

July 2018 Mayotte, Ukraine, Belarus, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Matthew 23 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/mt23a.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>

MAYOTTE

We mentioned previously the group of refugees from Congo who were attending the ecclesia at refugee camp in **Tanzania**. They managed to sail from the African coast to the islet of Mayotte, which technically belongs to France. This is about 500 miles from the coast of Mozambique and is just an outcrop in the ocean of about 20 square miles. Many die crossing the ocean, so their survival is amazing. They contacted us wanting baptism. After much discussion with them and WhatsApp and Skype calls, it was clear that they really do share our understanding. Although they are stuck on this tiny island in the middle of the ocean. We plan on visiting them, and we can imagine they'll need welfare support. We really are open to your donations towards this.

UKRAINE

Was great to be in Ukraine again, although the situation where we were in Eastern Ukraine is really bad, lack of running water even in hotels, people walking around carrying water containers like this is Africa come to broken down Europe. The war has broken the economy, inflation is rampant, and pensioners and those living on state income are really suffering. But it was wonderful to be with the ecclesia there again and to see people who converted from atheism and were baptized 15 years ago so strong still in their faith, and continuing to read the Bible daily using the *Bible Companion*.

There were three baptisms, LUDMILA, a long time contact who has often come to our *Bible Schools* in Kiev but was not previously baptized; and sister Vika's mother KATYA and also their next door neighbour, a young woman called NASTYA, another fruit of sharing the Gospel and Bibles / *Bible Basics* with secular folks we know in life. We asked Katya "So do you believe the things about Jesus which you have learned?", she solemnly said that "Yes, I do with all my heart". But then nervously commented "But I'm not a religious woman, you know, I never went to church and all that". And this it seems is the kind of people the Lord leads us to. The spiritual but not religious, who have come to believe with all their hearts. And Europe, both western and eastern, is full of such potential people.

We went out to a polluted river, less than 100 km. from the front line of the conflict which continues to rage, with military helicopters buzzing nearby, and baptized these three very sincere believers in the Truth.



Duncan adds on a personal level: "I'd also like to pay tribute to my relationship with Maxim, it's

been a great partnership over 13 years, working together in Ukraine, Russia and Latvia, with us having baptized around 100 people together. And it all began with an apparently "chance" meeting in a corridor in a hotel in Poltava many years ago, when I challenged Max as to the need for baptism. But nothing is chance, all our encounters and relationships are part of that amazingly detailed Divine plan of grace and love, articulated through the ceaseless work of the Lord Jesus and His Spirit. We may not always manage to attach meaning to event, but there can be no doubt that God is for real in our lives".

BELARUS

Our witness here continues, in the last old time Communist state in Europe. Things aren't therefore easy for the brethren here, with Government interference and observation in many parts of personal life. We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of STANISLAV earlier this week.

UK

Great weekend with members of the *Waterside ecclesia* in Bournemouth UK giving out New Testaments at the beach, during an absolute heatwave. Sister Sarah had a beach hut we could use for a base:



We had lots of good conversations over two days, with some people asking about our meetings. We got some good contacts whom we hope will attend their meetings, their hall is right on the sea front so that is a great attraction. If you live anywhere where there are masses of people... do wear the "*Free Bibles*" vests and engage with people, they'll just come up to you and ask you once they see the vests. We left some vests with the ecclesia and will get more New Testaments to them as they want to repeat this. It's a great way to actually engage with real people. Here you can see sisters Glynis and Sarah doing just that



Prayer Points:

- For those recently baptized
- For our brothers and sisters who are pensioners or with low income in Ukraine
- For the refugee contacts on Mayotte

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks