

## February 2019 Special Appeal, Mayotte, Australia, UK Conference, Latvia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Mark 13 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mk13.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:

**Exodus** <http://n-e-v.info/exoduscomm.pdf>

**Psalms** <http://n-e-v.info/psalms.pdf>

**Mark** <http://n-e-v.info/NEVMarkCommentary.pdf>

### SPECIAL APPEAL

For many years we have been mailing out *Bible Basics* and *NEV Bibles* with commentary to folks worldwide. And it would be fair to say that this work has been the backbone for the thousands of baptisms performed over the years. But we live in a fast changing world. Most people even in the poorer world have a smartphone, and can get internet access. On the other hand, the cost of postage has risen multiple times in real terms in recent times. Whilst the days of hard copy will maybe never finally be over, until the Lord returns anyway, we are living in a world where people spend a few hours / day looking at screens. And they want instant answers to 'What does this verse mean?'. People spend far more time looking at their phones than they do reading paper books. We may lament that, but it's how things are. In this changing world we remain committed to encouraging daily reading of the text of the Bible itself. But along with falling donations to our work and the rising costs of printing and postage, we realize we have to change our strategy in terms of how to deliver this. We are living in the age of apps downloaded on phones and tablets, and people learning that way. This is the reality of our age, worldwide, and not just in the western world. And apps would in any case enable us to reach far more people worldwide with the Gospel than we ever could through paper copies of books mailed out.

We have a lot of material which folks evidently find helpful in their search for the Father and Son in spirit and truth. We now have verse by verse extended commentary on the entire Bible, every single verse, as well as the *Bible Basics* teaching system, explanations of most 'wrested scriptures' and much devotional material. In addition, we have the *NEV Bible* read as audio files, and breaking of bread exhortations for every day of the year. You can see a web version of this material at [www.n-e-v.info](http://www.n-e-v.info). In addition to that material, we have audio messages for children and youth on every New Testament chapter and much of the Old Testament. And an audio exhortation for every day of the year. So many baptized are in isolation or small groups and yet they have a phone and some internet access. We believe that a high quality app presenting all this material in a convenient way is the key to providing teaching to the unbaptized, making Bible reading attractive because they read with understanding and their questions answered; and also a valuable way of strengthening the many isolated brothers and sisters we have worldwide.

The app would be based around the *Bible Companion* reading tables. The opening screen would feature some simple encouragement from the daily portions and then the chance to read those

chapters. Each chapter would have links to the chapter being read as audio, to an audio exhortation or message on the chapter, and to audio lessons for children / youth [for the New Testament at least]. And each verse could be clicked to provide commentary. Along with links to *Bible Basics* and other books and languages.

We really believe in this project. If you can get folks to download this app onto their phone and they use it as their standard Bible, then we believe this is a likely way the Lord will use to bring them to know Him in spirit and truth. People may not take a book with them to read; but they can look at their phones in the course of the day, travelling to work or whenever. We really believe this is the way to go in our generation. Social media such as *Facebook* allows specific local advertising, offering advertisements to people within a highly defined geographical area, as localized as a few square kilometers from any defined point on the globe. Using this to offer the app would be a great way for ecclesias and individuals to generate local contacts and get people around them reading the Bible with our materials guiding them. So often, ecclesias and individuals enquire how they can generate local interest online, with the internet being global by its nature. Focused local advertising of the app on social media would be an ideal way to meet this need.

To produce such an app is a long process and would require a team of professionals to work on it for some months. We have asked for some quotations from companies, and they have all come back at around the figure of 20-25,000 pound for the app to work on both Apple and Android platforms. This is a lot of money, especially as unlike other such appeals, one appears to 'only' have a piece of software to show for it- rather than hard copy books and postage. But we believe this is the way to go for our generation. And we have summed up the courage to ask for your prayerful and financial support to gather that sum. *You can donate in a tax efficient way in Canada, the USA and UK. Please send donations made out to "Carelinks" to your local representative of Carelinks on the footer of this email. And please pray for this rather ambitious project.*

## **UK**

A reminder that our next Carelinks conference is set for the last Saturday in February God willing at the usual venue in **Croydon**. *Do come- you never know what interesting people you might meet.* So, Saturday 23 Feb 2019: 10.30am to 7pm. God willing, St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8DD. Special Reminder: If possible, please bring some cake and / or fruit.

## **AUSTRALIA**

The *2019 Creation Calendars* have been distributed to prisons in the UK and Australia, and this has resulted in further application for *NEV Bibles*. And here's a wonderful letter from a woman in prison in Sydney which speaks for itself- please pray for her and others like her, that she will understand what she reads and grasp the wonderful message of the Gospel:



Brothers John and Grant have been distributing fliers in the Fairfield area of Sydney, and John has been there again to meet up with a Serbian contact there. So again, as with all big city

preaching, the Gospel goes to people from all over the world.

### **LATVIA**

We continue our daily feeding and teaching in Riga. There is rarely any soup or bread left over- people are that much in need, especially the elderly Russians, that they bring plastic containers and take with them whatever is left over. We are meeting a real need here, and it's a joy to do it:



We spent Saturday with our beloved sister Vija in western Latvia, at whose home the ecclesia there has met for 15 years. She is now in the final stages of a long battle with cancer, but is so full of gratitude for everything in her life. So in a house by the sea, just a short walk from the waves of the Baltic, a truly spiritually minded sister is facing her death with absolute confidence in the saving love of God and the Lord Jesus, which she encountered only in later life. She has been a constant tower of strength to us in our work and we invite your prayers for her.

### **MAYOTTE**

We're pleased to receive news that our brethren left there [some have moved to France now] are still preaching, and brother Savery has just baptized BOBA, just as a rainstorm descended on the island. But it's a hopeless situation there for refugees on Mayotte, for reasons explained before- please continue praying for them:



### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- For those recently baptized
- For our ambitious appeal for the production of the Bible app
- For "A" and others in prison contacted through the calendars who are now responding to the Gospel and reading the Bible
- For those in Mayotte and those of them now in France

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