

March 2017 Italy, UK, Africa, Ukraine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 3; there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/lk3.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

Thanks all for your prayers and support for the work in Italy. Brother Joseph's talk at the recent *UK Carelinks Conference* was a great encouragement to many. Our brother and sister Osha are now expecting a child, and are already 4 months pregnant. We asked you to pray for this, after their experience of several failed IVF treatments, and now they are pregnant without IVF. So we really share their joy. Joseph continues to hold house meetings in his apartment, working night shifts at the factory and somehow finding energy in the day times to distribute literature and care for those already baptized and seeking baptism. He's really a wonderful brother, and loves wearing his *Carelinks* "Free Bibles" visibility vest when out on the streets.

Italy has up to 1000 migrants / day arriving on its shores, and accommodates them in camps for three months; many of them then travel northwards, aiming for Germany or Austria. Their problems become acute after the three months, when they are left with nowhere to live.

Food is only provided at the discretion of local charities [often Islamic ones] and town councils, if they wish. Several of those we previously baptized are now in Germany, often homeless, and Joseph tries to keep in touch with them by cell phone, if they have one. There are so many causes for prayer here.

It was a great encouragement to attend the Bible class Joseph runs in his home on Wednesday evenings. About 12 were present. They began with some simple Christian songs, sung without accompaniment. We read Luke 12 and then one of them gave a 20 minute talk about the chapter, followed by good discussion, some more songs and a prayer. It's so great to see this kind of meeting develop. They find the *NEV Bibles* and online commentary so helpful in such a setting, as it gives them some comments on the verses to provoke thought and discussion. We took out a few more boxes of the Bibles.

There were four baptisms, again in the sea, as the sun was setting. They were all insistent that they wanted a sea baptism and not in a bath tub. The water was freezing, the temperature was about 0 C [i.e. freezing]. One man was literally shaking uncontrollably. But this was how keen they were to do it right. Those baptized were ESE, EDDY, SAMUEL and LUCKY. Brother Lucky had renamed himself thus after narrowly escaping drowning on the Mediterranean crossing, being one of the few from his sinking boat to have been saved by the Italian coastguard. He now wants to rename himself to something more spiritual, like Providence; for he now sees why he was saved, and his return to the icy waters was his response to God's leading in his life. Another brother had serious stab wounds received whilst in the infamous migrant jail in Tripoli, Libya before embarking on the Mediterranean crossing.



Eddy was one of the people we met one night last year. Roy, Denis and Jackie and Duncan were

with Joseph near the railway station, after going to buy yams at the African food shop for the feeding program. Joseph asked if we had half an hour spare to distribute Bibles to the homeless Africans who mill around the railway station. We said we did, and we spent a most encouraging time chatting with these gentlemen. Now, one of them has been baptized. That evening we did some short interviews for our video. In the video, Duncan asked Roy about our experiences that night with the Bible distribution to the homeless Africans: "So do you reckon they're gonna read them?". Roy pauses and then very thoughtfully says: "Yes". And indeed he was right.

Now Eddy has been baptized. We made a short video of the freezing cold baptism, along with that clip of Roy being interviewed about giving out the Bibles. Here is a direct link between street preaching and baptism. You take the Gospel out to people, and in due course they respond and are baptized. Thereby we have played our part in bringing people to the Lord Jesus and the hope of eternity in the Kingdom. We should all be powerfully encouraged to keep on keeping on.

You can view this brief video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATSaw6cAY_o
Please do pray for them all, and for Joseph in trying to meet their many needs. We are also trying to support as best we can. We'll likely visit Joseph again in the next few months God willing and are looking at running a feeding scheme in August of the type we ran before, renting a villa out of which we will cook the food and take it to the camps, and inviting the folks back to us in the villa or to Joseph's place for Bible teaching and fellowship. Have a think about coming over- there is really a great work going on here. And please do continue praying for us and supporting the work.

AFRICA

We mentioned a while ago the famine affecting some of our brethren in East and Central Africa. We sent funds over for brother Sylvester to buy fertilizer, to make up for his lost growing seasons due to the drought. Here's a picture of his maize crop now growing well thanks to that fertilizer:



UKRAINE

Sister Tamara was baptized over 15 years ago and has been a regular attender at our functions. She lives in occupied Eastern Ukraine, and as recently as January made a special effort to come all the way to Kiev for the Bible school, crossing the military block posts which define the front line between Eastern Ukraine [under Russian control] and what remains of Ukraine proper. Our sister is now battling cancer and needs an operation and further treatment. Daily life is quite difficult enough living in a war zone, let alone battling cancer. Medical treatment and hospital food must be paid for; and our sister has had to ask us for assistance. Please pray for her and donate as you can. Here's a picture of our sister [in the foreground] taken at the January Bible School.



UK

Please continue praying for the hundreds of people here receiving their *NEV*

Bibles and Introducing Bible Basics at this time. Our house church meetings in Croydon continue, and here's a most encouraging email received from a local contact there who has been reading our material for some time already;

please pray for Peter and his wife to soon be baptized

"You may remember me? I received three NEV Bibles from you around May 2016 and your two books [Bible Basics and The Real Devil]. I had a struggle with the trinity as I've held that belief since I was 20 years of age. (I'm now just turned 61) But I can now see that the trinity is a false teaching, the other two struggles I had were the Lord Jesus not existing before his birth and of course the existence of satan. I put your books aside after reading a little of both books. The problem I have is I have long term depression which makes any form of reading difficult for me as I find it hard to concentrate. Well to cut a long story short, I have been watching your videos on YouTube which I have found very useful plus I have been reading the NEV Bible every day as I am following the reading plan. So after a much "research" and prayer I now no longer believe in the trinity, Jesus' pre-existence or satan.

So I just want to say thank you and I thank you for carelinks, I feel so much better for knowing the truth. I'm not sure what my next move is. Any advice would be most helpful. Thank you so much again send our love to your family you are all in our prayers. The Lord bless you all. Peter"

Prayer Points:

- For those recently baptized
- For Peter in the UK
- For the work in Italy, and brother Joseph in particular
- For sister Tamara in Eastern Ukraine

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks