

June 2016 UK, Prison Work, Europe

Sister Robin Jones reports on the house meetings in Croydon that her and Steve have been present at over the last 2 weeks:

"These are really wonderful meetings, the Spirit of God is clearly working here, bringing together all kinds of people speaking various languages, like Persian, Polish and Bulgarian; as well as local British people like Lucinda, who was a Catholic who came to the truth and was baptized in Duncan & Cindy's bath tub, where a few dozen have already been baptized in the last year. She disliked the formalism of the Catholics and domination of the male priesthood, and just so loves being part of a house group. Last week SHAHAB was baptized and today we witnessed the baptism of 2 more lovely young Iranians, MEHRDAD and HAMED. Although their English was poor their sincerity and zeal for God was truly inspiring. Duncan showed powerpoint presentations in Persian on the wall to also help teach them in their language. Another Iranian Brother and his Bulgarian wife drove for 2.5 hours to be here so they could translate between Farsi and English. The two new brothers have been in the UK for 5 months but as refugees still await acceptance here. Another Iranian brother present told us of getting 180 lashes (from shoulders to heels) in Iran. As refugees they are not allowed to work and have little money. We gave them some blankets from the good folk at Bodalla Australia - as they have no family here and few possessions they were deeply touched that others would go to such trouble to keep them warm. We felt really sorry for sister Ayesha from Bulgaria who had just lost her job; her husband has no right to work in the UK and she was doing a cleaning job, sometimes working from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. She has gone to Tesco supermarket to look for work but only got offered part time work. *Carelinks* gave her some money although she didn't ask for any. She clearly would so love to have children but she has to be the breadwinner and living on minimum wage in this country means she really has little chance to ever have a family. We gave her some of our Australian hand knitted blankets and she was very touched. And then there was brother Mojtaba who brought his dog along to church, providing great entertainment for the kids. There was so much warmth amongst strangers - an eclectic group united by Jesus - indeed a very uplifting experience".



Sister Helen Pyper of *Carelinks* New Zealand gives this update on the work with prisoners, especially sister Danielle who is in a woman's prison in Japan:

"Danielle's letter from prison on Friday was as always, encouraging. She has received numerous promotions for good work and behaviour - she was elevated to the top job in the Women's sweat shop where she works with women under her, her sleeping arrangements have improved, and just recently, she has received further acknowledgements in that she is allowed to have one phone call a month to her family in New Zealand, and is also able to write very occasionally to more people.

Furthermore, she has studied and grown in maturity in the Truth. She is learning Ikebana which is Japanese flower arranging, and so enjoys it. She told me that when she arrived in Japan, it was

2-3 months after the big Tsunami, and she was put in a old prison in Chiba, and the aftershocks from that huge series of earthquakes made her 'petrified'. She was pregnant, and cried all the time, anxious with the aftershocks, that the building would come down on her, as it was so old and disreputable. She said she curled up in a ball on the floor, as the quakes threw them about so badly, and she cried all the time, so she prayed continually over and over. She was v. suicidal, but decided to put all her faith in the Lord.

With recent quite large earthquakes in Japan, she says she is not fazed at all by them, "as now I know that we have a loving watchful caring God who will be with me always, and if anything were to befall me whilst here in Japan, I'm already at a stage of perfect peace in my life". She was able to phone her father for the very first time in 5 years, 2 weeks ago, and spoke to her little boy Elijah, who said "Hi Mummy", and she burst into tears. She was very excited, as he told her he was starting school in Devonport in August. She is growing strong and stronger, and is not only teaching others, but she spends time studying the Scriptures, and loves the Psalms for she finds them v. comforting.

On the other hand, a letter from Bro. George Constantine in Trinidad last week tells me that he has resigned from his job teaching students English, as he was finding it too stressful. I was sad about that, as he had such huge success with excellent results, and just loved being productive and useful.

Something must have happened, and on the other hand, Isaiah Fields is being discharged from San Quentin Prison in California on 24/6/16 after 16 years, and he has written me, as others have, that he is very nervous knowing he will be on the 'outside' again. He has worked hard to be a new man, and has changed his life dramatically, growing spiritually so much, and doing a double degree so that he may help others.

At present, I am sending a card each week, to try to help build up his confidence, and telling him, that with God's help, he will cope and very well we pray.

All these three precious people, need our heartfelt prayers. With love to everyone in our wonderful Hope, Helen.

EUROPE

We ask for your prayers as visits are made this week, God willing, to contacts in Germany, Italy, Cyprus and Turkey. As we go to press we are getting reports from Steve & Sue of baptisms in Germany.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For our brothers and sisters who are currently in prison
- For sister Ayesha in her job search and desire to have a family
- For the trips being undertaken this week God willing
- For those with post traumatic stress issues, especially we think of those of our brethren who have undergone lashing and other inhumane treatment

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks