

March 2016 South Sudan, UK, Turkey, Suffering

UK

Last year we reported the baptism of sister Lara, originally from Brazil, and there were subsequent reports of the weekly *Bible Basics* study group she has been running in **Portuguese**. She's been running this group each week and although many have fallen off attendance, we were pleased to baptize the most regular attender, MARIA, a woman from Portugal whose two adult sons are in the UK and she works as a cleaner. She has a very depressing life, earning minimum wage and spending most of it on renting her flat. But "to the poor the Gospel is preached" and we always sensed her deep sensitivity to God's word and real desire to love Him and His Son above all else.

Photos: *Cindy talking with Maria [who has only limited English] before her baptism; the baptism was performed in a mouldy bathroom with eager children peering over the edge of the bath tub; true fellowship and joy all round afterwards*



Sister Lara and her daughter Angela also need our prayers. Angela is only 10 years old but has completely lost sight in one eye and now faces losing it in her other eye; she is in much pain and cannot cope with any bright light. She has done the answers to Portuguese *Bible Basics* and in her own way loves the Lord. She has significant medical procedures coming up at London's Moorfields Eye Hospital. Please pray for her, and her mum sister Lara, who is also herself unwell. Here's a file picture of Angela and Evia happily distributing tracts in Croydon last year:



But the hope of the Gospel gives sisters Lara and Maria a great joy and enthusiasm, far beyond the stresses over rent, food and medical bills which come with the minimum wage, working single mother culture and situation. One really doesn't need money to be happy; and this is a great mystery which so many still need to learn. Maria has been collecting clothes for us to give to folks in Latvia and elsewhere- she who is truly struggling for survival. In this we see the transforming power of the true Gospel. Feel free to donate towards some quiet assistance towards these sisters; they are the salt of the earth.

We held our house church this Sunday, with a total of 22 present and the baptism of SINA.

You can see a brief video of this very spiritual occasion at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA63KCum8iU>

Sina is an Iranian asylum seeker who is living in the same hostel as sister S, who was baptized by brother Steve in Cyprus, encountered serious problems in Iran, and is now seeking asylum in the UK. She is a wonderful sister, very close to the Lord Jesus, and speaking constantly of him. We have been bringing various Iranians over to home meetings, feeding them and doing Bible study with them in a home setting. Sina's baptism is a great encouragement. We also had in attendance another woman, not an asylum seeker, who fears to be baptized because of her very Islamic husband. Brother Sina and sister S live in a hostel which was made from a large disused church- the inside was gutted and several floors worth of dormitories added:



It's very sad to say that all interested in Christianity there complain of being beaten or threatened by the other Moslems there, for whom departure from Islam makes a person an apostate and liable to punishment or death. Brother Sina stopped attending the Moslem prayers sessions, and was seen reading the Bible. This was enough, he says, for him to be beaten by the men in the same room, and he had to be moved to another room away from them. And this is all going on inside a former Anglican church building. Our brother was however warmly welcomed by us, his new spiritual family. We were a diverse group, aged from 2 to 85, born in Australia, Iran, Latvia, Poland, South Africa and the UK, all being led on a journey towards the Kingdom. We baptized him in the bath tub, and he was welcomed by singing from as he came down the stairs:

Truly the Lord is present where His people are gathered together; we felt the very real presence of the Lord's Spirit as we broke bread, and it is clear He has worked actively in the lives of so many and is eager to work with us in partnership to bring many more to Him:



SUFFERING

It is our observation that the problem of suffering is an issue which brings people to consider the Gospel. We've opened a small website about it at www.whysuffering.info. There is the opportunity there for people to add their particular view of the suffering problem; please send your view.

SOUTH SUDAN

With all the media focus on Syria, don't forget that some of the worst atrocities in the world have been going on in South Sudan in recent times. A couple of years ago we went to Malakal, the second city in South Sudan, and baptized a number of young brethren in the river Nile there.

As you will see from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-34571435>

Malakal is now a ghost town, the loss of life and destruction has been gruesome beyond words, we leave you to read the BBC report rather than attempt to describe it. Those brethren are all presumed dead now, so they were baptized just in time; a reminder that we must respond immediately to the Gospel, and to those desiring to respond to the Lord Jesus, who truly was their only Hope:



TURKEY

There are many baptized Iranian brothers and sisters effectively trapped in Turkey, some have been there for several years, and some appear rather forgotten although still strong in faith. Their distribution of Farsi *Bible Basics* has resulted in significant numbers requesting baptism

and we hope to visit them soon; please pray for blessing and wisdom on this difficult undertaking.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For our newly baptized brother and sister
- For young Angela in her eye disease
- For wisdom about the interested folks in South London and the house group developing
- For those who are being persecuted for their decision to quit Islam, even in the West
- For those who are interested in accepting the Lord Jesus in baptism but who fear the reaction of their families and friends
- Thanksgiving for all the evident blessing on our work

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks