

December 2016 Italy, UK, Australia, Software

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Hebrews 11 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/heb11.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>

Download the *NEV Bible* with commentary and *Bible Companion* bookmarks at <http://n-e-v.info/NEVBIBLE.pdf>

ITALY

This week a follow up visit was made to those baptized near the coast in central Italy. We reported on earlier visits to these folks and brethren over the last year. Brother Joseph continues to care for an ever increasing number of people, and when not at work, he loves wearing his "**Free Bibles: www.carelinks.net**" visibility vest, and engaging African folks he meets on the street with the truth. He also visits those already baptized in the camps, has them in his home and seeks to care for them as far as he can. We hope he will be able to come to the **UK** briefly and address the *Carelinks Conference in Croydon* last Saturday of February, God willing. We have to say it's just amazing what the Lord is doing here. Joseph is so humble but so mighty in the Scriptures and fully grasps and understands all the various doctrinal nuances one encounters when preaching. He also has a heart of compassion mixed with the wisdom required when dealing with masses of desperate people. And there are masses of them. With the Greek route now closed, many thousands of migrants are arriving on the shores of Italy every week. No nation can deal with this.

Italy's approach is to register them and put them in temporary accommodation such as disused schools, hostels etc., but the Government doesn't provide them with food or clothes. The hope is that they will move north towards Germany. After three or six months, they then have to leave the hostels, and are given the chance to legally work in Italy. But they are woefully unprepared for this and don't speak Italian- and there is mass unemployment in Italy anyway. So there are crowds of desperate, hungry migrants roaming the streets, and this attracts the racism associated with the right wing backlash against immigration which there is throughout Europe now.

It's all a hopeless situation. Our primary concern is to reach out with the good news of the Kingdom to these desperate people, mindful that one must never say "Be warmed and filled" and not provide what is necessary, as far as we can. Our team fed several camps morning and evening a couple of months ago for a week. The problem in many camps is that the Muslims are given aid by local Muslims and there are tensions between them and the non Muslims in the camps. Some of the camps are far from the towns, high in the mountains, already experiencing snow and freezing temperatures.

We provided food, clothing and blankets, including some hand knitted by our dear sisters in **Bodalla, Australia**. We conducted Bible studies with folks, strengthened those already baptized, and were able to baptize MURPHY, JONATHAN, JOHN, DAVID and ALFRED. These all came as a result of the outreach to the migrant camps. On the way to our meeting point, two of them were spotted cycling passed us on borrowed bicycles, with their green *NEV Bibles* in hand as they cycled with one hand on the handlebars. We stopped them for a photo:



Alfred was an encouraging case. On a previous trip, a group of the **UK** visitors accompanied Brother Joseph to a new camp. We arrived at sunset, and entered into a dingy disused student hostel. The African folks there came into the common area and we lectured them for some time about all the basic doctrines of the Gospel and our faith. They were mostly young, but there was an older Ghanaian man there, Alfred. He listened with such rapt attention as we explained everything. We gave them all *NEV Bibles* with *Bible Basics* at the end of it. Joseph maintained contact with him, and now this trip he was baptized. Here's a file photo of our entry to that rather miserable, dingy block, and now of Joseph sitting within it on his bed in one of the rooms. All he has to his name is a small plastic bag of possessions, his Bible and a warm coat donated to him:



We really took the glorious light of the Lord Jesus to that depressed and hopeless group of men within it, and the Lord blessed His word distributed that evening, and it did not return void.

We provided food, clothing and blankets. Here's a brother eating donated food in the kitchen of the hostel where he is temporarily living. There are kitchens, but they must provide their own food- even though after their initial arrival, with literally nothing, they are not allowed to work for 3-6 months:



Wherever we went, we distributed Bibles and *Bible Basics* and spoke of the reality of the love, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and the great hope of forgiveness and a place in His Kingdom which is now opened up for those who are baptized into Him; and also taught some of them how to best use the donated scarves and hats in the European cold, which as West Africans they had never experienced before:



They preferred to be baptized in the sea, although we could have used a bath tub. We went at night, it was pitch black with no stars or moon, and the temperature was only a fraction above freezing. The water was extremely cold, and we had to walk very far out as the tide was in. We followed Joseph about 100 meters through the shallow water, using the flashlight on his cellphone to reflect off the reflectors on his Carelinks visibility vest. Photos and video can't really capture how bitterly cold the water was, and how pitch dark was that night. Some of them flinched uncontrollably at the cold.

There is a video, hampered by low light, but their flinching is visible, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_6ZSXkN9dA

You can also see them being wrapped in blankets and towels immediately after the immersions; and the steam rising from the hot coffee on that cold night. At the start of the video

is a clip from the scene afterwards when we found a late night coffee bar and exhorted them to continue in the way of Bible reading, prayer and simple love for the Lord and His things. They were really brave to do it in such cold water, especially as this was the outcome of discussion about conscience and giving 'our utmost for His highest':



All this came about from internet chats with brother Joseph about the Trinity, after he had read the *Real Christ* and then proceeded to start doubting the whole issue of satan as an evil cosmic being. This led to his baptism, and thence, all this further fruit. To the Lord's glory.

There are ongoing issues galore. Please do donate as you can to our work. And if you'd like to go visit our brethren and help feed them later on this Winter God willing, let us know. And do come and meet brother Joseph at the *Carelinks UK Conference* if you can.

CARELINKS UK

Our conference is in **Croydon** the last Saturday of February 2017 God willing, do come along.

For donors in UK, please note that Carelinks has now been accepted as a charity.

This has two immediate advantages - firstly that gifts and donations will qualify for the Gift Aid scheme.

Also for anyone leaving money to Carelinks as a legacy, it will have the effect of reducing any Inheritance Tax they might have to pay.

Steve Gretton is the Treasurer of Carelinks now, but Jean Field is the financial assistant and cheques can be sent to either of them. Jean will be writing to all regular donors giving details of the new account.

Please do not send any money to the old account at the Co-operative bank, as this account will be closed on 13 December 2016 and anything sent there will be returned to you.

New Bank details are as follows:

CAF Bank Ltd. Sort code 40-52-40 Account number 00025816.

Anyone wishing to give under the Gift Scheme, please contact Steve for the declaration form.

For overseas donors, the details are:

SWIFT/BIC: CAFB GB 51XXX

IBAN : GB76 CAFB 4052 4000 025816

Christadelphian Advancement Trust continues unchanged.

BIBLE SOFTWARE

The *New European Commentary* on every verse of the *New Testament* is now available; the *NEV Bible* has brief comments on every chapter, printed below the Bible text; but this is a separate verse by verse exposition of the entire New Testament, based on the *NEV* text.

You can freely download it as an *E-Sword* module [.cmtx] at [http://n-e-](http://n-e-v.info/cm/NECNewTestament.cmtx)

[v.info/cm/NECNewTestament.cmtx](http://n-e-v.info/cm/NECNewTestament.cmtx) ;

as *E-Sword* for iPad [.cmti] at http://n-e-v.info/cm/nec_new_testament.cmti ;

for *MySword* Android [.cmt] at <http://n-e-v.info/cm/NECNewTestament.cmt.mybible> ;

for TheWord [.cmt.twm] at <http://n-e-v.info/cm/NECNewTestament.cmt.twm> .
You can see the individual books of the New Testament available as .pdf, .mobi and .epub.
and the whole commentary also in those formats, in the left hand bar at www.n-e-v.info

To integrate this commentary into *E-Sword*, download it into your E-Sword folder
which is usually C:\Program Files\E-Sword or C:\Program Files (x86)\E-Sword .
The articles are for *E-Sword* version 9 or later. You will need to restart e-sword to see the
commentary.

The same can be done for *MySword*.

We're not sure if the module for iPad is working properly; maybe someone can test it and let us
know.

Many thanks to brother Brian Armour of Queensland, **Australia** and others who did so much
hard work to make the material available in these formats.

AUSTRALIA

We are in touch with a very poor family in the Para Hills area of Adelaide. They would love some
kind of Christmas hamper for 6 people who are in the home. And it'd be a great opportunity to
teach them further of the Gospel. Let us know if you'd like to help them.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For the strengthening of brother Joseph in his great work
- For those of our brethren who now have to move out of the hostels and who are effectively
homeless and unemployed

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks