

April 2018 Australia, Italy, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include John 7, and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/jn7.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://christadelphia.net/audio.htm> 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>

ITALY

The African migrants arriving in Italy have all passed through Libya, where most of them are tortured or raped by the Arab gangs of people traffickers, and then risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean- to arrive on the beaches of Italy traumatized and often desperately seeking to serve the God they realize somehow saved them. It is really such a joy to meet these dear people and explain the Gospel to them. Those we baptize have intuitively seen that it all makes wonderful sense. As we've reported previously, and as is also reported in the media, the traffickers often torture the migrants for the contact details of their relatives, and then photograph them whilst under torture and send those pictures to the relatives, demanding money for their release. FESTUS and KEITI were two such young men. Keiti had the photos the traffickers had sent to his wife, because she had sent them to him. And he had them on his phone. At the baptism service on the cold and windswept beach, Keiti rejoiced in the idea that the Lord Jesus knows his sufferings and is our representative. He exemplified his point by showing us the pictures:



He is a very tall man, and you can see him here second from the right, shackled naked and malnourished along with three of his relatives:



He also had on his phone the pictures of other Africans being tortured and with a gun at their heads, and a picture of them being forced to shift the dead bodies of those who were killed because they couldn't persuade anyone to send money- these were all photos taken and sent by the traffickers to the families, demanding money for their release:



His wife managed to send the money to the traffickers. He has never seen the other relatives again and is unsure if they are dead or alive, or whether they drowned during the sea crossing. It was with a great sense of unworthiness that we baptized these traumatized men. It seemed intuitively clear to them, and so very attractive to them, that the Lord Jesus was our

representative and truly knows our sufferings as no other man can; and that baptism into His death and resurrection (in the very sea they had crossed) was the absolutely appropriate sign of saying "Yes" to the hand of God which has clearly been at work in their salvation so far in their lives:



When we talked about the prisoner being set free in Christ, those words and metaphors were surely appreciated in a very intimate way by brother Keiti. The post traumatic stress issues are major, and the Government gives no help with these at all for these dear folks. Please pray for them.

Brother Joseph really does so much in reaching out to these dear folks and teaching them the true Gospel. For years he and his wife have been trying to have a baby using expensive IVF but gave up. We did appeal for prayer, and once they gave up with the IVF... through the power of prayer, a healthy baby boy was born to them, now 6 months old. Here he is, present at our breaking of bread in their apartment:



The new anti-immigrant government in Italy has shut many of the camps. The migrants are therefore on the streets, really struggling to exist. Inevitably many turn to crime and prostitution. Our feeding scheme will therefore focus on taking food to where they are sleeping, in playgrounds and on the railway sidings. We have given welfare to our brethren on this trip as best we could. Thank you for enabling this. Lord willing we'll be continuing the work over the next while with several trips planned, so do please keep supporting. And you are welcome to come work with us in Italy, we have trips planned in May, July, September / October, Lord willing.

AUSTRALIA

Whilst near the beach in Italy, a call came through from Mike & Betty in **Bundaberg** (Queensland, Australia); they were also on a beach there- baptizing COLIN, a man to whom they had previously given *Bible Basics* and an *NEV Bible* at Christmas. It was wonderful how the hand of providence was at work in these baptisms, on beaches the other side of the world, at the same time. Mike & Betty's success ought to set us all thinking... as to whom we could give a Bible and *Bible Basics* and then discuss baptism with them:

"There is a celebration in Heaven today (12 April 2018) after our new brother "Wally" (Colin) was baptised at Bargara, Queensland, Australia. Wally, as he prefers to be called, has been helping us upgrade our boat which gave us opportunity to share our hope in Jesus. We gave him a *Bible Basics* and *NEV Bible* which he has been trying to read and understand but still requires the milk of the word at this stage. After confessing his need for Jesus to be his Saviour yesterday, this morning he said he felt compelled to be baptised. It seemed fitting that as the sun set, Wally was being baptised, to emerge into a new day and life in the Lord. He is 58 years old and lives on his own and dearly needs our prayers of support and encouragement, and that our Father through His spirit will give him hope and strengthen his faith to overcome his feelings of hopelessness. Love in the Lord,

Michael and Betty Flaherty"



UK

Brother Peter Marsella (ex-Huddersfield, UK) reports:

"Enjoyed some eye opening time earlier this week with Duncan and Carelinks in Croydon giving out Bibles on the streets of central Croydon. There was a homeless guy who had made a little cross out of bits of string and hung it over where he puts his sleeping bag. We gave him a **NEV New Testament** and he sat there reading it as the sun went down. There is "still time for hope" for him. Please spread that Gospel message of Hope to everyone you know and meet, including those who have lost their faith, and feel free to share / like our FB page - <https://www.facebook.com/stilltimeforhope/> (in collaboration with Carelinks)".



Brother Peter's website is www.stilltimeforhope.com , well worth sharing around.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For those with post traumatic stress but no access to any human help
- For the now homeless brethren in Italy
- For all of us to take more initiative and be braver to introduce the Gospel to people

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks