.

I work at a gas station as an assistant manager and live in a town with a large university and both places give opportunities for evangelizing. I have only recently started talking to students from the university. I haven't found any large response yet, but hopefully something will come of reaching out to students.

A Christadelphian sister from Michigan has volunteered to come help evangelize to students. I am hopeful her assistance will make a difference.

There is also a music and arts festival this coming weekend, so I'm hoping that will also be a good opportunity for spreading the gospel.

God willing, another Christadelphian friend and I will be talking with some people there and hopefully will have some success in spreading God's truth... I haven't had as much of a response as I would like, but I am praying and continually and trying to work on evangelizing more often and more effectively. I keep meeting people that say they are interested in knowing more about the bible, but then say they are "too busy" for regular study. I'm hoping and praying they will eventually have more of a desire.. I am happy about something that is looking better. God willing, it appears I may have some local help spreading the gospel in the near future.

Two Christadelphian sisters from Michigan have expressed interest in helping me evangelize. There is a music and arts festival in my hometown this weekend and one of the sisters is planning on helping me speak to people there about the Gospel. I'm still waiting to hear from the other sister about what dates she is available. Both sisters seem enthusiastic about evangelizing, so I am hopeful and praying things will work out with them. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Can you pass out some literature to people in your area? Let us know if so.

A dear sister raises funds for Carelinks through market stalls, and she shares some ideas for others to do likewise:

If you are like me, you read each *CARELINKS NEWSLETTER* and get really excited about all the valuable work being done.

Perhaps you want to share in these efforts by contributing financially, but maybe you are on a budget and funds are tight, or maybe you, like me, think "I really should help out with this effort....but I'll do it later".

We all have good intentions, but unfortunately too many of us procrastinate and think "when I get a raise, I'll make more and then I can give more", or "when I retire and downsize, I won't have so many expenses and THEN I'll give more" (I'm speaking from personal experience here!). Giving more can always be out there in the future somewhere never NOW when it is needed.

There is something very interesting in *Exodus 36* regarding those Israelites who were asked to donate materials to build the tabernacle. Many gave willingly again and again, but no doubt there were some who had good intentions and planned to do it, but it was put off until tomorrow or next week. Eventually the time came when there was no more need for donations.

Moses announced one day, "Don't bring any more." There had been a window of opportunity to be generous and give, but there was also a day when the opportunity to give no longer existed. Just imagine the procrastinators who finally got around to digging out their pieces of bronze, scarlet cloth or gold jewelry and showed up only to be told, "We have enough, but thank you anyway.", and they took their treasures back to their tents. Every time they saw the Tabernacle they would know in their hearts they had not contributed anything at all to its building! I found that terribly sad and a stark warning to myself that I'd best get busy and do my donating NOW while it is needed. A day will come when I will no longer be here or Jesus will have returned and the opportunity will be gone.

Not everyone may have a lot of cash on hand especially in these difficult economic times, but there ARE ways to raise funds. Here are a few ideas for fundraising which you can do individually or as an ecclesia :

1. Have an individual or group "garage sale", "yard sale" or "rummage sale", whatever it is called in your area, with all proceeds going to Carelinks. The more people who donate items, the bigger the sale and the more money you are likely to raise. Pick a good weekend (near the first of the month is usually considered best), put up lots of signs and, of course, PRAY for the effort, I bet you'll get good results!

2. Have a bake sale "auction" or "silent auction" at the hall with proceeds going to Carelinks ...you just might get someone to pay \$25 for a batch of delicious homemade cookies if they know it is for a good cause. Even ten or fifteen donated items COULD possibly raise a couple of hundred dollars! A similar "auction" could be held for all sorts of donated merchandise. I'll bet

almost everyone has at least one or two nice things sitting around the house or yard that you don't really need or use - a lamp, a framed print, jewelry, a piece of furniture, a beautiful potted plant, etc. Make it into a fun event with refreshments. If it is organized and given with prayers it will be profitable.

**3.** Sell items on Ebay or Craigslist (or by putting ads in your local paper). I know someone who paid for 2 years of college for her child by selling items she picked up at garage sales on Ebay! Vow to donate a portion or all of your sales to Carelinks.

**4.** Setting up a booth at a local flea market is a great option. Almost every community has one or more markets, some weekly and some once a month. Normally you will have to pay booth rent and possibly table rental which cuts into the profits, but the flea market provides the advertising and you get a larger crowd. This could be an even better option if several went together and set up a booth (selling plants, or crafts or collectibles or just nice "junk") with all proceeds going to *Carelinks*.

**5.** If you are blessed with "valuables" such as antique furniture, jewelry or other items of value, decide to sell something (or some things) and donate the proceeds to *CARELINKS*. Don't ever forget, what we've been blessed with isn't really ours, it all belongs to God. We are just custodians of it for a while and are supposed to be good stewards of what He gives us. Trust me, you won't miss things when they are gone and the joy of sharing in the work far outweighs an empty spot on a shelf or on a wall.

So lets all get busy and be creative - there are lots of ways to raise funds and every bit helps!  
Lets share in the work of building the present day "Tabernacle" before it is too late!  
*a Sister in Christ*

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

- For our new brother Alex
- For the contacts in Australia and everywhere
- For meetings with people to whom we can usefully pass out literature
- For all the needy ones in Latvia

**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**