

## July 2015 Gatherings, Brother Graham, Bibles, Ukraine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 27 and there are MP3 files about this chapter at <http://gospelstudies.net/audio/mt27a.mp3> ,

<http://gospelstudies.net/audio/mt27b.mp3> and

<http://gospelstudies.net/audio/mt27c.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-talks/id987163468>

Carelinks Bible Radio is at <http://www.r-b-c.org/listen.php>

### BIBLES

We're still awaiting a winning response to our invitation last week to design a car sticker we can print, advertising free *NEV Bibles*. These Bibles have commentary and a reduced version of *Bible Basics* at the back of them - let us know if you've not got a hard copy, or see [www.n-e-v.info](http://www.n-e-v.info) .

Please do advertise these Bibles locally as best you can, praying for the Lord's blessing. Sister Robin in Australia has been making use of public chalkboards to write adverts for the Bibles:



And brother John has been putting adverts for the free Bibles in supermarkets in Sydney, with a tear off reminder of the details; this could be done by many others, as many shops accept postcard size advertisements in their windows. Let us know if you'd like us to send you postcards:



We've been SO encouraged by beginning to follow up the 1000 or so replies received to one advert in the *UK Daily Mail*. And by the sounds of their names and addresses and follow up correspondence, the vast majority of these would seem to be unchurched, working-class white Anglo Saxon British folks- not the group in British society one would have expected to be so responsive. But with the state of the world as it is, it seems that Joe Average in the UK, the [wo]man in the street, is beginning to look to their maker. They may not immediately wish to attend meetings, but they are sure interested in having a read of the Bible. Some have already received the Bible and have written or phoned us to say they are reading it daily and love the commentary; an 86 year old woman raised as a Christadelphian said she saw the advert and it confirmed her feeling she must reconnect with God and be baptized; an 84 year old Christadelphian sister isolated in a distant part of Scotland said her Bible had worn out, she needed a new one, and having no internet access nor opportunity to get out and buy one, she thought the advert for a free Bible was a God-send. And she then found out we share the same faith. And many other such encouraging stories. Please pray for us this week as we have meetings with various folks who have been in touch with us for varying periods of time.

Another thing we learned from all this response and the subsequent follow up is that there is a significant minority of people in Western society who are not online; they read newspapers and hard copy literature, and cut out forms and put postage stamps on envelopes, rather than email or message. It's easy to forget the size of this segment of society; through economic, age or cultural reasons they aren't online, and there is very little reach out of the Gospel to them. The large response from the one advert is proof enough of this; most of those 1000 people cut out

the form, filled it out and posted it in the mail to us.

### **BROTHER GRAHAM**



We're pleased to tell you of the baptism this week of GRAHAM, an elderly man in a wheelchair, who has had one leg amputated and will soon have to have the other one amputated too. He lives in a very bad case of 'sheltered housing' in a small coastal town, in an outhouse made of perspex which is so cold in Winter he sleeps in his overcoat, and now in Summer is unbearably hot. Using his wheelchair, he tends a little garden outside his room, which he says is a foretaste of the garden of Eden to be restored on earth in the Kingdom. He has a mobility scooter which he uses to get into town and buy seeds. He longs for the Kingdom. He has little to look forward to in this life. He was an avid gardener with prize winning allotments and longs to see creation beautified in the Kingdom. Strokes and old age have taken their toll on his speech and mental health, he easily wanders off topic in conversation, but no barrier to his understanding and grasping the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Lord Jesus. He studied many years with the JW's and was smart enough to figure out they were wrong on the Satan issue, 1914 and many other things, but he took what was true from their teachings. Thank you all for being out there and playing your parts, by prayer, financial donation, Bible mailing and warehousing etc., in enabling a sincere man like this to come to the Gospel and that blessed Hope of the Kingdom; as standard denominations want attendees at their church and have no time to spare for a disabled, legless pensioner at the end of his life.

He would love to receive cards of congratulation; he asked if we might send postcards, so he can brighten up his room. So let us know if you can send him a postcard from wherever you are in the world.

You can see a brief but moving video of our brother talking about his beliefs before baptism; he speaks about the death state, the Kingdom and his earnest desire to be there- replete with the noise of seagulls who visit him. We think you'll find it very touching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3IEy6Qz5VA>

### **UKRAINE**

Please do continue to pray for brother Maxim, the process of getting him to relative safety through a Latvian residency permit has hit another set of bureaucratic problems. Please pray for our dear and brave brother, and for the Lord's hand upon the hearts of the bureaucrats involved. And pray too for the brothers and sisters in Ukraine; the global media has little to say about it just now, but a brother in Donetsk region says he hears shelling every night. The economy has melted down, and the country is now a basket case, the Zimbabwe of Europe- inflation is at 57% , food prices up by 10 times, if you doubt, see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-33610625> . Those worst affected are pensioners and others outside the workforce, amongst whom we have many brothers and sisters.

### **GATHERINGS**

Carelinks are arranging the following gatherings / get togethers, God willing:

**HEBDEN BRIDGE, UK:** Weekend of Saturday 19 September 2015 . There will be several former JW's present so this would be attractive especially to those who have gone through similar

struggles with religion

**HURSTVILLE, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA:** Sunday 22 November 2015

**CROYDON, U.K.:** Carelinks UK Conference, Saturday 27 February 2016

Let us know if you'd like to attend.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For brother Maxim
- For the brothers and sisters in Ukraine
- For brother Graham
- For the many contacts in the UK and those now considering baptism

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