

December 2015 Belgium, Germany, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Peter 3-5 and there is an MP3 file about these chapters at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1pet345.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

BELGIUM and GERMANY

There have been many baptisms in Belgium over the years, and we were pleased to visit Belgium again and participate in the baptisms of MAJID, MEHDI, DAWOOD, BEHROOZ and HADI. There is so much work to be done in pastorally caring for all these new converts. We spoke to them about how to pray- "teach us to pray", was literally their request. Whilst they were all used to praying in Islam, Christian prayer is of a different spirit altogether, a dialogue with the Father and Son, and certainly not a recitation of words and phrases into which no personal meaning has been attached. Striving for a sense of God's real presence, rather than mere submission to insha Allah, is quite a new concept for the converts. We likewise taught them how to break bread, alone if necessary, and fielded many questions. One of their questions was how can a believer be a city set on a hill which cannot be hid, if we are surrounded by ISIS or other radical Islamists who will murder Christian converts. '*Well, witness quietly to your faith*' was not an acceptable answer- because the Bible text says that a believer cannot be hid. And so we came to the conclusion which is true for us all- that we cannot be hid in society, if we have truly believed. Whatever the consequence.

If you'd like to make a visit to teach folks how to pray, break bread, enjoy reading the Bible- do get in touch. There is so much work to do. We gathered together with these brethren at a hotel where there was appropriate privacy and we could cook for ourselves- and where our brethren decided to practice their new freedoms by trying pork sausages for the first time in their lives!



In Germany, we visited contacts in a refugee camp set up in a Youth Hostel taken over now as migrant accommodation. Our three Iranian contacts whom we baptized- HOSEIN and his wife MARYAM and her brother MOHAMMAD- were all in one room, with no chairs, just beds and nothing else. The rest of the hostel was full of Syrians, some of whom were ISIS sympathizers. They bully our brothers and sister, and they fear to go to the eating room or even to use the toilets in the corridor because of these Islamists, who know they are Christians. Clothing is provided, but the Syrians take it before the Iranians get to it. They just get the left over T-shirts. By the way, the rather 'jazzy' T-Shirts or clothing some of our brethren wear is not of their choice, it's what they picked up from the clothing bags which charities bring to the refugee camps. It's Winter now in Germany, and our brothers don't have even jackets, nor proper shoes- one only had flip flops. We drove over from the UK and brought with us a bag of clothes collected by sisters in the Erith ecclesia- which were really gratefully received. You can see in the car boot our last box of Farsi *Bible Basics* which we have in the UK. Last week we mentioned the need to re-print it and are open to donations towards this. We have some more boxes of them in Latvia which brother Maxim is now posting over to the UK, but we really need to re-print the book.



This family group [husband and wife and the wife's brother] had travelled to Germany via the usual route- Macedonia-Serbia-Hungary / Croatia - Austria- Germany. They had passed through the very crossing point on the railway tracks where we have been distributing soup and welfare items with our website on! They passed through before we were working there, but they were totally fascinated to see the videos of our work there. It's a small world when the Lord's guiding hand is seen at work. They heartily agreed that new arrivals in Europe would be caused to think deeply if their early memories were of Christian kindness- they encountered mostly aggression and rudeness from the border guards. So they were a great encouragement to us to somehow continue our welfare outreach.

CARELINKS UK

Whilst the Germany / Belgium trip was ongoing, brother Andy Taylor and others were able to assist brother Vahid with the baptism of another six immigrant contacts in Liverpool, U.K.: SEYED, AMIR, ALIREZA, HAMID, ARMIN and MEHRDAD. Some of these had come from other parts of the UK where they will return with the message of the true Gospel.



We'd also like to thank you for anonymous donations apparently sent from the UK received for Carelinks work . We really, really so appreciate your support- and so often, those baptized or supported express very sincere thanks too.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For the spiritual growth of new converts, to the glory of the Lord Jesus
- For local ecclesias to open their doors and hearts to all the new converts
- For the safety of all our brothers and sisters in the camps, living as they do with Islamic radicals for whom conversion from Islam to Christ is the ultimate sin and provocation
- For brother Vahid's mother back in Iran.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks