

August 2019 Australia, Italy, Testers

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Mark 5 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mk5.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:

2 Samuel <http://n-e-v.info/2samcomm.pdf>

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

Mark <http://n-e-v.info/NEVMarkCommentary.pdf>

A reminder of the *Carelinks Australia* conference next Sunday 11th August at *Pine Rivers ecclesia* in **Brisbane**

ITALY

Around this time last year we baptized a number of Africans in northern Italy. Now the camps are closed down by the right wing government, the Africans are living wherever they can. We'd like to charter a large bus to pick them up and bring them together for some baptisms and fellowship at the place we used before on the river Po. The cost of that and gathering would be around 300 Euro; please prayerfully support and donate as you can.

AUSTRALIA

We're delighted to report a lot of activity and response to the Gospel. The *2019 Creation Calendars* were distributed to some Australian prisons last year, and a Mexican woman called NORMA received one from the prison chaplain for Christmas. We've published some of her earlier letters on previous messages. She had previously attended a church and was struck by the list of doctrines at the back of the calendar. She noted the offer of a free *NEV Bible* and applied for one, which she read. She was excited by the reduced version of *Bible Basics* at the back, and so applied for the full book. John Thatcher sent her all she asked for, and she became deeply persuaded of these truths and of her need for a personal connection with Jesus which she had not previously had. She is the first to admit she had done some pretty bad things. She truly believed she would burn in hell for ever for them and was so truly relieved to realize hell is the grave. She had also had doubts as to the truth of her previous ideas that the devil was responsible for her sins. She was thrilled to study deeper about this and is now telling all her "cellies" [cell mates] that they're not going to burn for ever in hell, and the devil isn't controlling them and they need to take responsibility for their own sins. She's truly repentant and were able to help her to baptism and true commitment to Christ in that dark place. No photos allowed of course, but here we are outside the prison:



This is a direct fruit of all Marcus's work with the calendars and those who distribute them in prisons and elsewhere. Most encouraging for him. You can see the *2020 Creation Calendar* at www.carelinks.net/docs/2020-creation-calendar.pdf and can order them from brother Marcus. Norma's mother came over from **Mexico** to visit her daughter, who shared with

her about her new faith; and so we have given her a Spanish Bible Basics which she's now taken back to Mexico. And so the Gospel spreads. John and others hope to regularly visit our sister and other such contacts.

Somewhat north of Sydney is Lake Tuggerah, and on the shores of that lake is a group of sheds and caravans inhabited by various folks who've dropped out of society for whatever reason. The smell of dope fills the air and it's tragic to see little children running around with their mothers screaming expletives at them clearly "under the influence". But there lives a man who was once raised in a Sunday School. After a hard life and taking consequences for it, he returned to his faith and desired to be baptized. So it was with joy that we baptized GRAHAM who was so truly "ready" for commitment to the Lord Jesus, in the lake about 50 meters from the caravan where he lives with his partner and their three children. The baptism was just so peaceful and you can see from the video how deeply affected he was by it:

<https://youtu.be/mblmHuqS-rE>

He's very prayerful and now devoted to the Lord, and He works for His people. They received news from the Housing Commission the day after the baptism- that they have a house being prepared for them, now being redecorated by the Government, and they can move in within 2 weeks. How's that for God working in the lives of His people. Let's pray his partner likewise decides for the Lord Jesus.



So many people are spiritual and want to be spiritual, but for various reasons have been deeply put off the things of God and the Lord Jesus by what they perceive as "religion" and their bad experiences with church life. We are offering people the opportunity to learn of Him directly and be baptized into Him, whilst encouraging them to get back involved with church if, as and when they come to be ready for that or find that helpful in their local context. But the internet, when used rightly, is a wonderful way of enabling folks to have fellowship, Bible study and breaking of bread as and when they can.

In Queensland, Mike Flaherty and Duncan drove up north of Brisbane to meet another lovely man, ZANE, who likewise had been raised in a Sunday School many years ago; and again, what a lovely, spiritual, humble man now wanting to make that all important connection with the Lord Jesus. We baptized him in a jacuzzi pool, see the video at

<https://youtu.be/C4chEAX332U>

And what true joy there was in the face of this dear man afterwards:



TESTERS NEEDED

We are moving toward releasing the beta version of the Bible app. It needs lots of people to download it and test it, in order to reveal all the bugs which must surely be there. Let us know if you can help.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For the plans in Italy
- For the continued response to the Gospel in the western world

- For the Bible app which is now coming closer to release

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks