

March 2016 Turkey, Russia, Belgium, Latvia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 19 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/lk19.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>

TURKEY

Arriving in Istanbul the day of the bombs, we were grateful to have no more problems than travel delays. Our purpose was to visit some refugee brethren already baptized some years, who had been distributing *Bible Basics* to others who already for some time have been wanting baptism. Turkey gives no support to asylum seekers. Some of our folk have been here years, they are doing it tough, because few get support from home, many have families who have turned against them because of their conversion. Turkey's plan is to discourage them and make them return home. So they are working on the black market, doing jobs like welding, long hours for low pay with inadequate safety equipment and face shields, stuff like that. Some are better able to support themselves than others. And then there is the young married couple who have been waiting in Turkey for five years... delaying having a child. And now they have had a child- with the husband only getting casual work here and there on the black market. And then there is the sister needing treatment for gender dysphoria treatment, which is hard to get here and expensive. And of course in conservative Islamic society, such people are rejected.

But for them- the Gospel is so attractive. She came by mountain bike through the mountains into Armenia, thence Georgia and into Turkey. Quite an achievement just on a human level. She has truly come to Christ. **There is a whole raft of needs here, and there is an urgent need to come visit this group, disciple them further, and also baptize yet more who are preparing for baptism.** The town they are in is near various tourist sites such as the area where the seven churches of Revelation were located. Ruins from New Testament times abound. So such a missionary trip could be combined with a holiday- although the work to do is quite enough to keep you busy for as long as you can spare. Do let us know if you would consider such a trip.

Those baptized were MILAD, MOHAMMADREZA, MORTEZA, MAYSAM, ASADOOLAH, SAEID, MOHAMMAD, ARASH, MITRA, MOSTAFA, ROGHAYEH, ASHKAN, EMAD, REZA, HAMIDREZA and AFSHAN . We gave assistance as wisely and as appropriately as we could. Thank you all for your prayers and enabling this work to happen.



RUSSIA

It was at a *Moscow Bible School* in 2002 that we baptized a married couple, Andrej & Tatyana, from a small town near Rostov in southern Russia. They placed adverts in their local newspaper, resulting in the baptism of Sergej in 2006. They raised their daughter Veronika in the knowledge of the Lord and we baptized her at another *Bible School* in Ukraine a few years ago. Now she is a university student, holding to the faith. Sergej raised his daughter KARINA in the Lord, and now at 19 it was our pleasure to meet together for a delightful time of Bible study and fellowship, and baptize her.

The daily reading of the Bible according to the *Bible Companion* was a big factor in the

conversion of these young people and for all of them in maintaining their faith. We rented a sauna with a convenient plunge pool and had a very intense time of Christ-centred fellowship. Andrej brought tears to our eyes by bringing out some Sunday School pictures of Moses which the girls had drawn when they were very small and they had done Bible lessons together:



You can see father and daughter, and also husband and wife, reading Romans 6 from the same phone or tablet. The production of literature and making it available in digital form has also been highly significant in the spiritual growth of this lovely group. Many folks in the poorer end of society don't have a computer; they just have a phone or tablet. This is in practice how many are reading the Bible and our literature. Russia is changing, in some ways moving back to the spirit of the old Soviet days. We posed for a photo outside a splendidly preserved statue of Lenin in central Rostov:



The Lord's hand was again evident in that we had initially planned to arrive in Rostov on the very day of the plane crash there which claimed the lives of 62 people. In fact we were one of the first flights allowed to land after the debris had been cleared from the runway. Our original plans wouldn't have worked out as the airport was closed for 2 days afterwards. So we can only give thanks, that the word we preach doesn't return in vain; and that all the huge effort and expense in producing and distributing literature, press adverts and running *Bible Schools* over the years has brought forth fruit that remains. Please continue to support this work- it definitely has God's blessing behind it.

BELGIUM

We're thankful to say none of our brethren were among the many dead and injured after the terrorist attacks in Brussels. Brother Steve & Sister Sue were on a pastoral visit in Belgium at the very time it happened but were not in Brussels at the time.

LATVIA

Not sparing brother Andy Downton's blushes, we ought to note this brother's huge service to the Winter feeding program this season, spending many weeks faithfully working hard in the kitchen- along of course with so many others. It was appropriate that on his last day of service he was able to assist brother Maxim in baptizing EVGENIJ. Attendance at the meetings continues strong, although the majority of the attendees are now baptized. Brother Maxim will shoulder the work over the Summer, and our prayers should be with him. We'd like to remind you of our previous invitation to any DIY folks to consider coming over to Latvia and helping in various light building projects and renovations this Summer. And then there's the next Winter feeding season which can begin in October if we have the volunteers. Let us know if you'd like to come over. And the bills for running the center and feeding folks on Sundays and Mondays do of course continue...



PRAYER POINTS:

- Thanks to God for preserving our missionaries on their travels
- Thanks to God for all the baptisms and prayer for the growth of each of them
- For the refugee brothers and sisters trapped in poverty in Turkey
- For more workers to come forward to follow up on those baptized

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks