

## February 2019 UK, Latvia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Mark 6 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mk6.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>

### UK

Brother Charles Abel has produced a brief video of street distribution of Bibles and the Creation Calendars in Sussex; certainly the word is going out there on the streets.

See <https://youtu.be/Gyh9J9MmRCU>

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

We're pleased to tell you of the baptisms this week in the London area of MOHAMMED, HOSSEIN, MORTEZA and JOSEPH , all contacts of brother Reza who was baptized in the bath tub in Croydon last year. The Farsi *NEV New Testament* and Farsi *Bible Basics* played a big role in this, and they are sharing the PDF and hard copies of our literature with yet others. Some of these brethren have been in the UK many years, they were refused asylum but can't be deported to Iran, and so they are left to join the huge underclass of undocumented refused asylum seekers who are not illegally in the UK, but cannot work legally and have no access to public funds, welfare or health care. One brother is mourning the death of his father in Iran and has been so upset he was unable to be with him at the end. Without documents they can do nothing. So please do pray for those in these desperate situations- no wonder they are turning to the Lord Jesus in spirit and truth.



### LATVIA

Bro Mike & Sis Betty Flaherty from **Australia** are in Latvia for an extended period. They report here their early impressions:

"For warm-blooded Australian mammals, our arrival at Riga presented us with a totally different landscape compared our native tropics. Riga, thankfully, doesn't seem to have caught up to the west with peak hour traffic and congestion which suits us. The quieter pace makes it easier to walk or catch public transport. Having done a lot of travel recently I feel very safe on the streets of Riga. Compared to home, we see and hear very little of the emergency services.

These are our first impressions after a few days. Upon arrival, after a brief rest to keep jetlag at

bay, we sat in on our first dual language bible talk of Russian and English. Duncan has a small band of brothers who assist him to setup and organise each day, in addition to those of us who come to Riga for kitchen duties. As we helped serve, I remembered the advice of an old police sergeant, not to despise or look down on the homeless or less fortunate - 'Every man has his story', he said.

The brethren and sisters who survive on the streets of Riga have their own stories, yet they have found purpose and community in contributing to the operation of the ecclesia and feeding program. There is no other worldly reward for them doing anything if they chose not too, as all are fed regardless. Brother Maxim from the **Ukraine**, is a great support as he bridges the language gap, keeps everything running smoothly and is the self-appointed 'house manager' so we have jokingly given him extra duties as toilet cleaner, which he accepts in good humour.

After our first evening's activities, Duncan took us into town to deliver firewood to a brother and sister and their family who are squatting in derelict timber flat with no heating or modern stove to cook on. Sheets of broken down cardboard boxes stacked in one room appeared to be the fuel for the stove. Whilst they have shelter, my opinion as a retired firefighter is that, the old building is a potential death trap and will be totally destroyed should a fire take hold. The dangers to the poor are subtle.

They have limited nourishing food making the body vulnerable to illness, limited shelter against the harsh winter climate and limited access to healthcare and medicine (not to mention their vulnerability to those who prey on the weak and disadvantaged). The advantage that our brothers and sisters in Riga share with us is our community in Jesus. This goes beyond our weekend remembrance of Jesus and weekly bible class. We share a community, which God placed us in. It enables us to thrive to the extent that love exists within it. Love we put into action is the spirit that sustains us individually and communally. Love is the one 'doing thing' that defines us as His disciples".

Below you can see Sarah, Betty and April after doing a shop for the daily feeding program- this is how much food is prepared each day; then Norman, Betty and Evia in their cooking hats knitted for them by one of the regular visitors; Mike and Maxim shovelling snow off the flat roof of the *Bible Centre*; Queenslanders a long way from home



This work all needs money, especially for the longer term, around the year running expenses of the hall. This week we just received a land tax bill for about 1950 Euros for the year. We also have the annual insurance premium coming up soon. We are open to donations towards this. But especially we seek your prayers for the hundreds of people being taught, fed and assisted. And do consider coming over and helping.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

- For those recently baptized
- For those trapped without documents and stuck in the underclass of illegal workers
- For the great work going on daily in Riga, Latvia

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