

Winter Heating, French Bible School, Haiti September 2010

This Sunday's readings from the Bible Companion include Luke 11, which includes the Lord's prayer. There's a study on this at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk11.mp3>

HAITI

Several have enquired how our brethren there are going. We're pleased to say that the ecclesia is meeting regularly and many continue to study towards baptism. Books and other welfare are sent out there by us regularly, and despite corruption problems at customs, the material is arriving. Brother Charlie Klennert keeps in touch with them regularly and shared the following very spiritual note from one of the brothers who lives outside of Port au Prince:

"How are you doing? I see that time is running to midnight, and I've started to pray; I lifted up you, brother Nick, and the others in my prayer, remembering how when we chatted together online before we said good bye we always made a little prayer. May you be blessed and your family and others of the brothers in Christ. I leave you with these words below, have a nice holy week in the Lord." Then Job answered the LORD and said: I know that you can do everything, And that no purpose of yours can be withheld from you. You asked, Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak ; you said " I will question you, and you shall answer me." (Job 42; 1-4)"

We are delighted to see such a spiritually minded approach. For this is what all our work, both personally and with others, is seeking to develop- the mind of Christ, to the glory of God.

WINTER HEATING

We have started distributing some Winter welfare. Brothers John Aldersley [and Toby Rison from Wanganui, New Zealand have been assisting with Carelinks work in Latvia. They've been distributing thermal underwear which is going to be really useful for the brothers and sisters here. Those who live in the night shelters can't carry much with them in the daytime and can't leave anything there overnight; so lightweight warm clothing is really important for them. Leggings like these will be really useful:



Here's brother Toby distributing some to the African brethren at the refugee center:



John came over last year with his daughter Hannah, and now has brought a young brother Toby with him; here are their reports:

“ It has been great to see again some of the brothers and sisters who I met last year; and to see them still continuing in their faith. And equally a blessing has been to follow the Carelinks letters over the last 11 months or so, showing how the Lord has given increase to the ecclesia in Riga. In my observations, Carelinks has tried to operate with the same spirit as God – giving what we have for the glory of his kingdom. As Jesus promises, if we give; he shall give - pressed down. Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken

together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

And speaking of pressed down, the ecclesial attendance that I remember being about 30 - 40 last year at a special gathering was 68 in our first usual Sunday morning meeting here today! The hall is packed, and the small sink and cooking area are really overwhelmed and quite unsuited to the number of people it has to cater for. Even if one wishes to help, there is no room to stand! It is clear that a bigger venue will be required as soon as possible. What is exciting is to see how our God will provide this need. The natural man sees the obstacles, but we see it as another opportunity for God to show himself strong. This is his work, and he has prospered it, so why would he not also provide the necessary resources?

2Ch 20:17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still and see the salvation of the LORD with you ... Clearly the ecclesia needs a much bigger building to continue ministering to the needs of those who attend, and I am sure that God will extend some of His resources to this need in His way – either through the support of his people or in some other resource of His choosing – either way, God moves.

For us, it is a privilege to be part of this work that God is involved in. I see that God will perform his will to his glory, calling out those for his name – and to be given an opportunity to be part of this is marvellous. May God not choose to raise up stones to perform his will (allusion to Luke 3 v 8), because he can find “no man” (allusion to Is 41 v 28). So, as well as renewing previous friendships, I have seen that there have also been many new faces join the ecclesia.

In the body of Christ, the exhortation is for the members to learn to function as a body. For many, they are babes in Christ and need to “spiritually” learn to crawl, walk, and talk. However Brother Vlad, who is new to the meeting for me, but whom I know of through the newsletters; gives of himself by preparing the meals provided twice a week, and is at the hall, hours before, to prepare and cook food. Also, Brother Bashir – a refugee from Iran, serves also in cooking and cleaning with a joyful servant heart. Sister Nina also assists and does much of the washing up and hall cleaning, when she was younger she was involved in the underground church in the USSR and had typed out the Schofield Bible reference notes on a typewriter with carbon paper, and distributed them secretly. Now she rejoices in the real Christ.

Brother John Aldersley

Brother Toby writes:

God is working here in Latvia. I have been amazed more and more each day the way He has orchestrated the lives of the men and women I have been blessed to have met he truly is in control. I have enjoyed being able to help my fellow brother John from new zealand share the gospel with the refugees from many different countries here in Latvia. Their enthusiasm and joyous spirits have been an uplifting and marvellous experience considering the trials and testing times they have had and are still facing. The remarkable way they come together reminds me of the scripture Psalm 133v1-3 “behold how good it is when brethren dwell together in unity.....for there the lord commands blessing”. I have also been privileged to meet sister Sonia from Lyons, France who has been our faithful translator over the past week as many of

the men speak French . Her willingness to use her time to support Carelinks has been a great help; her patience with us has also been commendable. I know in my own heart that this has truly been another building block in my faith and I am thankful to be able to of helped share in the wonderful works Carelinks are doing here . This would not of been possible without the Lord's blessing, without the love and support from my spiritual family back home and the grace and hospitality from the Heaster family. Their work being the glue that has held this whole thing together. Thank you and God bless. Brother Toby Rison, Wanganui, NZ

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks