

January 2019 UK, Mayotte, France

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 8 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mt8a.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:

Genesis <http://n-e-v.info/NEVGenesisCommentary.pdf>

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

Matthew <http://n-e-v.info/NEVMatthewCommentary.pdf>

UK

MAYOTTE / FRANCE

You may recall our messages about the group of *Congolese* refugees stranded on the tiny islet of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean, where they have little food, no health care and we rent them a room in a shack where they all sleep on the floor. They are slowly being given 10 year French residency permits as Mayotte is a department of France.

But it was always unclear as to whether in reality they would be able to get to France metropole [mainland]. They really have to get off Mayotte- the situation for them there is untenable and dangerous. We have been asking for your prayers for the situation, and on 31 December we got a message that br Nicolas had arrived in Paris.

He says the local authorities are swamped by the refugees and just want to get them off Mayotte and to France as they really cannot provide the housing and support in Mayotte which France is supposed to provide. So he was contacted by the local refugee organ and asked to go to the airport as his documents were in order, and to fly to Paris. Which he did. Life can change overnight for us all.

On arrival in France he was pretty clueless and yet the authorities accepted his documents. He is currently in a night shelter in Lille provided with bed and food but he has to be out in the day time. It seems he will be eligible for state support and a place on a job seekers program. This can only be attributed to God's direct action as about everything seemed against any of our brethren and sisters in Mayotte ever getting to France.

Lille in northern France is only 90 minutes by train from London UK thanks to the tunnel, so we dropped over to see him. He was truly grateful to God for His grace, we prayed together and this was his constant theme- thanks for God's grace. He didn't meet us at the railway station as planned as he has truly no money. So we went out to his place, which is very far from the center of Lille, which is a city of about 1 million, apparently full of migrants and homeless folks, very depressed.

We took him for a meal, gave him money and clothes, had a prayer session together in the restaurant and we distributed a few Bibles on the streets wearing the *Free Bibles* vests. The others in Mayotte haven't yet received their documents but should do very soon GW. It would be great if indeed they could start an African ecclesia in Lille, the train takes only 90 minutes from London, very convenient.

This would be a great project for someone to start an African ecclesia there, plenty of interest and plenty of desperate people. But Nicolas only knows French and Lingala, no English. We're really grateful for all this and again have no doubt the Lord is working with those who work with Him, and even with those who don't, ever seeking to coax us towards His Kingdom in the way He knows is best for us. So let us know if you feel this need is your call to get involved in this. And we continue open to receiving donations towards the various costs of supporting this situation now in both France and Mayotte.

Here you can see us happily reunited in France after having last been together in Mayotte; brother Nicolas with a brand new shirt which Marcus asked to be taken over for him; and distributing New Testaments on the streets of Lille, seeking to capitalize on wherever the Lord is leading us to sow the word of His grace:



PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- Praise for how the Lord has brought the first brother from Mayotte to safety in France
- Prayers for all our refugee brethren and those still on Mayotte
- For the continued work in Riga

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks