

July 2018 Italy, UK, Canada, USA

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 16 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mt16.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:

PDF <http://www.n-e-v.info/JeremiahNEVCommentary.pdf>

epub <http://www.n-e-v.info/JeremiahNEVCommentary.epub>

CANADA

As mentioned before, brother George Kachmar is regularly out on the streets around the Hamilton old bus station, offering counselling, NEV Bibles, Bible Basics etc. to the homeless there. Do get involved and support our brother if you can; here are some photos he just sent:



There but for God's grace go, or would have gone, all of us.

ITALY

We mentioned last week that many of the migrants in Italy have been thrown out on the streets now that their camps have been closed. They get no state support, can't work legally, cannot be deported as they have no documents, and are just left to fend for themselves with no access to health care. And there are hundreds of thousands in this situation now in Europe, especially in Italy. Last week we baptized brother Francis, who is in this situation. We took food to the derelict building where he was living, and words cannot describe the place. It had been gutted with fire, the plastic cladding on the walls and handrails all melted and peeling. It had become a drug den for Italian drug addicts and is a very scary place. Nine Africans sleep on the upper floor, but only go there to sleep late at night, as the downstairs is used by addicts and criminals in the day time; and they are at risk of attack from right wing neo-Fascist thugs as well.



We found Francis living in a room with a small chair in it, on which he placed his *NEV Bible*. On his door he had painted a cross and the word "Jesus".



Most of the other Africans were Muslims, and he just lives there in fear of his life at night. But he is very positive. "Have you got water?". "Oh yes!" he beams, "We take it from over the road, from

a pipe there". There's obviously no electricity or toilet. We took food up there, including late at night. Into the very darkest of places, the light of God's love and the good news of His Son must enter. And it did. All this is even more tragic when you hear the tragic story of Francis; how he was trafficked by the smuggling gangs in Libya, who sold him on to other gangs, who tortured him to get him to phone back to Ghana and get money sent to them. Those like him who couldn't raise the money were then sold on cheaply to other gangs, who also tried to extort money by even worse torture, killing many in the group to scare the others to by all means find someone to send money to the traffickers. He has a wife and two children back in Ghana, and can't return as he has no documents.

His testimony is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjbrCKgHx5Q>

You can see a video of our entrance into the building and climbing around in the darkness, and the scary conversations whilst inside. Perhaps this is a 'must see'

video: <https://youtu.be/OUeF2Fd4Ta0>

There was drug related graffiti on the walls, and all that was left of a dead addict; his blanket, his blood and some needles:



So when Francis was baptized, this was really the desperate coming to the Lord Jesus:



As you can see from the graffiti on the wall, 'Hard life' says it all, and we tried to bring the light and joy of the Lord Jesus into this situation:



We did give material support to Francis, and bought him an inhaler for his asthma; he gets absolutely no health care from the Italian government. He cannot be extradited as he has no documents, so he is stuck in Italy as a non-entity, like so many. Quite how this situation will ever be resolved humanly, nobody can guess. But for sure we need the return of the Lord Jesus, and it is unsurprising that the Gospel of His Kingdom is so attractive to those in this hopeless situation.

They try to work illegally, but as they are non entities within the system, they have no protection under labour laws. This Winter, Francis worked hard digging trenches in the snow, with just an oil burner to keep him warm, in dangerous circumstances; in return for food and being allowed to sleep on the building site. He was promised wages- but wasn't paid. This is the standard complaint of so many of our brethren.

His friend recorded a brief video of Francis working in the snow, and we've uploaded it to <https://youtu.be/1Y4mjUCc4uE>



We feel what we try to do to help is but a drop in the ocean; but all the same it is something. Here is a blanket with squares knitted by various sisters in the UK, coordinated by Sister Debbie Clements, being presented to some Africans:



We mentioned last week the baptisms of Samson and Michael, settled and stable African Italians; and how thrilled they were with the transformation they experienced after baptism, to the point that they shared our Bibles and *Bible Basics* materials with their families. We were delighted to baptize Michael's sister, TINA, who has lived in Italy since 1989; and Samson's brother, SAMUEL. Tina was the only sister we baptized this time, it was good to have sister Dawn in the water for this one:



Tina is well known in the African community and we are sending her a box of Bibles for distribution to her family and many friends who are in Italy, most of them born there and full Italian citizens. She has great potential to be the backbone of a more stable and settled ecclesia in Italy.



UK

In case any of you are going to be in the Bournemouth area, God willing we hope to hand out New Testaments, Bibles and *Bible Basics* to folks on the beach, and generally do some beach outreach with our visibility vests and chatting to folks, this Saturday and Sunday [14,15 July]. Probably on the busiest part of the beach, between the pier and Alum Chine. Breaking of bread at 11 a.m. at *Waterside Ecclesia*, Hinton Firs Hotel, Bournemouth. Theme will be "God in search of man", and He is, and He is willing to work through us to search for people... including sunbathers on the beach. Let us know in advance if you'd like to come so we can fix a meeting point. Hopefully the beach will be packed. And do pray that those searching for God will encounter His search of them. We're just trying to connect them.

USA

We're sorry to hear of the falling asleep in the Lord Jesus of sister Marilyn Seago, who did so much work following up with contacts in prison. This led not only to several baptisms but also to much follow up work and transformation of character, to the Lord's glory. One such convert was brother Bill Dixon, and he has written here his testimony; he is now being mentored by sister

Mary Simpson from New Zealand:

"22 June 2018 Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ. I was asked to write a letter about my walk with Christ and how I met Sis Marilyn Seagoe.

In 2005 I was forced into a business relationship with a crime family and to be around these men. At that time the worse thing I had done was smoke cannabis. My wife was a nurse who came from a traditional small town family. She smoke cannabis and that was the extent to our crime life. We went to college together and we fell in love. I was donating time at PowerNet United way. I had a faith based program I ran but I never had a faith in Christ. I spoke the words Christian but never believed. My family was military, farmers, cops and bankers. My mother's mother and grandmother were Ashkenazi Jews: Bankers. So our family never had any set belief. Everyone was free Mason's.

That was what connected our family. Not Christ. So I got placed in this relationship with criminals. I did what any good American should do. I busted their leader. After the bust they came after me. I watched them torture my wife and they killed the baby she was carrying. Then they killed my best friend. I was set up and placed in prison. My wife started writing to people trying to tell our story. I was writing people, random churches and organizations. Marilyn responded to one of the letters.

She asked me if I wanted to take a bible study. I said, "No, God isn't talking to me right now." I told her I didn't believe like that and I'm trying to find people to help me. That was 2007. I wrote Marilyn for years. She prayed for me and she became a pen pal. I was not a believer and I was selling cannabis in prison. I believed if I made enough money I could pay an attorney and get out. Time went on I paid an attorney. This entire time I got the cartel with an active hit on me. The guy I put in jail in Belize died. So the Aryan gang he contracted to kill me were the only people left to know what happened. See that was the thing Marilyn was not like anyone in my life she never judged me. She knew I was trying to look to man for help. She said, Bill when you find God and lean on him you will find what you are looking for. 2009 I was almost killed.

I still never believed. I tried to make a deal with the FBI. I had got information on a serial killer they were investigating. So I had a deal with the feds that I give them what I know if they investigate my innocence. Marilyn always knew when I was wrong. She told me they can't be trusted and all I need is God on my side. The feds never helped me. 2011 I was stabbed nine times and beat with bricks. God spoke to me. I got up and walked away. I walked to medical. I was housed in medical for one year: no phone no visits no TV. Only Marilyn wrote me twice a month and sent bible studies.

I found Christ in that room by reading those letters. I had my baptism interview by letters and was baptised in prison. My attorney who I paid screwed me & stole my money. They let my case default. I never had a chance to put my evidence on the record. The courts lied and manipulated the public record. Marilyn read what we had collected and what they said. She started writing to courts and trying to help me. Now that I was walking with God Marilyn was helping me. Harvard law open a study. My wife and I split up because my life purpose changed. I felt I had to live for God and help people.

We started looking for people to publish the story. God rebuilt my relationships with my family. I'm only alive because Marilyn believed in me when no one else did. Her faith in God and service to God was so strong she helped me become who God meant for me to be. I now stand before you a man who has lost everything in this world. My wife is gone. My mentor, Sis Marilyn Seagoe, is now gone and God has never been more active.

We must all believe and hope his path is open to our hearts because without the persistent pushing of Marilyn I would have given up. So now I want to be that person who shines Gods light for others. Prison made me see the truth. So like many in the Bible it took prison to change and

be this light for God. So God bless you all. Bro Bill Dixon"

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For those in prison
- For our continued outreach efforts on the streets
- For wisdom in taking forward the great work in Italy

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks