

June 2016 Brother Maxim, UK, Italy

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 and 3 John there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/23jn.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> 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>

BROTHER MAXIM

Previous messages have explained the plight of our brother Maxim of Ukraine, who was conscripted into the Ukrainian Military but managed to get to Latvia where he is now legally resident, on the basis of having enrolled as a student there. Our brother has endeared himself to all the Western visitors and also to the large ecclesia in Riga; he is fluent in his knowledge of the Scriptures, and especially his love of God's word, and leads the meetings with solid Bible teaching. Our brother is a great all rounder, able to also do the cooking for the feeding scheme and be the general handyman at the hall. This of itself is no small task. We give him a monthly subsistence allowance and also pay his visa fees and education costs. The situation in Ukraine has not changed; there continue to be skirmishes and ongoing fighting most days along the self proclaimed border within Eastern Ukraine, along with endless "wars and rumours of wars" as to the possibility of a full scale Russian invasion. The Ukrainian military has therefore continued its high alert position and conscription of all able bodied men into the military. Our brother therefore cannot return to live there, and is clearly being used mightily by the Lord in His work in Latvia. One of our significant donors for Maxim is unable to continue, so we invite your donations towards him. The cost including tuition fees etc. runs at around 500 pounds / month. Please do donate what you can and encourage others to do so. You can PayPal to tiybible@yahoo.com and donations are tax deductible in the USA and can also be in the UK if made out to "The Christadelphian Advancement Trust".

UK

Our house church meetings continued this week and we're pleased to tell you of the baptism of BEWAR, a 19 year old Kurdish man. He is typical of how the Gospel attracts the desperate. His mother was killed and his father disappeared, so he fled to Europe, through the Calais jungle, spending two days without food and little water on a truck... He then had his application for asylum in the UK turned down, but has not been deported. There is developing a large underclass of such persons, who cannot work legally and are outside of the asylum seeker programs, and just are left in limbo. He had been living with his uncle, who turned him out of the house once he expressed an interest in Christianity and rejected Islam; the uncle is a fanatic Muslim, praying five times / day towards Mecca. We were struck by how vulnerable this young man is, and many like him, effectively abandoned by the system. And yet he has had the strength of mind to get to the UK, and to investigate Islam and Christianity and turn to the Lord Jesus; so may he hold firm in the path now before him to the Kingdom. He was introduced to us by another brother who had been baptized at our house church. Please pray for him in his vulnerability. We do what we can to appropriately assist these kinds of folks and your donations towards it are appreciated. Funding their travel costs alone is significant.



ITALY

Because of its geographical location, Italy has become home to large numbers of African migrants. Many have been there already many years, and are working legally, often for minimum wage, and gather together for Christian worship in mainly Pentecostal churches. The problem with Pentecostalism is that the continued emphasis upon the false prosperity Gospel, always hyping people up for miracles and then guilt tripping those who don't get them, along with high pressure to donate money to the pastors... leaves thoughtful people feeling very short changed and disappointed. Many African migrants speak only minimal Italian and find there are few English speaking churches they can attend. And so near Bologna, a group of such folks began meeting together for Bible study. One of them, JOSEPH, found us on the internet and with a wonderful humility to the word, came to accept doctrine after doctrine through reading our material, using the *NEV Bible* with commentary, and viewing our presentations on YouTube. And he has shared our literature and *NEV Bibles* with other African folk he knows. He's a remarkable preacher, approaching any black guy he sees on the street [because they are likely English speaking] and putting the Gospel to them. Some of these folk are newly arrived folk who went through traumatic journeys across the Sahara to Libya and thence by the very risky boat and dinghy crossings across the Meditteranean to Sicily and thence into Italy. Joseph meets with this group in a hotel conference room. They are an interesting group- from newly arrived young men with just the clothes they stand up in, to people like Joseph who have stable work, a car and can rent their own apartment. Several came along with their *NEV Bibles* [in the group photo, you can see the man on the far left holding his copy]. They are God fearing folk who deeply respect the Bible and most are familiar with Bible passages, freely turning them up when they were quoted. This is a dying breed of person in Europe and it was really nice to be with such sincere folk. They had already been exposed to many of our ideas through Joseph, and we lectured them through promises to Abraham, Kingdom on earth, no immortal soul etc. We also had the pleasure of baptizing Joseph in the Adriactic . Joseph is so humble and yet so enthusiastic to spread the Gospel to others, and his wife Osha is very supportive of him. This group are very open to being taught; the conference room they hire has a projector, and we wonder if anyone would like to go and lecture them one Sunday? Italy is of course a holiday destination and there are direct flights from Bologna to the UK. Ideally you could continue going through *Bible Basics* with them, by showing them the powerpoint presentations on each chapter [they are all online to download on the left hand side of www.biblebasicsonline.com] and chatting around them. You can see a brief video of some of our lectures and answers to questions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWX587sl0Ng>

So do pray for this lovely group, and also for Joseph and Osha to have a child; they have been married 6 years and aren't able to get pregnant, much to their distress. Again we feel led in to a subgroup within Western society who are so open and receptive to the Gospel. So let us know if you'd like to be involved with teaching this lovely group and do pray for them all.



PRAYER POINTS

- For Joseph and Osha to have a child
- For the group in Italy
- For those recently baptized
- For brother Maxim

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks