

January 2016 Crimea, UK, Africa

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 19 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/mt19.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-alks/id987163468>

CRIMEA

A visit was made to the Crimea this week to baptize SERGEJ and his wife NADIA. Thank you for your prayers- many potentially difficult moments were resolved by the Lord's gracious, guarding and guiding hand. The situation on the peninsular is stable, with Russian flags flying everywhere and Russian troops clearly in control after the annexation from Ukraine. Gangs of workmen are busily taking down the old street names and replacing them with 'Prospekt Lenin' , 'Roza Luksemburg street' etc.- very much a return to the old style Soviet system. Everything has to be flown in to the peninsular by air, so prices are very high. There are frequent power cuts because **Ukraine** has blown up the supply lines from the power stations on the Ukrainian mainland side which once provided the peninsular with power. So life is very difficult for ordinary folk here.

Our new brother and sister really know the Truth so well, having gone through all our material and reading from the *Russian NEV Bible with commentary*. They are a great example of how very ordinary secular people have had their lives transformed by the truth which is in Christ. Sergej rejected the Trinity 10 years ago and has been searching for a set of teachings which pull together the whole Bible. He is overjoyed to find it in our material. His wife Nadia was 13th of 14 children, growing up in a village, working the land for food, not going to school and left to bring up herself with just a bit of help from her older siblings, constantly worrying about food, money and clothes. She has major problems with reading and writing.

Nadia decided to turn to God after one of her sisters died, so she attended the Orthodox church, to be told that the more candles she lit, the better the chances that her sister would be transferred from hell to heaven. She would eagerly await her wages on Fridays so she could go to the priest and buy more candles. She confessed to the priest that she had had several abortions and he said she needed to pay for confession sessions. But she was on minimum wage as a cleaner with two young children of her own to feed. But she started to think it all through, and became disillusioned with the Russian Orthodox church; and so she passed through Baptists, JW's and the like, never finding real answers.

She married Sergej 6 years ago, and he has shared with her what he has learned. He was able to direct her to our audio and video material in Russian, which she has listened to extensively. All the years of almost daily Bible study at the *Riga Bible Center*, plus years of recorded *Bible Schools*, means we have over 500 videos and 1500 audio files in Russian, covering all our beliefs from every aspect, and commenting on every chapter of the Bible. For the last two years, Sergej has read to her from the Bible and now reads out our commentary to her at the bottom of each page. It was really a great joy to baptize them. Afterwards we made six short videos. Sergej talks about the devil [or lack thereof in the popular sense], about how understanding the truth about the devil greatly changed his spiritual life; and they both talk about their paths to baptism, Nadia explaining how she left Orthodoxy, the myth of icons and burning candles etc. It's all in Russian but Nadia's talks are quite heart breakingly powerful and sincere. Hopefully many Russian speakers who visit our channel at www.youtube.com/Hristadelfiane will view them

and be persuaded. They are a great husband and wife team- she enthusiastically gave her testimony, alluding to Bible verses, whilst Sergej looked up the verses she was alluding to and read them. Here's a typical screenshot:



They were really so happy- to find forgiveness for the typical sins of homus Sovieticus , saying they really felt forgiveness and new life breaking through; and so relieved they finally have a structure of understanding the Bible which makes sense, and into which all the chapters they read [or hear read, in Nadia's case] slot in seamlessly. Here we are below happily together in the hotel room.

There are others seriously interested in the Crimea- the situation is very onerous for ordinary people there and it's not surprising the true Gospel is so attractive. So again, thank you for enabling the production, postage and distribution of all the Russian material especially *Bible Basics* and the *Bibles with commentary*. Real fruit has come from this, to God's glory. Please do continue.



CARELINKS U.K.

Whilst the Lord was at work in Crimea He was also at work in the UK- and of course, in multiple places, issues and lives worldwide. We're delighted to report the baptisms in Liverpool of FARZAD, MORTEZA, SEYED and SOROSH. We can only give thanks to the Lord for His continued working in these last days; and thanks to all those who over the years have contributed towards the development and free publication of *Bible Basics* in languages like Farsi, which work is now bearing so much fruit. And thanks too to local brethren for being supportive; we hear that some of these brethren will be attending the Old Trafford ecclesia this Sunday.



A reminder of our conference on Saturday 27 February God willing at the usual venue in Croydon. We're hoping to have some of our Iranian brethren present so you can meet and hear them first hand.

AFRICA

It's been great this week to receive reports of visits to *Bible Basics* contacts and those previously baptized as a result of this work- Paul & Leonie from South Africa baptizing some in Zimbabwe and Botswana, and Maurice and Greg from New Zealand making a follow up visit to Malawi. As always we seek to encourage local brethren to take over from us, and as it were 'wear our shirt'- as you will see from comparing the photos from Malawi below:





PRAYER POINTS

- For the 6 newly baptized this week
- For the whole situation in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, so that our brethren may be able to live a life in Christ without undue pressure from the surrounding situation
- For our pastoral efforts with the migrant brethren who don't know English
- For the upcoming Bible School in Ukraine.

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks