

July 2017 Sicily, UK, Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Romans 5 and 6 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/rom56.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>

AUSTRALIA

We're planning a *Carelinks* Publicity meeting at the *Logan ecclesia* in **Brisbane** on Sunday 10 December God willing at 1:30 PM, the breaking of bread meeting will be at 11 a.m. All welcome to hear updates of the Lord's hand at work around the world today, and to consider how we might extend His work in Australia.

Logan ecclesia meet in The Library, Mabel Park State High School, 72 Paradise Rd , **SLACKS CREEK** <http://www.qldmembers.com/logan.html>

More info from Br Ray Wheeler raywheelermobilemowers@gmail.com or Br Phil & Sis Miri Worsnop mworsnop53@optusnet.com.au

SICILY

We described in a previous *Carelink* the awful situation here, with up to 8000 migrants arriving each day in Sicily, with the authorities utterly unable to cope. There is a drought here, and temperatures often at 40 C. Not only is there no accommodation for most of the new arrivals, but little water either. Public water sources such as fountains and public toilets have all been turned off, as the migrants are so desperate for water they will drink anything. On the last visit we gave funds towards some of our contacts renting a room which could serve as a refuge for more extreme cases, and at least to provide food and water to some.

We also left them plenty of *Bible Basics* and *NEV Bibles*. They have studied them, and we're so thrilled that they have indeed become a refuge for some and that four women studied the material and wanted to be baptized: QUEEN, JOANNA, PATIENCE and SONIA.

Most of the migrants are young males, and most of them have terrible stories of torture in Libya, where they were held under ransom and tortured. The women of course are raped and kept as sex slaves, often only released if they get pregnant.

If they don't drown on the way, these people then arrive in Sicily. They have a whole range of health issues, and the women are often pregnant and malnourished. The humble room rented provides shelter for only a very few. One woman was grateful just for a chair and water. She sat on one of the chairs outside the hired room on the street feeding her child from out of date 'Tuc' cracker biscuits from a supermarket, with water in a bottle from the room, with her wearing a child's Mickey Mouse T-shirt. They are indeed vulnerable people, very easily abused by the Mafia-controlled gangs who operate in Sicily with impunity.



Another woman was pregnant from her rapes experienced in Libya. The child appeared to be upside down in the womb, requiring Caesarian section. But with no documents or money, the crowded hospitals are not inclined to take in migrants. We did get her into a hospital where she

delivered the child safely; we were able to give her an *NEV New Testament* and *Introducing Bible Basics* and pray with her. She was so excited to have these to read and study. There was graffiti on the walls of the ward, crucifixes and statues of Mary everywhere, and the nurses generally didn't speak English.



What happens to these children? Some of the women we baptized were caring for babies of African women they had taken pity upon as often they are just dumped under the bushes after birth. And all this is in the EU... with tourists flying back on Easyjet talking about the great time they had on vacation, without a clue as to what is really going on.

Some of the women had been living in an unfinished, derelict garage near a beach. After Bible study at the hired room, we went there to change and have a final prayer and a few words before the immersions. As you can see, all they had was a discarded piece of plaster board for privacy; no water, toilet or electricity. They carry babies on their backs African style:



Despite their total poverty, we were able to provide white clothes and some hair styling for their baptisms. We emphasized that despite what they had been through, they were the spotless bride of the Lord Jesus and were giving themselves to the One who so loves them:



We went from there to the beach, where a group of about 15 sunbathing white Italians gathered around us as we did the baptisms.



Usually such local folks have been abusive and racist, feeling their country is being overrun by the migrants, but these folks were utterly fascinated and respected our sincerity. They took videos of us and clapped after each immersion.



It was an amazing witness of the unity of the Gospel to these secular, nominal Catholic folks. You can hear the talk in the garage and see the immersions and the watching Italians in the video at <https://youtu.be/bPv0-A2JbSA>

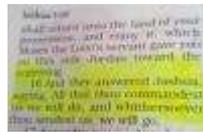
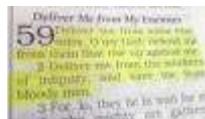
Despite the noise of screaming babies you can see the spirit of Christ was there, and the extreme, desperate sincerity of those women, now our sisters, expressed in their body language. As you can see, one of the sisters is heavily pregnant but was all the same so eager for baptism. Please pray for her delivery and for whatever will happen to the child.

The need and potential is huge. And the need is the call, as we have often said. In Western medicine, these women would all need post traumatic stress counselling. But they hardly have water, food and a chair to sit on. We really appreciate your generosity which has enabled us to

assist so far as we have. We provided hospital fees, food, drink and continued renting the room. And there is the upcoming visit to feed the migrants near Bologna at the end of August which needs your support.

These sisters are devoted to God's word and His Son. The most prized possession of one of them was a tattered *King James Version Bible* she had brought from Nigeria, her only possession to survive her traumatic journey. She had highlighted her favourite verses, so relevant to those who crossed the Sahara to be raped and imprisoned in Libya before nearly drowning on the sea crossing to Sicily:

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.. Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God, and save me from bloody men.. They answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and withersoever thou sendest us, we will go.. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God". Here they are, highlighted in her precious Bible:



UK

Br Mike & Sis Betty from **Australia** have continued helping in our outreach in south London. They've been a great help, visiting contacts, distributing literature on the streets and several times visiting the migrant centre. The pregnant Albanian sex workers we mentioned last time have now been moved on, but they were able to connect with various other folks there. Not least an older African woman suffering from chronic diabetes and other issues. Betty had a good chat with her, and then Mike was able to pray with her:



Mike & Betty also revisited the 'tiny library' where they had placed a Bible earlier. These small libraries are a great way to quietly spread God's word and the Gospel. Find where your local ones are; we are happy to provide literature for you to place in them. Or you can make your own and put it up somewhere.

Mike & Betty have had great success in doing this, and there's a brief video of them talking about it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjl_oxw3_U

One woman was baptized as a result of their tiny library outside their home in Queensland, Australia; she's now living in Paris, France and Mike & Betty are off to see her soon, Lord willing.

Those who knew sister Gwladys Heaster may be interested in the video of her funeral, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLBakiF2eyg>

Thanks to all who attended and have supported the family at this time.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For the ongoing work in the UK
- For the pregnant sisters in Sicily
- For the tiny efforts we are making to provide care and shelter in Sicily
- For the Lord's soon return

- For the continued spiritual growth of those baptized

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks