

## April 2015 France, Australia, Ukraine, PDF Bible

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 12 and there is an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/jn12.mp3> You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html>

### UKRAINE

Please continue to pray for brother Maxim and his problems in obtaining documents; and for the situation in Ukraine, where quite apart from the violence, the economic collapse is seriously impacting so many brothers and sisters. We're planning the *Summer Bible School* and are looking for a speaker or two- do let us know if you can come.

### PDF Bible

Brother Robert has produced a really useful PDF file of the *NEV Bible with commentary*, and with many bookmarks- including to all the Bible Companion readings. Also, at the end of each chapter, there's a coloured section you can click on to take you to the next Bible Companion reading; and if you click on the chapter heading, you are taken to deeper commentary on the chapter. It's really worth having- you can download it from <http://n-e-v.info/NEVBIBLE.pdf>

### FRANCE

We reported last year the baptism of brother Kingsley, an African immigrant in Paris, and Carelinks readers may recall we've reported other visits to baptize other contacts he has made within the African community in the Paris area. Jon & Deb and Cardia from Erith along with Duncan made a visit to this group this last weekend. There are a huge number of African and other immigrants in Paris, many living in poverty. Our brethren explained that one reason for this is that people arrive from Africa and the Middle East, seeking asylum. When their case is turned down, they are not deported but simply left in a limbo situation- they have no recourse to public funds, and if they have or can obtain travel documents, they can fund their own ticket back home. But many remain, not having documents and / or funds to return home. There are now a huge number of such people in France, living uncertain lives in great poverty. Many of them have come from terrible situations but were unable to provide concrete evidence of this to the asylum authorities. Western Europe is now severely limiting the number of asylum seekers they accept. Last Summer we baptized sister Fatmata. She is in exactly this situation. She is from Sierra Leone, lost both her parents in the civil war there, and her brother died from ebola. She has no extended family to fall back on, and is just left penniless on the streets of Paris. She sings Christian songs to herself and constantly reads her *NEV Bible*. Here she is outside the garage she is currently living in, holding her bag containing her very few belongings, although we understand a Red Cross shelter is taking her in. We will continue providing assistance as best we can; although a more joyful sister in Christ would be hard to imagine:



It could be argued that such desperate people will easily turn to us in hope of some benefit. But on the other hand, "to the poor the Gospel is preached". Brother Kingsley himself lives in poverty up 6 flights of stairs in literally one small room, with his sister wife and two young children; but he is not in that limbo situation. All we can do is to fully preach the Gospel and to ensure folks properly understand it and are committing themselves to it in baptism. We do not believe that

giving bank notes to such desperate folks is always the solution, and the local brethren agreed with this. The best thing to do is to preach the Gospel to them and back it up with some food and clothing- the approach that has worked in Riga with such success. This was the example of the Lord Himself in the feeding miracles; the relief of human need and hunger was to back up the preaching of the Gospel. Kingsley is an excellent teacher of the Truth and knows the Bible with greater than average fluency. You can view a video we took of our brother explaining why he doesn't believe in the Trinity, in English at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqp8iEWA4TQ> and in French at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P44qWU3xsgE>

You can see for yourself our brother's competence as a preacher and teacher. We baptized TIMOTHY and STEVEN and spent a wonderful time together in Bible study and breaking bread:



Steven's wife lives in England with her mother; Steven hopes to rejoin her soon. He currently works in McDonalds in Melun. They were Jehovah's Witnesses, and Steve's wife still is, although she is now convinced of the true Gospel. She lives with her mother who is very dominant ; over recent weeks she stopped attending the Kingdom Hall, and now has the elders visiting her and pressuring her. Please pray for her, her name is Millicent. Jon and Cardia were able to share their experience of having a JW background and could relate to the situation because their mother still is a JW. God is clearly at work, giving so many the chance of the Truth. It is indeed humbling to be part of that work, and we ask you to join in.

Cardia, Jon & Deb brought over whole boxes of literature- *Bible Basics*, in English and French, and also *NEV Bibles* in English & French. This literature is being put to good use, and the word is spreading to folks in Paris who have come literally from every nation under Heaven:



This literature was provided by the *Christadelphian Advancement Trust*, who provide literature for our work in over 70 languages. Please do consider financially supporting them, via cheques made out to them and sent to their treasurer c/o 32 Wingfield Rd., Lower Knowle, Bristol BS3 5EH United Kingdom

Kingsley now has a group of various ones whom we have baptized and he would like to have a meeting place where he could meet with them and also back up his message with basic provision of food. We visited a location which Kingsley could use for the program- a warehouse on the banks of the Seine in Melun, the rooms of which are used by various African groups:



We're still negotiating how much it would cost to fund the rental and food [Government owned

buildings can't be rented for religious purposes in France]; initially we'd like to see this run for a few weeks or months and then assess where we are at. We also would like to provide basic clothing. So here's what you can do:

- Pray for this effort, which is effectively the first regularly meeting ecclesia in Paris
- Consider driving there taking clothing and food
- Consider visiting this group and / or giving a talk there [in English is fine]
- Register your interest for coming over to help prepare food

## AUSTRALIA

Bro. Phil & Sis Miriam Worsnop report as follows about an amazing initiative with African immigrants in Australia.

"Who could have foreseen the great opportunities that could arise via the United Nations and the Government of a western country, for a way that Brothers & Sisters in Christ who live in a safe country with a social security government, can take up the challenge to help spread the Gospel of Christ and the message of the return of Christ to this earth, into a country that is unsafe, where people believe that God is their only hope for life and they will not be killed by others, by sickness, or having to live in a refugee camp. This is the opportunity that the Brethren in Christ now have in Australia, to take the Truth of God word into South Sudan without leaving the comforts of Australia. All the Australian major cities & close regional cities now have a growing community of people who have come into Australia from approx. 2005 as United Nations refugees. These communities have now grown both from children born in Australia or other family members being sponsored. All of these people have become or will become Australian citizens. Ipswich, Queensland is one of these regional cities which has a very large and growing community who have come from South Sudan as well as other African countries.

Now to tell you the story of our journey so far, and it is only our Heavenly Father who knows what is ahead for these people who have been brought into our lives. In October-November 2011 the Ipswich Ecclesia conducted it's "*Read the Bible Seminars*". A South Sudanese lady received a flyer in her letter box and she asked her friend and her husband to attend the Read the Bible Course. Unfortunately course notes and presentation were done at a level that attendees who had English as a 2nd language could not understand. With the help of Bro Ray Wheeler and ourselves, personal contact continued with these ladies. We began using the book "*Speaking about Jesus*" and *NEV Bibles* as a basis, and from that time developed friendship trust acceptance as family within their families, helping with DIY stuff (do it yourself)- understanding of cultures etc . During this time (2012) for 1 year their 'pastor' John was observing us working and helping these families. Then, Dec 2013 he made a special visit to us, to ask, "will you help to teach me to read the Bible". John is their pastor and he returned for a visit to South Sudan in November 2014 until January 2015

John has now done the *Bible Basics* course, for which we issued him a certificate, and from this his English level has developed and his reading is becoming very fluent. Now he quickly identifies the words he does not know. We have progressed onto doing "*The Real Christ*" (adapted slightly for 2nd language learners) and we also give a certificate for completing the course. From John's advertising of the *Bible Basics* course, 4 more of their communities 'teachers' have started doing the same course. Regular Sunday afternoons & Monday evenings classes have developed. (Not all the Bible is available in their language, Dinka, and one of the great things that has arisen from contact with John is that he has now translated parts of the Old Testament into Dinka- so God's own word is now progressing into new languages for the first time, thanks to this contact).

This small group are elders in their community and they all have challenges with eye sight problems. We have been blessed to be able to purchase Giant Print Bibles either NKJV or NIV marginal reference & small concordances & maps at very low cost. For anyone who has OK eye sight they use an *NEV Bible*.

Photos: *Sunday afternoon*: At same time as children lessons, Bro Ray Wheeler helps Elizabeth read her course notes ( Bible Course notes that Auckland NZ use for their 2nd language Bible Students, thanks to Bro Neil Todd)



*Sunday & Monday Evenings*: Using the home (garage) Simon & Eliz. plus 3 other ladies who live in same area



#### **Our Group Program at present:**

Sunday Evenings - Speaking About Jesus Book for beginners /or a Bible Basic lesson. Everyone is at a different level. And done as one-on-one

Monday Evening Group - English Class using a parable of Jesus

We would appreciate hearing from any Brother or Sister who speaks Dinka Bor, who would be willing to help our contacts via email or Facebook to please contact us. We ask for prayers that our Heavenly Father will give this endeavour His Blessings both for the ones learning and also for the individual Brothers & Sisters who have chosen to help".

Photos: New immigrants and Brother Phil working to renovate a garage to use it for the *Bible Basics* seminars; Brother Neil Todd patiently explaining and reading with a South Sudanese contact



The literature they have been using [*Bible Basics*, the '*Speaking about Jesus*' English learning course, the *NEV Bible*, *The Real Christ* etc.] has been produced by Carelinks and is available to those likewise wishing to preach the Gospel to the poor. Just get in touch with us if you would like copies or would like to sponsor copies.

Prayer points:

- For the development of the group of believers in the Paris region
- For a meeting place
- For Millicent and others pressured by JW's
- For sister Fatmata and others like her who are on the street with no family
- For the South Sudanese group in Australia
- For brother Maxim and the situation in Ukraine

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