

February 2016 Cyprus, China, Australia, Gospel News Magazine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Corinthians 13 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1cor13.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>

GOSPEL NEWS MAGAZINE

The latest magazine is online at <http://carelinks.net/doc/gn201601>

CYPRUS

This week we visited and baptized a lovely family in Cyprus (the Greek part): EVDOKIA, NATALI and ANDRE. They were nominal Orthodox, going to church because that is the thing to do on Sundays in Cyprus, not reading the Bible nor taking religion seriously. They live walking distance from the frontier with northern Cyprus, which is Turkish Muslim, and so being Orthodox is very much part of the local identity and culture. Until a death in the family and the hypocrisy of the local priest made them urgently think about religion at more depth. They asked the priest if they could buy a Bible to read, but he told them it would make them crazy if they read it.

They did get a Bible, and Natali read it right through in four months. Then began the search for interpretation and the need for guidance in understanding what exactly was wrong with the Orthodox church. The more Natali questioned the priest, the more angry he became. She came across our YouTube channel and watched many many hours of our material, and obtained *Bible Basics* and the *NEV Bible*. The priest grew progressively angry with them for all their questions. Once they figured there was no Trinity, and told the priest so, he cast them out from the church and informed everyone that they were in a sect and mentally ill. In close knit Greek Cypriot society, it's not a good idea to fall out with the church. The rift caused serious family tensions, resulting in their reading and studying even harder. They became urgent to be baptized, and begged us to come and do it. February is the coldest month in Cyprus, and they decided they wanted to be baptized in the sea - although they have a deep bath tub. The family rift got to the point that they requested their baptisms be performed without publicity and photos, and we were happy to agree. The sea was really cold- but Natali said she would do it under ice if necessary. They have great zeal but their lives are going to be very very difficult domestically, so please pray for them.



Mother and daughter walking to their baptisms on the cold deserted beach with their swimming costumes; Natali explaining a point to her son at the beachfront cafe, you can see she is using the *NEV Bible* and the *Bible Basics* is on the table by Evdokia.

CHINA

Brother Donald writes:

"Brother Dong was a former contact and baptized previous time. He knew us from an online English corner and we sent him 2 copies of the Bible. This time's visiting was to strengthen his faith and meet another new believer, LI, who is a friend of dong. He came to visit us for baptism and Bible study. His first child died in 2015 and he was very sad about this, so he was trying to

find a way to deal with his grief, and therefore requested a Bible from our online Bible advertisement. As for the baptism, he came to my workplace and we baptized at a private pool".



Brother Li looking at the www.carelinks.net website

AUSTRALIA

Brother Mike Flaherty of Queensland writes:

"A little while ago I was inspired by your donation of bible basics to a small telephone box library. Attached is a photo of my effort of constructing a Tiny Free Library that will soon be mounted on my front gate. Would you be able to donate two Bibles, Bible Basics, The Real Christ and The Real Devil for inclusion together with other secular books. We live near to many transient workers, and local people, who walk by so God willing, He will lead those who are seeking answers to the Tiny Library. Love in Christ Jesus, M"



We're always eager to support such initiatives and appreciate all the funds donated towards the publication of the books. Hopefully Mike's example will inspire others to try similar initiatives. Let us know how you go.

PRAYER POINTS

- For all the people responding to the advert in The Daily Mail in the UK
- For Natali and her family in the domestic tensions brought about by their faith
- For those recently baptized
- For Brother Donald personally in his lonely witness in China

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks