

September 2016 Latvia, Fiji, Ukraine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/2cor34.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

We continue feeding the ecclesia and friends here. On Monday we were delighted to baptize ALEXEI. He is the son of brother Vladimir, a former Red Army officer baptized by brother Maxim earlier. Vladimir and Alexei had not met since Alexei's babyhood, 37 years ago. They met by an amazing Divine coincidence, and Vladimir immediately shared the truth with his son. It was a wonderful moment when Alexei was baptized after Bible class. We studied John 19, the crucifixion, and Vladimir read it with emotion and tears such as we have never heard the account read:



Afterwards, we had the baptism, and Vladimir wrote in the *NEV Bible* which we traditionally present to all newly baptized. It was a wonderful message, rejoicing with his son and saying that his baptism makes him now more than a son, and that they now have the hope of eternity together, and holding fast to our calling is the greatest thing. We just marvel at how the Lord is working amongst people, making connections and reconnections, and giving abundant blessing to those who humble themselves to come to Him in spirit and truth. Here you can see father and son together at the baptism:



Cindy, Ieva, Evia and little David then went off on a mission trip to Eastern Latvia where again the Lord's saving and ever supporting hand was evident. She reports as follows:

We are using a very small car here in Latvia and travelling long distances wouldn't work well with a fully packed car so I went off with Ieva, Evia and David with some trepidation, leaving Duncan and Daniel in **Riga** running things. First stop was sister Valya who was baptized 16 years ago. Really encouraging to see someone so full of the truth, reading her Bible daily and really thrilled to be visited. She is about 3 hours from Riga. We had such a great time with her, reading and breaking bread together, that we were delayed leaving.



Our next stop was to visit and baptize SANTA, who is really 'in the middle of nowhere' right on the Russian border. It's wonderful how the gospel message can reach such remote locations. I had booked a hotel from the internet and drove to where Google maps said it was, only to find an old farm house down a dirt track.

I called the hotelier who then explained how to find his actual location. He met us on the main road so we could follow him - I had no clue where I was going, just following his tail lights in the darkness, farther and farther from the road.

We got to his place, a half derelict building. He had clearly run out of resources for finishing his 'hotel'. With a couple of dogs barking around us, he let us in, there were of course no other guests.

Thankfully the room itself was finished, and we managed to find clean linen in the adjacent room. Ieva and I prayed for safety. I was so glad I had her with me! We all slept together in one room, there was no lock on our door. He slept in another part of the building. All was OK, and morning broke revealing a lovely lake outside, and also how totally isolated this place was.

From there we set off to try to find Santa, who lives in a similarly isolated farmstead. My experience of getting lost in that area the night before now paid off, because Santa lived just the next bus stop along from where we had been.

Santa lives with her elderly grandmother, effectively as a subsistence farmer, in a farmstead far from anywhere much. She had contact with our Latvian sister Ilva, who helped her practically and introduced the Gospel to her when she was in the UK. She accepted the Gospel with a thankful and appreciative heart, but wasn't baptized. She returned to Latvia penniless and made her way back to her old grandmothers, far in the middle of nowhere.

Eastern Latvia is now largely depopulated with most younger people working in Riga or in Western Europe. There are virtually no job prospects in such remote locations.

She is really absolutely sincere. I baptized her in a lake and broke bread with her, gave her some money, and some nappies for her toddler.

She is far from anywhere and with no money let alone a car, transport is a real problem. She would like to move to a larger town and work, but finding childcare, a job and a suitable living arrangement is very hard.

Please pray for this really sincere new sister.

The house she lives in with her grandmother is not much more than a shack, with just a hole in the ground outside for a toilet, no running water, just a well. Living there through the Winter is going to be really difficult, especially since their potato harvest wasn't very good this year.

Photos: The well, from which she has to get all water for her, her toddler and grandmother; and Santa [center]



On the way back to Riga we stopped off in a small town to visit sister Zane whom I baptized last year. We prayed together and the children played together. And so finally back to Riga, really grateful the Lord was with us in the way, and is guiding people to Him.

UKRAINE

We are looking for Bible School speakers for end of January 2017 in **Kiev**, God willing, let us know if you could come and help.

FIJI

One thing we have to respect about brothers John and Guy is the way they as respectable New Zealand businessmen take time out to get out on the streets of this world and take the true Gospel to all nations. Some years ago Guy came to Latvia and participated in the missionary training course we ran, and the effort has not been wasted on our brother. He sent us a wonderful message as follows:

We are in Fiji on a mission trip. We are still alive and kicking. All things working for good as usual.

Changed our way of doing things this time and set up in the town square at a bus stop with the approach of giving Bibles away once having had a good chat to those seeking God's word. This has proved rather profitable with many people coming to know the truth around Biblical Baptism and the promise of the Kingdom on earth.

Not totally sure on the figures but probably given away 100 *Bible Basics*, 300 *NEV Bibles*, 150 Baptism books. Also the **Bible Society** have assisted in distributing for free a large amount of the Chinese *NEV Bibles* as well

When we have found individuals with a bit more capacity for hearing harder truth we have shared about the Devil and other things as they have asked questions.

A few of those that are worth mentioning about are as follows

John had a conversation with the head of the CID (Central Intelligence Division) he is also a minister and he was very humble and actually said that he had been praying for God to open his word more to him

For me a couple of high points was sharing with 3 people who were struggling with feelings of inadequacy and struggling to see that God could or would forgive them for their past

We have planned a Bible study tonight at 7.30 for past and new contacts of the Truth and hope to have about 5 - 20 depending.

God Bless

Guy and John

Please do keep praying for us we see and feel the effects

PRAYER POINTS

- For those baptized this week
- For Santa in her very difficult domestic situation
- For Guy and John and their work in Fiji

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks