

April 2018 Macedonia, Canada

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Philippians 1 and 2, and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/phil12.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>

MACEDONIA

We have been preaching in this poor, mountainous area of the former Yugoslavia since the break up of Yugoslavia and Tito's Communist regime in the 1990s. The late (great) brother Lambe Pambukovski was our first convert, and he translated *Bible Basics* to Macedonian. The fruit of his labour continues to this day, and thanks to your donations we continue distributing the hard copies to applicants from Macedonia. High up in a Communist era apartment block with a lift that doesn't work, in a concrete jungle area of Skopje, lives MARITSA, a 28 year old single mum of two. She works cleaning houses and premises, and seriously struggles to pay the rent on her tiny apartment, sparsely furnished with a large bed and once painfully bright pink wardrobe. She has no family to support her, and further, has her 20 year old cousin living with her, Renata. Renata's father died long ago and her mother recently died. She has little education. She helps care for the children whilst Maritsa goes out to work as she can. It's a rather dumb existence, struggling for every bit of food and dreading the arrival of every heating or electric bill in the mail box on the ground floor of the apartment block, especially in the Winter. She asks for prayers to get a better and more stable job.

Most people just cough and hack their way through this kind of life, taking each day as it comes, thankful for small mercies. But Maritsa was different, she searched for meaning, and soon came to find the Macedonian Orthodox church totally lacking in serious answers. She got a Bible, and began reading it. She loved the Psalms, and is quite unashamed of her faith, reading her favourite Psalms to people and talking to others about her understandings. It's wonderful when people begin to actually engage with the text of scripture for the first time, and perceive those ancient, inspired words speaking to us in secular life today. She laments the disinterest of most people in truly reading the Bible, being either atheists or content to go through a few rituals occasionally in the Orthodox church. And that indeed is how Macedonian society is, for the most part.

Brother Kicho, baptized some years ago, introduced her to *Bible Basics*- and then the lights started to go on, with the happy result that along with brother Kicho we were able to visit her and baptize her.

Here she is with her Macedonian Bible, English *NEV Bible* and Macedonian *Bible Basics* (the only books of any kind they possess); and their bed with Renata sitting on it:



We spoke at length to poor Renata, who seems to have about nothing going for her in this hard

world. She has no education and there is soaring unemployment in Macedonia. She is thankful to sleep on the floor at Maritsa's place and help her raise the children, and not be on the street. She paid rapt attention to our explanations, but seems to lack the faith that she could be anyone special to anyone, including God. She will continue studying *Bible Basics*, and please pray she says "yes" to His love in His Son. And do pray for this family unit as they so struggle to make ends meet. We gave welfare to them but probably will need to provide some more in due course Lord willing.

We'd like to remind you that brother Marcus and others are mailing out *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics* all over the world to brethren & sisters and contacts, and postage rates from the UK increased last week. This work is really getting the Gospel into all the world, and spiritually sustaining the many individuals and small groups who have arisen in the poorer world. Please do continue to pray and donate as you can for this. Here's a photo recently sent to us of a small ecclesia in rural Kenya who meet to read and explain the Bible from *Bible Basics* under a tree as they have no hall:



CANADA

Brother Jim Barton has established Carelinks Canada, and he and his team are mailing *Bible Basics* and *NEV Bibles* to contacts throughout Canada. They're holding a conference God willing all day Saturday June 9th from 10am to 4pm at the Copetown Community Hall in Dundas, Ontario. For maps and details: <http://copetowncommunitycentre.com> . A light lunch will be provided.

Lord willing, we will write hand written letters to the various contacts throughout Canada, and there will be talks from brothers Jesse Andrews (about Riga), Jim Barton, Joe Badlu (about the Ukraine), Steve Gretton, Duncan Heaster, Jason Kominek (baptized as a result of Carelinks work and now actively preaching in Ohio, USA), Peter Ventresca (about the work in Italy), Martin Webster (about the Bible School movement in Eastern Europe) and sister Arina Ligay (about her visit to Latvia). Brothers Rick Hill and Peter Wisniowski will chair the meetings.

For more information, please contact brother Jim Barton, email ccjimbarton@gmail.com

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks

PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For Renata to accept the Lord Jesus in baptism
- For sister Maritsa to get a better and more stable job
- For the work of Carelinks in Canada