

January 2018 Latvia, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 9 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mt9b.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>

UK

Our outreach with street distribution of Bibles and *Bible Basics* literature continues in Croydon and Clapham Junction in London; we continue following up with our Iranian contacts also and teaching folks at a migrant center. Arising from that, we're pleased to report the baptisms this week of brothers MANSOR and BEHNAM and sisters SHAYDA and SHIMA. They are sisters in the flesh whose whole family had been part of an underground church in Iran. All four of them along with others came to our home church, and in the course of the day we invited each of them to pray, for things like food, safe keeping on our journey etc., which they did confidently and clearly with experience of praying; and they each wanted to pray before their own baptisms.

They were clearly mature and already connected with Jesus, just hadn't had a chance to learn fuller truth about Him and the Gospel and to get properly baptized. Throughout the day the news was coming through of the protests throughout Iran, which were headline news. We noted they were eager to hear if the regime had been overthrown, because they said it would mean they could then go home. These people clearly had a genuine reason for asylum and were not seeking benefits and a better life for themselves. After the baptism we had food together [prepared by Marcus], and then we broke bread.



We gave the men some welfare as they really didn't have much more than the clothes they stood up in. The girls arrived by plane and had appealed for asylum in the airport. They had their phones taken away from them, the Home Office have a policy now of doing this [due to terrorist concerns and wanting information], and spending 2 months searching through all phone and online activity of those entering the UK for asylum from Iran; this involves them having all their passwords, etc, for their email and everything stored on their phones. You can obviously learn a lot about a person from their phone. They were promised that the Police will return their phones after 2 months. So they are without phone and internet. In order to stay in touch with them it seemed logical to buy them a cheap phone, which was done (see photo). It was as well we did this, because the Home Office moved them two days later, to Birmingham. We put them in touch with sister Jackie and the *King's Heath* ecclesia, and as you read this we hope they will be attending there this Sunday. We are as ever open to your continued donations so we can keep providing for such genuine needs.



Our *Carelinks UK Conference* will be on the theme: *The Real Christ* . There will be a series of talks and personal testimonies, along with practical work of packing Bibles.

It will be on *Saturday 24 Feb 2018: 10.30am to 7pm*. God willing, in the St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8DD.

Do come along!

LATVIA

We're so pleased to report that our brave brother Daniel Aldersley is continuing to run the teaching at the *Bible Center*. Along with a team of volunteers in the kitchen, they put on a loving and welcoming event at New Year; we hope to report on that next time. For now, Brother Jim Barton has put together an appeal for support and an explanation of what goes on at the *Riga Bible Center*;

it's at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6XjluMjzfQ>

The work is truly wonderful, with us providing genuinely needed food and warmth for dozens of mainly older folks, many of them now baptized. We provide one hour of Bible teaching before the feeding - five days / week. It's a great mesh of humanitarian provision and the preaching of the Gospel.

Please do support or encourage others to support as far as you can. The two baptisms last week got SARAH KOHLMAN thinking... she's an unbaptized volunteer in the kitchen, raised in the Truth in an ecclesia in Canada. She asked Jim & Anne to baptize her, and they asked her to call her parents, and take some time to think it over. And after she'd done that, it was with great joy that she was baptized, and returned to her ecclesia in Canada a baptized sister. The collateral blessings of this work are huge.

Please do prayerfully support it and get involved as you can. Here you can see Sarah with her hair wet from baptism, with Daniel on the far left, sister Ieva on the far right, and Jim & Anne and Jesse Andrews; and a typical shot of the feeding scheme in progress:



PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For the settling down in ecclesias of those we baptize
- For Br Daniel's work in Latvia

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks