

December 2015 UK, USA, China, Latvia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Hebrews 13 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/heb13.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>

UNITED KINGDOM

Brother Graham, whose baptism we reported in July, fell asleep in the Lord recently. Our brother was wheelchair bound and was baptized with great difficulty- a testament of his sincerity. Thank you to all who sent him cards. He loved them, and now sleeps waiting for the fulfillment of his various dreams of what he would do in the Kingdom of God on earth.

There is an explosion of interest in the Iranian community within the United Kingdom. In various parts of the UK this week, with assistance from various local brothers and sisters and ecclesias, we're pleased to report the baptisms of SEYED, MOHAMMAD M, REZA, MOTCHTABA, MOHAMMAD J, EZZATALLAH, FARHAD, HOSEN, MOJTABA K, REBAR, SAKO, OMID, HASSAN, HAWSAR, FARNOUSH, AMIN and ALIREZA.

We pay tribute to the great work of brother Vahid of Liverpool for coordinating things throughout the United Kingdom, from Wales to Scotland. Vahid's brother in Iran was executed for his Christian activities, and Vahid shared with us photos published by the state of his head and torso after the execution. Vahid faces possible deportation back to Hungary, where he first entered the European Union, so we are praying this doesn't happen. He is sorely needed in the expanding group in the UK.

As we travelled around the inner cities of the UK, in the areas where most of our new brethren live, the process of Islamization and decline of traditional British culture was evident everywhere. It is not much apparent outside of the inner cities, but there it is clear enough. Even in the one time bastions of Protestantism in South Wales, church after church has been turned into a mosque, with the crosses replaced by crescent moons, the stained glass with prayer turrets directed towards Mecca:



Yet here, around the corner from that mosque, is a newly baptized ecclesia of Iranians and Iraqis:



Nine of the baptisms were in Glasgow, Scotland. Brother Andy Taylor brought brother Vahid there by car, and Andy also gave an appropriate exhortation for the breaking of bread, commenting upon how Abraham left Iraq and journeyed to Israel, just as these brethren are likewise on a journey which has providentially taken them from Persia to Scotland. Clearly, without doubt, God is in each and every life of these dear people, and we are playing a providentially intended part in that journey.

Andy reports:

"In Glasgow on Thursday, we had the privilege to assist in the baptisms of nine Iranians, most of whom are asylum seekers. Brother Vahid, himself a recently baptised asylum seeker played a key role in translating Duncan's concise and clear presentation of the Gospel message and all the doctrines of our faith, and the question and answer session. Vahid is a wonderful brother whose zealotness for the Lord Jesus is amazing, and his determination to share his faith is truly inspirational. Ghasem, one of the nine soon to be baptised, also gave invaluable help with translation. It was great to have the support of local brothers and sisters. We benefited from the ministrations of Bro Bob and Sis Adele Watt, and it was also good to have the help of Bro James Dean who spent his work lunch-time supporting us in the hotel. It was a privilege to break bread together with our new brothers, who it was a joy to share with.

The trip back to Liverpool with Vahid was interesting, but the deepening snow on the M74 just added to the excitement of a wonderful day! My feeling about what we did in Glasgow is that it is the start of something that I've been praying for for years.

That is that Muslims who will clearly have a problem with the doctrine of the trinity and other wrong doctrines start to turn to the true Gospel in large numbers. Vahid seems so determined to expand the Truth. He seems so accepting of what may be going to happen to him, and if he is made to go back to Hungary, I have promised that I will go and track him down there. This work must not be undermined by in-fighting and the dead hand of ecclesial bureaucracy. I am so pleased that Glasgow South have accepted our new brothers and we must do all we can to support them in this".

Photos: The group of newly baptized in Glasgow, with Andy, Bob and Duncan; Vahid translating Andy at the breaking of bread; Andy talking about the Bible Companion



We urge all ecclesias to accept these new brethren, and appeal for individuals to come forward who are willing to baptize our further Iranian contacts into Christ. Language is a barrier, but they have Persian *Bible Basics*, as hard copy and PDF, and usually one is available to translate. You would have to let this happen at your services- here's an example of Bob giving the prayer for the bread through translation [such videos are used by many of our Iranian brethren as they break bread in isolation worldwide]- https://youtu.be/_98aHLXTfVA

Not by coincidence have we been reading the book of Jonah in the *Bible Companion* readings lately- for there we see a believer struggling to accept the mass repentance of those he considered unworthy and simply not his type. Let us all learn the lesson from Jonah's failures, and not sit in resentment under our gourd, citing all manner of petty reasons why supposed principle forbids us joining in fellowship with the joy of conversion. We need to walk in step with Spirit, and follow where clearly we are being led. We totally understand the fear which there is in British society, as well as in the brotherhood, concerning Muslims, Middle Eastern folks, young men with beards called Mohammed and so forth... but we remind you that the extremists are a tiny minority of immigrants.

See our video about this at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-Ua64IU Q>

it was shot as we stood on the platform in Macedonia having fed and met hundreds of migrants.

The core of our preaching work is through *Bible Basics*- and we do now need to reprint the Farsi/Persian edition of that book in hard copy. You can see it on the table in the photos above. The cost would be around 4000 pounds.

Please donate if you can. There are also some welfare issues with the new brethren especially those in Germany. We are open to your donations.

This week too, we paid a visit to Paul, an isolated contact in Western Wales. He doesn't do email nor telephone. We got there, to find the house empty. It was in a small cluster of about four houses, with sheep and ponies wandering all around. A neighbour explained that Paul is a shepherd, and he was out on the hills with the sheep, but usually came home for lunch. So we waited for his return; and we were not disappointed in the conversation. Paul didn't want rebaptism at this stage but has been revolutionized by what he learned from us and has read the *NEV Bible* and all commentary right through in 3 months. He asked for another *Bible Basics* and 5 more *NEV Bibles* to give to the 5 people in his life in this remote community. Here's Paul with the books in hand:



He of course was in many ways at the other end of the British spectrum to the Iranian refugee brethren- and from Western Wales to Glasgow, Scotland is quite the journey. But the William Booth quote came to mind, supposedly made by him when he was an atheist, *'If I believed what you Christians believe, I would crawl across England, on my hands and knees if need be, to tell men about it.'* Booth was the founder of the Salvation Army.

CHINA

Brother Donald reports: *"I baptized br LIU at sauna and br DONG at the hotel. Br Liu is a school teacher, aged 43, His parents were in the religion of Avalokitesvara [a form of Buddhism] and made sacrifices at home. Under the influence of his parents he was very afraid of these false god and did the same as his parents. But false gods are just false gods, they didn't help his family at all, on the contrary, his parents died of cancer and he got divorced. The Bible says in Psalm 16:4 "The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips".*

Liu feels he is getting older and lacked knowledge about faith, so he requested a Chinese Bible from Carelinks and now got baptized. Br DONG is a student contact, a new believer, he knew us from an advert in an online English corner and we had sent him 2 Bibles. After some time of study and encouragement he decided to be baptized into Christ. This is more evidence of the great blessing upon the work of distributing Bibles and *Bible Basics* in local languages.



LATVIA

Br Jim & Sis Anne Barton from Canada are currently assisting brother Maxim in feeding and teaching between 50 and 100 people / day, many of whom are baptized brothers and sisters. The progress of the Gospel continues with the baptism of ALEKSANDR; here you can see brother Jim baptizing him in the bath in the kitchen:



The Winter welfare program does still need your support- and it's a work really necessary and Divinely blessed.

CARELINKS USA

Sister Candice as reported recently is holding *Bible Basics* studies in her home regularly, and recently baptized her husband. She and her family are a great example of holding the Truth in isolation . She has made a brief video about what it's like to believe in isolation, well worth a watch: <https://youtu.be/rYSbj22hxs>

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For wisdom in how to follow up on the huge interest in the Iranian community
- For brother Vahid and his deportation and coping with the murder of his brother
- For co-workers to come forward
- For us all to overcome our natural feelings of prejudice
- Thanks and praise to the Lord for working so powerfully to bring about 20 baptisms this week.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks