

## February 2017 Belgium, Germany, Latvia, Japan, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Mark 8 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mk8.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>

### BELGIUM / GERMANY

This week, Steve, Andy and Duncan made a trip to various contacts in Belgium and Germany. We'll complete the report next week God willing. For now we can tell you of the baptism of KWAME in Belgium, a 24 year old from a Ghanaian family, shortly to go to China to do his master's degree. He lives with his mother and two sisters, who all approvingly watched the baptism and are themselves very interested. They are disillusioned Pentecostals, disappointed in endless demands for money from the pastors, and simply seeking a Biblical personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. They have relatives in the **UK** whom the mother sometimes visits, and they are contemplating coming to the Carelinks Conference in Croydon on February 25th God willing. Kwame fitted so perfectly into the bath tub, as if it was purpose made for his full immersion. He came to us from receiving an *NEV Bible* with commentary. And now his family are interested. Again we are encouraged that those who seek the Lord in spirit and truth are led to us and we to them, reflecting how in a sense God is in search of man, as we are of Him. it is indeed an electric moment when they meet:



In Germany, we were invited to visit brother Mohsen, who Duncan & Cindy and Liz had baptized in Azerbaijan in 2003. That's 14 years ago. He crossed over from Iran to Baku at that time, having got a Farsi *Bible Basics*, and wanted baptism. We baptized him, gave him a Bible and Farsi "*Bible Companion*", and he returned to **Iran**. He hardly spoke English then, and we never heard much from him. However, he has now come to Germany with his wife GHANBARI whom we were happy to baptize. What was so amazing was that he still had with him that printed out copy of the Farsi *Bible Companion* from 14 years ago, and he and his wife have been using it since. Sometimes we baptize people in those kinds of extreme Islamic situations and don't hear from them, and we wonder how they are going. Well, here we have great encouragement- in that brother Mohsen held on to the faith, reading the Bible daily, over those 14 years. They are living in a hostel for newly arrived asylum seekers, they have 2 chairs, a table and mattress. All is very clean, but spartan. They have their bags of clothes and a photo of her parents on the table, as you can see. Their Bibles, and that's about it. They have only recently arrived. These hostels are wonderful places to spread the Gospel and we again encourage all in Europe and the UK to go to these places and spread the Gospel, we have *Bible Basics* material in Farsi and Arabic. Our brother has a photo from his baptism still on his phone and he shared it with us; and in the other photo you can see him today with his same *Bible Companion* in Farsi and Bible:



## JAPAN

Readers may remember the baptism of sister Danielle in prison in Japan. Sister Helen Pyper is her special mentor, by letters from New Zealand. Helen asks us to pray for Danielle as follows: "*We had a letter from Danielle this morning, to say that she is v. unwell and needs our prayers. For some weeks she has been in extreme pain and agony due to teeth infections. She has been having checkups with Dentist and Doctor, and has had holes drilled and left open to let infection out, and she is on medicines, but things are much worse, and her face is like a balloon on one side. She feels so helpless, and is struggling to cope with her job, where she is the head seamstress in the prison's sweatshop. It was an honour to get this job, as she does not speak fluent Japanese, but manages to cope as well as she can. At least she was able to write a few lines, to ask for our prayers.*"

## CARELINKS UK and UK CONFERENCE

House church continues in Croydon, with another baptism this week. There were all kinds of folks present- nearly everyone at the table had been born outside of the UK- **Iran, Iraq, Bangladesh, South Africa**, as well as **Australia**. The stories of how everyone had got to the UK were themselves a testament to providence. One man described how he was one of 14 men who were placed inside a tanker truck for the journey from the Calais "jungle" across the channel to the UK. They stood in liquid within the truck for six hours; this was in order to put sniffer dogs off the human scent. Another described how refugees are hidden inside the huge spare wheels of trucks, where the inner tube would otherwise be, maintaining that bent over position for several hours until released; another was strapped to the axle of a truck. Once these people arrive in the UK, they really do start looking for the Lord. We went through *Luke 15*, talking of how the Lord searches for the lost sheep, coin and son until He finds it, doing all in His power to find His people and bring them to Himself. And these very hard experiences were all part of that seeking process. And there was therefore such joy in Heaven when finally, God finds man at the same point as man finds God, through identification with His Son in baptism. We all rejoiced therefore with MUSTAFA, an **Iraqi**, whom we baptized in the bath tub after the meeting, and before the meal together. Many thanks to Cardia and Cindy for trying their best to produce authentic Middle Eastern food, and apparently succeeding, or being well appreciated. Mustafa is an older man, an engineer who previously managed one of the water treatment stations in Baghdad. We really do rejoice with the Angels in heaven at all this response to our outreach; and we look forward to more planned baptisms at house church.



A major ad is appearing in *The Daily Mail* and please pray we manage to reach people with the word which shall not return void.

You will be able to meet some of the interesting people mentioned in Carelinks reports, at the UK Conference on Saturday 25 February God willing.

St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8DD

Theme: "Him that is able to do immeasurably above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Eph. 3:20)

Talk: Out of our comfort zone. Liz Hemingray

Chats with overseas workers for the Lord: Donald from China and Joseph from Italy

Chats with an Iranian convert from Islamic background, one from Zimbabwe, one from England

Talk: How to communicate with contacts via the internet. Roger Beck

Talk: Using Facebook and social media for preaching. David Fenton

Talk: Whose glasses are you wearing? Andrew Smith

Latest news from Riga Winter Welfare. Wina King

The work of the Holy Spirit today. Duncan Heaster

The afternoon will include an important time to prepare and post out Bibles to those who respond to our *Daily Mail* newspaper advert; last year there were over 1000 replies to just that one advert. So there's lots of packing work to be done.

## **LATVIA**

The feeding program continues, and donations really are needed for it all; utilities bills are going to be really high for February as it's been so cold [combined heating and electricity at the hall can cost well over 1000 Euros / month in Winter], although the provision of warmth and hot food in the extreme cold is of course what we are all about. We're pleased to report the baptism of OLEG; here you can see Andy, Hilary and Mel handing out the food, just before Andy baptized our new brother.



## **Prayer Points:**

- For all our brethren seeking asylum
- For good response to the free Bible advert in the Daily Mail in the UK
- For sister Danielle in prison in Japan
- For those recently baptized

**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**