

July 2017 Canada, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 24 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mt24.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

Br Michael and Sis Betty Flaherty from *Australia* write:

"Whilst cycling through Europe we received the sad news of the passing of sister Gwladys and so headed over to London to be with the family. As preparations were being made for the funeral we had the opportunity to accompany Duncan to engage people on the street with the offer of a free New Testament, then later visit a refugee centre.

On the streets of Crystal Palace we were able to distribute quite a bit of literature, including to motorists waiting at traffic lights on the busy high street. They were often willing to wind down their window and take a New Testament. The "Free Bibles" visibility vests would have already been spotted by them. One guy honked Betty from the other side of the street and asked for 2 New Testaments through his window. We also put a *NEV Bible* and *Introducing Bible Basics* in a "tiny library" on a street corner, where people put books they don't want and people can take them to read, either keeping or returning them to the box.



The refugee centre surprised me. Not really knowing what to expect, I discovered that there was no stereotype refugee/asylum seeker. An older man from Afghanistan who had lost both legs, apparently to a landmine, who had such a positive spirit, eagerly wheeling himself around in his wheelchair to clean the tables in the canteen, mop the floor, and from his wheelchair to play with the various refugee children running around the place; Albanian sex workers now pregnant, rescued from human trafficking; an Afghani family who once assisted the west in humanitarian projects, and other religious minorities fleeing Muslim extremism in their countries.



What do you say? How do you begin a conversation with people you have little in common with? I mean, after all, you only have a small window of opportunity before they are shipped off to another location. I had forgotten that it is not me that does the conversion but the spirit of God working through me. So, despite my own inadequacies, Duncan quickly showed me that a direct question, "Would you like to know Jesus and become a Christian?" mostly resulted in the nod of a head, a yes and a willingness to receive a Bible and a *Bible Basics* book in their native language.

With Duncan's contact details in the books, they were encouraged to read them through and phone him for more information or instruction to baptism. Some returned a short time later to get more *NEV Bibles* or *Bible Basics* for their friends or family.

No theological debates just an interest in what we had to offer, a way to have a relationship with Jesus and his Father, free of religion and complex dogma. The people we met are not prisoners but are in a secure place where they have a lot of time on their hands during the day. We witnessed them reading the books we gave for quite a while afterwards.

There were four important things I took away from the visits:

1. Asking people if they would like to know Jesus, isn't "rocket science". Jesus didn't ask us to be able to convert people, he just said, "Go out and preach" Don't fear being rejected by others, we saw many who were eager for hope.

2. Take a leaf out of Jesus' book and have conversations with the poor and outcast. Sure, it may not be comfortable to talk to people outside our social circle, but I am reminded that Jesus saw similar and "he had compassion on them." They may be the most receptive to talking about the hope we share. Have compassion.

3. I have no power to convince anyone to accept the Salvation of God. Even when I flounder about not knowing the right thing to say, God can use me in all my inadequacy, insecurity and weakness. Pray. Pray for our Father's help and blessing on our efforts. Don't forget - PRAY! Pray for His will to be done, that he open the way to those seeking Him.

God provides angels to go before us. Supernatural, yes, but I have also witnessed human angels provided to make our paths straight and open doors that are normally locked, raised up for a specific purpose. God bless them for their courage. If you believe that you can muster up enough courage to go out into your own community and ask, "Would you like to know Jesus and become a Christian?" then Carelinks have resources to help you. The New Testament with *introducing bible basics* in the back is an excellent way of giving a valuable gift to people who show interest".

There's a video of brother Mike distributing the New Testaments and engaging people on the streets and traffic lights at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XyYoLi_XhU

CANADA

Carelinks Canada

There have been many responses from Canadians to the Carelinks web-sites. In a typical week we usually get one or two requests by Canadians but in just the past week we had requests for 3 *NEV Bibles* with commentary, 2 *Bible Basics* and 200 "*When Will Jesus Return To The Earth*" pamphlets. Each request is mailed out to the recipient along with a cover letter and a few other pieces of Scriptural materials including a reading schedule. We pray they are received by people with open hearts and minds to serve the Lord and share in hope of Christ's Kingdom.

Here's a few of the comments written to us by those who requested Bible materials.

"My name is Gordon and I was raised in a catholic family on the one side and baptist on the other and have been very confused for many years on why so many denominations and which is right. I would very much like the opportunity to read the *NEV bible* and read the *bible basics* to learn more as well as view your other websites. I have been told by my catholic relatives to read strictly catholic doctrine and on the other hand have been told by my baptist relatives to read strictly their bible, but honestly would like to seek the lord outside of these denominations."

from Kim:

"Thank you so much, that would be so helpful, i am wanting to learn about God and his word. He has been there for me through the good and the bad, he saved my life a few times, and has forgiven me for doing so much wrong in my life. I have excepted him into my heart and excepted him as my Lord and savior. I want to learn as much as i can, and live according to how he wills for me, i want to spread his word, and become a true christian."

Just after taking all this to the post office another request came in from Tracey of Calgary, Alberta. Your donations enable us to meet the costs of publishing and postage to respond to these people. Thank you for your continued support to this valuable mission.

In our shared hope,

Jim Barton



PRAYER POINTS:

- For our outreach in the UK
- For the work in Canada
- For trips planned to Germany, Belgium, Italy and Sicily this week, God willing

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks