

August 2018 UK, Ukraine, Canada, Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Corinthians 7 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/1cor7.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: PDF

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

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

UKRAINE

A wonderful trip to Ukraine resulted in the baptism of SERGEJ and his grandmother LIDIA. Sergej had gone from being a trainee Orthodox priest to the JW's... and then to searching the Bible independently, at which point he came upon us online. He has carefully studied all our material and is thoroughly persuaded of all our doctrinal points. The result of all this is that he has been rejected by his family and come very close to his grandmother; and he has shared all he learned with her. He has little money and all he has really is his phone. He goes to where there is free WIFI and downloads our material and then plays it back to his grandmother. This is the way things are done in this digital age.

The baptism of Lidia is really the story of an incredible woman. Having worked all her life on the **Russian** railways, but now living in Ukraine, she doesn't receive her pension. She is 83 and in poor health. She is in an awful situation, living in a high rise block comprised of single rooms with a toilet on each floor; and no lift. All she has is her bed and a few clothes. The walls are damp, and she is bedridden much of her time, and uses the can at her bedside which you can see to urinate in- rather than shuffling along the corridor to the common toilet. She has no lock on her door as she has nothing to steal. Her grandson brings her food, she has no means of cooking for herself nor ability or money to get out and buy food. It is awful to have worked all your life and then be stuck in a situation like this, trapped up several flights of stairs, unable to really care for herself... because of a political situation which is totally not her personal fault. But she is very mentally alert and has followed her grandson's spiritual journey with keen interest. She is very spiritually minded.



So having learned the true Gospel from Sergej, she decided that she wanted to be baptized. She has no running water in her room and there is no bath tub in the block. So she made what for her was a brave missionary journey to baptism in our hotel room in central Odessa. She had not been off the floor she lives on for some years and she has major heart problems. The first thing was that she wanted to wear a head covering for the journey and the service; and Sergej put this on for her:



Next was the painfully slow journey down the stairs [she had to be pretty much carried back up]; and thence to the taxi we arranged. She had a pleasant smile and was so determined to do the baptism:



We finally arrived at the hotel, with brother Sergej Chernysh being a great help all through; he's now living in Odessa, and along with new brother Sergej and Lidia plans to meet with them regularly to break bread.



The hotel had a lift which we used- the first time Lidia had been in a lift for a long time.



We had lengthy discussions and brother Sergej Ch. and Duncan both gave a baptismal talk. Lidia answered and asked questions and offered extra comments. She has a very sharp mind despite her failed health:



We were all concerned she might have a heart attack during the baptism, but with great difficulty we got her into the bath and achieved baptism by immersion as she so wished. She was so very happy:



She recited the Lord's prayer and encouraged us in our work of taking the Gospel to others. We then had a very emotional breaking of bread in the hotel room. She particularly had asked to do this, and so we had a silver cup and made it as memorable as possible. Of such is the Kingdom of God. The poor in this world, truly rich in faith.



By the time we had finished she was exhausted and we really feared she might pass out, as you can see from the photo. With great difficulty we got her out of the hotel and into the chartered vehicle so we could take her back home:



Please do pray for this lovely brother and the incredible sister with that Mona Lisa smile from the joy of being now secure in Christ. She has hardly any clothes, nothing at all in this world. We provided what help we could..



We made a video of it all, although it's in Russian you will enter into the spirit of everything: <https://youtu.be/CWkkgMsnVu4> And specifically that wonderful breaking of bread [although in Russian only] at <https://youtu.be/4Y0RDsTr3yA>

UK

On about their last day in the UK before returning to live in **Latvia** for a while, Duncan & Cindy were able to baptize an Iranian contact MOHAMMED, and have put him in touch with a local ecclesia. He is more fruit of the large amount of material we have in Farsi language at www.carelinks.net/fa

CANADA

Brother George continues to distribute *NEV Bibles* at the Hamilton bus station and is getting quite some interest. He's giving the folks a reading planner for the *NEV Bible* developed by Br Jim Barton; and succeeding in getting God's word into the hands of people, including young people like the one in this week's photo. Due to the kindness of a donor, the New Testaments are being reprinted. They have our commentary and reduced *Bible Basics* at the back. Let us know if you'd like some. Donations toward the postage would be appreciated.



AUSTRALIA

Phil & 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. 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...** God Willing, dates are *October 26 -28 Friday* from 4 PM to 10 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 10 PM, *Sunday* 8 AM to 2 PM. Contact them to lend a hand mworsnop53@optusnet.com.au

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For sister Lidia in her old age and poverty
- For Phil & Miri's campaign in Queensland, Australia

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks