

August 2018 Italy, Mayotte, USA, Canada, Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Mark 14 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mk14.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>

Helps for the Bible Companion readings this week:

Jeremiah: PDF <http://n-e-v.info/JeremiahNEVCommentary.pdf>

1 Corinthians: PDF <http://n-e-v.info/NEV1CorinthiansCommentary.pdf>

ITALY

For over a year now we've been sending lots of *Bible Basics* and *NEV Bibles* to various African contacts in a mountainous area of Italy. They eventually responded and we were able to spend a wonderful time with them recently. We might add that to send a case of 12 *NEV Bibles* to Italy costs 40 pounds, quite apart from the cost of the Bibles. And we've sent several boxes. Please do continue supporting us so Marcus and others can keep on sending the books out there and to many others. They are the usual collection of Africans in Italy, some long settled there with their documents in order and established employment, others in the camps or now on the street now their camps closed, having gone through rape and all manner of abuse in Libya and the Sahara desert, with the usual stories of seeing people drowning around them on the sea crossing. But these stories can too easily become "the same old". They are awful, these people went through awful things, things which no human being should go through, and struggle with the temptations which arise from trying to survive in an alien environment with no employment. With no help from the Government, for the most part. They can't be deported, but they aren't welcome. It's little wonder that the true Gospel has such an appeal.

The Africans took their baptisms very seriously and wanted it done in the open air. But the sea was very far, and so there were quite some logistic issues in gathering together the group and taking them to a suitable river. A minibus was rented, which ended up being a huge coach. But it picked up around 20 of our folks, and journeyed as near as possible to the baptism location. In scenes more reminiscent of the African bush than Europe, our group forded a shallow river to get to the deeper river, which was very fast flowing with quite a risk of sweeping some of them away



So it took three of us to baptize them:

RICHARD, JOHN, BLESSING, FLORENCE, IGBINEDION, OSATO, SUCCESS, GODSPower, QUEEN, COURAGE, EFE, BENJAMIN, LOVETTE, CHARITY, EJILI and EMMANUEL.



You'll notice some changed their names to English names, or translated their African names to English, whilst others retain their African names. We then forded the river back to shore with them singing loudly and very happy. We then prayed with each of them individually [as well as collectively]. Who could doubt from those private chats and prayers that these were men and women who through much suffering had come to the Lord Jesus in spirit and truth. All the fruit of lots of phone calls, messages, their browsing of websites and reading the Bible with the commentary and *Bible Basics*, emails, answering questions... and an old man on his knees in a South London suburb in the UK wrapping up endless parcels of literature, sent out with your donations paying the hefty postal bill. The baptism talk about crossing the Red Sea as a type of baptism, crossing the desert sustained by God, and finally reaching the real promised land [which they all now know is not Italy or Europe]... had so much meaning for those who had crossed the Sahara, seeing people falling off the trucks or crushed beneath the bodies packed on, or randomly thrown off and left to die in the desert if a tyre got flat and the traffickers wanted less weight...

They had already been given Bibles, but those who had good contacts they promised to persuade of God's truth were given another copy. For we emphasized that part of our calling is in order to share the Gospel with others:



Some are very poor, living on the street. Being at the river, they took the chance to have a wash after the baptisms- not a great idea when done just upstream of some white Italians relaxing by the riverside:



It was hard packing them all back onto the bus / coach to take them back to their hard lives in low life suburbs or on the streets of hostile, racist cities:



You can see a video of it all at <https://youtu.be/tr0sRIROmM4>

Please do pray for them and for our wisdom in the great work of pastoral follow up.

MAYOTTE

We continue chatting to the group there most days. As described in detail in last week's message, they are perhaps one of the most challenging cases of pastoral and practical help we have encountered in recent times. Stuck on a tiny island where food is so expensive and resources of all kinds are at a premium, suffering from overt racism from the local islanders, only occasional casual work, no state support, and no way off the island. Please do very much pray for them. They have got permission from the local mosque for us to send humanitarian packages to them c/o the mosque. Whether or not they will arrive in such a remote place, and quite how long it will take... is all in God's hands.

If you'd like to help, let us know. Perhaps you could make up packages of soap, toothpaste, healthy food bars etc. and send to them. Obviously without any Christian stickers or logos on the packaging.

So here's what you can do, in addition firstly to praying for them:

- Financial donations

- Sending aid packages
- If you know French you could call the group, just get in touch with us

USA

There are lots of *Bible Basics* resources at www.biblebasicsonline.com including audio talks on each chapter of the book. We were pleasantly surprised to hear of the baptism of PAUL after making use of these talks and giving a good confession of his faith at the *Schooley's Mountain NJ ecclesia*.

Here's the happy scene of the baptism:



CANADA

Brother George is still regularly meeting up with folks at the Hamilton old bus station and offering them *NEV New Testaments*:



Another contact whom brother Jim Barton mailed a Bible to is reading it, along with the commentary, to the residents of a care facility in Scarborough, ONT. He also has *Bible Basics* and appears to have studied and agrees with the material, although he doesn't feel a need to be baptized again. He writes: "*I am reading the gospel of John to the group starting with the first chapter also i read the commentary at the bottom of the page .after this i will be starting on the book of Romans .this is very helpful in the understanding of the Bible.this evening we had 14 people in the group plus myself.mostly all the people in the group are 75 years or older as a result of this their eyesight is not the best for reading small print however with their glasses on they are able to read the print of the Bible. this Bible is very helpful to the Bible group, i also have the book Bible Basics which is very helpful to have at hand to answer any questions that the people might have about the Bible,.we are all very happy and pleased to read and study the Bible thank you so much*"

AUSTRALIA

Br Phil & Sis Miri Worsnop are planning a 3 day campaign distributing our literature and supporting the large Congolese family we've been baptizing bit by bit over the last few years, as reported on Carelinks messages. They are holding regular meetings with them on Sundays and singing hymns in Swahili.

The campaign will be based around a stand at the *Goodna Jacaranda Festival* in **Queensland...**
GW October 26 -28 Friday from 4 PM to 10 PM Saturday 10 AM to 10 PM, Sunday 8a.m. to 2 PM.

Miri writes about their distribution of *NEV Bibles*

"Fridays I go to an African sewing group, also at a Goodna neighbourhood community centre. This has been good for distributing the NEV Bibles. We also have sister Katie here in Ipswich who goes to the homeless park Mondays and Wednesday. She has been doing Bible reading

mornings there on these days. Katie said she always has at least one who loves to sit and listen to her reading. She always asks 'If I give you a free Bible, will you read it..?! She has had about 15 who took NT Bibles'.

So do be in touch with them if you'd like to be part of this outreach.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For all the outreach going on in the west
- For the dear brethren on the islet of Mayotte
- For those recently baptized
- For real spiritual transformation in the hearts and lives of us all, to His glory

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks