

December 2018 Latvia, Italy, Ukraine, Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include James 3,4 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/james34.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>

Helps for the *Bible Companion* readings this week

Job <http://n-e-v.info/NEVJob.pdf>

Micah <http://n-e-v.info/micnevcom.pdf>

James <http://n-e-v.info/NEVJamesCommentary.pdf>

LATVIA

We continue the daily sessions of feeding and teaching at the *Riga Bible Center*. We're also giving *Winter Welfare* support in other parts of Eastern Europe. There are many who attend our meetings in **Riga** who aren't in the dreaded night shelters, but live in squalid poverty in smelly, delapidated buildings.

This week we took firewood to one such family, a married brother and sister who live with the sister's mother in one room. No amount of video or photos can ever capture the smell, the low light and pathetic sense of poverty when you take firewood to such people.

We entered to find the flat full of empty cardboard boxes which they had got from a supermarket, which they were burning for heat. But burning cardboard isn't an effective way to generate heat. They were really grateful for the firewood, and we had a prayer with them in the semi darkness of that squalid room in a decaying wooden tenement block.

You can see a video of it all at <https://youtu.be/G35aqCilikM>



UKRAINE

This week we were able to make a visit to Ukraine to give some Winter welfare and also to baptize SERGEJ. He lives in a really remote spot in western Ukraine where he is a subsistence farmer. He has many problems with his cows, they're not giving milk, one well has dried up and the other has frozen up. He is paid only 5 Ukrainian Grivna for 1 liter of milk, that makes 1 Euro for every six liters of milk.

But his cows aren't giving milk at the moment, he's really in a bad way materially, and it's so sad as he is such a hard worker. His baptism involved one of those incredible journeys. He left home at 4 a.m. to walk the 7 km. to the nearest bus stop in order to come in to **Kiev** for his baptism. The ice was so slippery, as no salt is ever scattered there, that he just couldn't walk fast enough to get to the bus stop in time. He hung around and got another bus, that bus broke down, the passengers then got lifts on other passing buses... until he got to Kiev.

But being a country man and not having hardly ever travelled to Kiev in his 36 years, he got out at the first stop in Kiev, which was on the edge of this very large city of 3 million people. Thank God for cell phones... Our brother first heard of the Bible from a Jehovah's Witness who came to

the village and preached, and then came across our material and left involvement with them. In all the difficulties and set backs of the day of his baptism, his faith was sore tested that God and not any cosmic Satan being is truly in control. We did the baptism in a sauna with literally freezing water. Our brother is a native Ukrainian speaker, so we also recorded some brief videos in Ukrainian about baptism, and with him explaining how unBiblical is the Trinity and how he had found a true relationship with the real Christ. Please pray for him in his lonely and hard, difficult life.



ITALY

As you will understand from this report below, we've had lots of worried messages and communications from the *Africans* in Italy; basically, most camps are going to be shut and the Africans put out on the streets with pretty immediate effect. The Italian authorities are being purposefully mean to them, throwing them all out on the streets for Christmas.

The racism in Italy is now huge, and coming from the Government; you will note in the report below "restrictions on the opening hours of 'ethnic' shops", e.g. shops selling "African" food, the kind of shops we bought yams from when feeding the migrants.

Attached photo of Africans thrown out from a closed camp in Italy:



Migrants in Italy, including trafficking victims and children, are being expelled from shelters in the run-up to Christmas under a new law brought in by the country's far-right government.

The 'Salvini decree' named after interior minister Matteo Salvini - scraps "humanitarian protection" status for asylum seekers and introduces new rules on who can be housed in council-run migrant reception centres.

The new laws are part of the populist government's push to reduce the numbers of refugees and migrants in Italy - with other policies including ordering the seizure of boats that rescue migrants, and restrictions on the opening hours of "ethnic" shops.

Italian media reports that some migrants given the now scrapped "humanitarian protection" status are being expelled from centres across the country as the law starts to take affect.

Reports of expulsions from centres started last week. The Ansa news agency reports that 24 migrants staying at a centre in the southeastern municipality Isola di Capo Rizzuto who had humanitarian protection status were made to leave on Friday. About 200 others are expected to be expelled from that centre over the coming week.

Those expelled were said to include a young couple with a five-month-old daughter. Charities the Red Cross and Caritas have arranged for accommodation to be provided for about 20 days for some as a stop-gap, but the group's future is uncertain - with most having moved to a makeshift tent camp where about 100 migrants are living in precarious conditions.

Under the system, new asylum seekers will be excluded from these council-operated local receptions centres, known as Sprar. There have been numerous reports of expulsions of those already in the Sprar centres - apparently those who were given humanitarian status just before the law changed caught up in slow bureaucracy.

The UN high commissioner's office has warned in a report that the law will "certainly" lead to

violations of international law. - "The abolition of humanitarian protection status, the exclusion of asylum seekers from access to reception centres ...

and the extended duration of detention in return centres and hotspots fundamentally undermine international human rights principles, and will certainly lead to violations of international human rights law, " - the UN office said in a statement.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/italy-christmas-migrants-shelters-christmas-salvini-decree-charity-a8669051.html?fbclid=IwAR3b1-ru3FZu3ZzPpxHMW7DeDWVrHT5hTP9ntysG2kPkxOgospqll4fq1Lo>

AUSTRALIA

Sister Audrey Christopherson has opened a *Bible Basics* chat room on Paltalk as there seem plenty of people on Paltalk willing to chat about the Bible. It functions at times convenient for folks in Australia or Asia,

you can get more info from her at achristophersen@aapt.net.au

If you have time on your hands to chat with folks about Bible teachings, this would be a helpful project to get involved with.

PRAYER POINTS

- For all those in rural poverty
- For the migrant brethren in Italy
- For those stuck in urban poverty in Riga
- For our new brother Sergej and his cows

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks