

## March 2017 Germany, UK, Italy, Australia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Corinthians 3 and 4; there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/2cor34.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>

### ITALY

We're planning to visit the group there this week and assist brother Joseph in being able to provide appropriate welfare to the stream of **Africans** arriving daily on the beaches and being put into various camps. We are open to your donations towards this.

You can remind yourselves of the story there through brother Joseph's talk at last week's UK conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw--GedB84o>

### GERMANY

This week we visited brother Mohsen and his sister wife in their new camp in Germany. We explained in a previous message how Liz, Duncan and Cindy baptized him in Azerbaijan in 2003, and he returned to Iran, where he built up an underground group in Tehran. There is the death penalty for conversion away from Islam to Christianity, so they were blessed to be able to survive so long. Now the group have been discovered, they have all fled. This time we met and baptized MINA, who is desperately concerned about the fate of her husband still in Iran, and she is now in the camp with their three year old child. Please pray for them; they are scared and in shock, and it's not much fun having just one room and a bed and a bag of belongings. But the Truth means everything to her and it was a joy to baptize her. You can see her here with hair still wet after the baptism. The camp is really and truly a camp, accommodation blocks in a field surrounded by barbed wire and a heavy iron gate, on the edge of a well heeled village.



We arrived there having travelled many hours. There was a sign on the gate written in English and German, announcing that they had an outbreak of norovirus in the camp, and it was closed for visitors and nobody was being allowed out. We had made a special effort to be there and it all seemed a rather cruel twist of fate that we were not allowed in. Duncan reports:

"I chatted with the guards and they phoned to the camp administration, but insisted I could not enter and the people couldn't come out; I could only talk to them through the fence. They came and we talked, there were tears of frustration. I didn't want to risk taking a photo, but it would've made a fine shot, talking through a barbed wire fence to those wanting baptism. The guards were not sympathetic.

I gave them my UK passport and explained I had come from the UK, couldn't they make an exception; but no. Brother Mohsen then suggested I talk to his case worker, who was in the camp. But he said he didn't have much communication with her, as she spoke no English, only German and Russian. I pricked up my ears at the fact she spoke Russian. There are many Russian immigrants in Germany.

She was duly summoned to the gate and we chatted. Yes, she too had been an immigrant at

one stage. She was the right lady for the job. The Lord raised her up for that moment. Perhaps her whole career path was for this moment. She agreed I could enter; but I had to sign a three page document in German, to the effect I would not hold the camp responsible if I caught any disease by entering. We've had it at the *Riga Bible Center* and it really is pretty dangerous, even fatal for the elderly or weak, especially when it runs rampant in a closed population such as in a camp or night shelter.

So I was allowed in. The whole place was being disinfected and sprayed by a specialist team, all bed linen changed etc, the smell of chlorine was almost overpowering. I performed the baptism and we chatted. It was truly wonderful and intense fellowship in the Gospel. And so clearly, the Lord intended this, and had literally swung open the iron gate of the camp when it was supposed to be kept shut because of the lockdown; just as He did for Peter.

There is a lot of opposition to migrants and asylum seekers in Europe. They explained that they can walk to the nearby village, but they encounter opposition. There were swastikas painted on the bus shelter near the camp, and it's not a nice situation for any of them. Large cities at least allow some level of anonymity:



Mohsen had just had his interview about his asylum case; for seven hours he was asked about his faith and beliefs, and apparently answered well. They asked to see his cell phone and searched through his browsing history, messenger chats, WhatsApp history etc. They commented that they were impressed with the amount of communication he had with other Iranians about his faith. He said that for the last few days he had been in intense contact with a couple in Holland who he hoped we could soon baptize.

The Lord sees and knows all things, and sees all our internet usage; and I was impressed that a search through our brother's phone produced such a positive impression. May it be so for each of us. So let's pray for all these issues, and that the other contacts will come to baptism. I gave them more Farsi *Bible Basics* and they will continue spreading the message through our extensive Farsi language page at [www.carelinks.net/fa](http://www.carelinks.net/fa)

Do pray for them all and especially for sister Mina's husband. It's amazing how the Gospel spreads from one to another. Brother Mustafa, baptized at our house church in Croydon but now in Cardiff, has been reading *Bible Basics* in Arabic onto MP3 audio files, we've put them on YouTube, and already we have had requests for literature from Arabic speakers who've heard his files, from the West Bank [Israel], Egypt and Morocco".

## **UK**

Replies continue flooding in from the one advert in the *Daily Mail*, interesting to note how folks read old newspapers. Please pray for the several hundred people receiving their *NEV Bibles* this week. Last week we reported on the very successful *Carelinks UK Conference* and gave links to the recordings. The testimonies of former Muslims weren't publicized because of the inherent dangers for them, but our UK Pakistani sister Fozie from Croydon is happy for her testimony "From Islam to Christ" to be shared, as she's effectively British now. And it is a very eloquent and sensitive presentation indeed, well worth hearing.

It's at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JV9NeGovDL4&t=429s>

## **AUSTRALIA**

Brother John reports that he has given another talk in one of the care homes where we have provided *NEV Bibles* with reduced *Bible Basics* at the back to each of the residents. He reports good discussion, and various nurses and staff also in attendance. Let's pray someone at least responds.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For the work in Italy
- For sister Mina and her husband and child in all their stress
- For all the people receiving their *NEV Bibles* this week in the UK, and for the old folks hearing John's talks in their care homes in Sydney

**With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks**