

December 2017 Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 John 3,4 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/1jn34.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>

AUSTRALIA

We get a regular stream of requests for *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics* from Australia and local brethren seek to follow up with them. We're pleased to tell you of the baptisms of MATTHEW and FATU who were baptized by the *Canterbury* ecclesia in **Victoria**; and of JEROME in **Sydney**. Jerome is an Indian South African who works in Australia as a highly skilled professional. He wasn't very religious, but a miraculous deliverance from death in a car accident, from which he emerged unharmed, made him think about God. So he searched online for a Bible with explanations, and came to our website, and we sent him an *NEV Bible*. He then read *Bible Basics* and found all we said made absolute sense. He has already started a Bible reading group at his home. We asked '*How do you get people to come along? What's the secret?*'. Because it's hard to get secular Australians interested in religion. He seemed surprised we thought it was hard to get people interested. Two of his regular attenders he met at his child's McDonald's birthday party. He just talked to some of the other dads present and two of them agreed to come to his place and read the Bible. Brother John Thatcher is going to mentor this group. Here's Jerome with his *NEV Bible* and *Bible Basics*:



Then it was to Brisbane to meet brother Jafaari's wonderful family; he and sister Beatrice have 14 children. Duncan first met Jafaari in a refugee camp in Malawi, Africa 25 years ago. Jafaari had fled violence in his native Congo.

When you preach in the camps, you inevitably wonder at the motivation of people who are in such desperate straits. Over that period, Marcus mailed him *Bible Basics*, *Gospel News* magazine etc.; as he and his growing family moved around southern Africa, finally in a camp in Namibia from where they managed to get acceptance in Australia. They were resettled in a large house in a small town in Queensland. His commitment has remained, and it was a joy to baptize four of the children: brothers FATAKI and MFAUME, and sisters LIENE and KASHINDI. They remain very African, some still wearing their traditional African clothing, and the mother and older daughters carrying the little ones wrapped on their backs.

They only have one car, and small town Australia is built on the assumption of private car ownership, so it was quite the job to ferry them all to the beach. But there in a creek off Runaway Bay, Queensland, Australia... the Lord's wonderful work with this family continued, which He began so long ago in Africa. The family greeted the newly baptized with flowers, whoops of joy and hugs...

you can catch some of the great joy in the video at <https://youtu.be/m9wV6cFqnIU>
Here's a very happy dad, brother Jafaari; and sister Beatrice greeting her daughter:



Br Phil & Sis Miri did a huge amount of work with the family as well as the logistics for the baptism, as well as continuing teaching and caring for another African group of contacts in the area, from South Sudan. Here's Phil discussing with the candidates the day before:



And here are some random photos of this wonderful family on the move, and of the baptisms:



With society as it is, it's wonderful to see teenagers giving themselves to the Lord Jesus:



And so the Lord's work goes on, and we are ever reminded that there is interest everywhere. Truly there is a hole in the human heart which only the Lord Jesus fills. Even in secular western society, people respond.

Brother Colin Green runs a chocolate business in a middle class Sydney suburb, and has *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics* literature on display for customers to take at the cash desk- and they do take them:



PRAYER POINTS:

- For those baptized
- For a British man called Mark who lives in France and is slowly coming to the real Christ
- For our outreach in Australia
- For brother Daniel as he continues to manage the meetings in Riga, Latvia, as well as for the feeding scheme there

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks