

## July 2018 Sicily, UK, Belgium, Italy, Canada, Tenerife, Speaker needed

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Romans 3,4 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/rom34.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:

*Jeremiah*: <http://n-e-v.info/JeremiahNEVCommentary.pdf>

*Romans*: <http://n-e-v.info/NEVRomansCommentary.pdf>

We're looking for a speaker for the *Winter Bible School*, to be held in **Kiev, Ukraine** at the end of January 2019 God willing. Kiev is completely safe as regards the conflict in the east of the country. *Let us know if you can help.*

### CANADA

Brother George is still out there at the old Hamilton bus station in Ontario, distributing *NEV Bibles*. Do pray for him and support him.



### BELGIUM

Thanks to the channel tunnel and high speed trains, it's only a 3 or 4 hour journey now from London to many railway stations in Belgium. We made the trip earlier this week to baptize OLA, a former Muslim from Senegal, he walked some hours in searing heat from his migrant camp in the countryside to meet us at the railway station. We did the baptism in the small town swimming pool, full of Belgian schoolkids on holiday camp, they looked in amazement at the black man and British guy getting into the pool, doing an immersion, praying together and then walking back to the changing rooms. It was quite a witness to them, as they all stopped playing and asked the teachers / lifeguards "What are they doing?". Ola is a very humble man who was truly looking for God in his rather dumb and apparently dead end situation. Of such is the Kingdom. For humility is what God seeks so strongly.

### UK

We've mentioned before the repressive situation in **Belarus**, the last remaining one party Communist state in Europe. This week we had some lengthy meetings with U, a prominent member of the illegal opposition congress. He fled Belarus and sought asylum in the UK. Having left behind family and status in Belarus, he now as an older man finds himself very alone in a strange land where things haven't worked out quite as he hoped, and his health has collapsed. And so he turned to God, desperately praying and seeking Him, despite his Communist and atheistic past, and through God using the work of a child, we were able to have contact with him and give him *Bible Basics* and then later the *NEV Russian Bible*. His name is very well known in Belarus and on the internet. He's probably one of the highest profile people the Lord has led to us in our ministry, although he faces a rather bleak future in exile in the UK with broken health

and his children and grandchildren at risk in Belarus. we marvel at the wide range of people our active Lord Jesus is calling to Himself, from the broken high profile opposition politician, to almost nameless Africans on the streets of Sicily.



## SICILY

We're spending some intensive days working with the group in Sicily at this time and appreciate your prayers. The new Government wish to deport most of the 1 million or more African refugees in Italy, and there is racism now at every corner. Many camps have been closed and the Africans are on the streets, begging for help or casual work. The situation is particularly acute in Sicily, where many of the Africans first land. The region is very poor, and oppressively hot throughout the Summer. Many of these people arrive having been beaten and tortured in Libya and saw so many drowning all around them during the Mediterranean sea crossing.

We reported some months ago about our assistance to a young man called Raymond:

"Raymond was beaten, tortured and starved whilst in Libya. He needs major surgery, has heart problems and can currently only go a few minutes without oxygen. Without our help, humanly speaking, he'd likely be dead. He's unable to wander or cycle around looking for odd jobs as the other young men do, and would have been one of the many migrants who die whilst sleeping rough near the beaches".

Here are file photos of brother Godson and Duncan with him in the hospital; you can see he has his green *NEV Bible* with him in the bed.



We are supporting the rental of the meeting room which serves as a meeting point and refuge and source of water for the migrants. Please do continue to support the work here. We got to know Raymond through this. So now after some months of reading the *NEV Bible* and *Bible Basics*, it was a particular joy for Godson and Duncan to be able to baptize Raymond. This really was the fruit of combining material care with the up front, doctrinal preaching of the true Gospel. But it wasn't so simple as going to the beach. The place nearest to Raymond, as he can't walk far, was full of white Italians sunbathing. They made it clear this was "whites only", even though it was not a private beach and was public property; indeed it wasn't even a beach as there was no sand there just rocks where they were sunbathing. It was racism at its most primitive. So as we had no other choice, we clambered over the security barrier of a building site and got to the water that way, doing the immersion by the scaffolding of a building project which looked like it might collapse upon us any time. In the first picture you can see the red barrier, and the white Italians to the right, telling us to clear off:.



The sisters we baptized here last time are under the deep impression of God moving in their

lives since their baptisms, and are preaching to other women. Do pray for them and our witness to them, and we hope to report more on our outreach to them next week Lord willing. Many of these women were repeatedly raped by the traffickers in Libya, some are pregnant as a result. And yet there is very little help for them in Sicily and many are just fending for themselves in really great hardship. We're doing what we can to give appropriate support.

### **ITALY**

We had great news from brothers Joseph and Osahun in Italy. Osahun is turning out as good as he promised to be and is running regular meetings there with those we baptized and others. They are meeting regularly in the same conference room we used for our meetings, but with them now running the meetings:



The brethren we baptized from the camp up in the mountains [former JW's] also came down to one of his meetings, hitchhiking to get there as there's no public transport up there. So that is very encouraging that they have an ecclesia going there. They want more Bibles which Marcus will God Willing send out. As the apostle John says, we have no greater joy than to hear that our children walk in truth.

Much of this work is direct response to the distribution of *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics*. Postage is incredibly expensive, even though we use contractors who are cheaper than the standard Post Office rates. Please do continue donating so this quiet but effective work can go forward.

### **TENERIFE**

Sister Marianne Downes is living in Tenerife and is distributing our English / Spanish tracts and is very keen to have visitors to help her. Our sister is originally from the UK and speaks English and Spanish fluently, anyone holidaying there and wanting to help her can get in touch for her details.

### **PRAYER POINTS**

- For those newly baptized
- For the preaching and welfare work in Sicily this week
- For the work of brother George in Hamilton, ONT Canada
- For the continued work of brother Osahun and others in Italy
- For the trip planned to the islet of Mayotte later this week

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