

December 2017 USA, France, Australia, Latvia

The **Bible Companion** readings for this Sunday include Revelation 21,22 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/rev2122.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>

FRANCE

This week a visit was made to a small town in France to baptize a British man, MARK. Mark has no family in the UK and grew up very tough, spending a few years sleeping in a boiler room as a late teenager. He always had a sense of God and Jesus and vowed not to drink or smoke when he was quite young. But he was searching for God, really. He attended a Pentecostal church but was asked not to attend after he couldn't pay tithes any more and saw through the claims to perform miracles. This disillusioned him with "church".

He met a French woman whom he thought was the love of his life and shifted to France, and had three children by her. But she then went off with another man. He has nobody to return to in the UK; she finally agreed to let him take care of their three young children in return for sleeping in the property. The children are all he has, and he has no income apart from odd jobs he gets here and there. He left school at 14 and has no education much. He just counts himself as happy to see his children.

He read the Bible and figured out that the Trinity is not right; he tried to attend church again but was asked to leave after speaking out against the Trinity. He takes solace in educating himself online; he has built up a phenomenal knowledge of British history, and is homesick for the UK, but he prefers to be with his children. He finds learning French or any language very hard due to his lack of basic education, which deepens his sense of isolation. He really wanted someone to explain the Bible to him. But he says he found everyone insistent he attend their church and he had had enough of this.

So he searched online and found us, and was delighted to get the *NEV Bible* with explanations and commentary. He was very desirous of baptism. We paid to get the three young children looked after for the day, as his ex-partner works full time, and spent a wonderful time together. He wanted not only theological truth but above all to be connected to the Lord Jesus. He is on the borderline of being homeless and has no cash in hand at all. His ex-partner and her partner can throw him out at will; but they don't fancy caring for the children, so they kind of need him. Many would have turned to drugs and alcohol, but he is a very clean living man who knows that is not the way. The children are aged 1,2 and 4. He says he gave them their Christmas presents on boxing day, as on the evening of Christmas day he searched the garbage bins for discarded, unwanted kids' Christmas presents for his own kids.

This is poverty. And all kudos to him for not turning to theft.

When we came to the baptism, he explained that he has Lyme's disease, caught from ticks whilst working for a farmer harvesting. He said that as soon as water touches his skin on his legs, it would turn white and start bleeding. And that was just what happened as he got into the bath tub, his apparently healthy legs went white as soon as water touched them; he said the pain was if his skin was being tasered. But he was quietly committed to going through with the immersion, and so joyful when it was done. A truer convert to the Lord Jesus in spirit and truth it would be hard to imagine. We left him some welfare and assured him we'd be there for him if he

feels like returning to the UK, or his domestic situation forces him to. He grew up in London and knew well Grove Park, the suburb Duncan grew up in. It was truly "of God" that these two Londoners were to meet all these years later in a small town in France. He is keen to spread the Gospel by distributing tracts.



Here you can see us breaking bread together afterwards , with his *NEV Bible* open:



LATVIA

Young brother Daniel Aldersley has continued running the meetings at the *Riga Bible Centre*, showing videos of past studies in Russian for an hour before the feeding starts. He is currently supported in the kitchen by a fine team of Canadian brothers and sisters: Jim & Anne, Jesse and Sarah. But it's a huge and stressful challenge to run a soup kitchen / church in Eastern Europe when you don't know the local languages. But we have plenty of literature in Russian and Latvian, and this big investment in producing hard copies of our literature has paid off yet again. A married couple SANDIS and TEREZA have been attended and desired baptism after reading *Bible Basics*. After chatting through a video / telephone system, it's with great joy we report that they were baptized at the *Bible Centre* this week. In the photos you can see Daniel reading out the question "Do you believe the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ?" before then reading out the baptism formula. It just shows how these days the language barrier can be penetrated, thanks to Google and other technology:



USA

We're delighted to report the baptism of KARLENE at the Austin ecclesia in Texas. Karlene studied *Bible Basics* with us online and had many questions about various doctrines, having come from a Church of Christ background. She then contacted the ecclesia with this happy result:



AUSTRALIA

We mentioned recently a very brief video made of brother John Thatcher chatting in a McDonalds about how maths confirms the truth of the Bible. He has now made a more detailed explanation of his material about maths confirming the truth of the Bible, based on the ages of the patriarchs in early Genesis.

It's a powerful argument that it would seem impossible for atheists to really argue back with.
It's at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D56wHH3EItk>

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For brother Mark and those like him in situations which appear endless in their pain
- For brother Daniel's work in Latvia along with the helpers in the kitchen
- For all the lonely brothers and sisters at this 'family' time of year

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks