

## March 2019 Italy, Australia, UK, Calendars

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 1 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/lk1.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>

Helps for the *Bible Companion* readings this week:

**Leviticus** <http://n-e-v.info/levcomm.pdf>

**Psalms** <http://n-e-v.info/psalms.pdf>

**Luke** <http://n-e-v.info/NEVLukeCommentary.pdf>

### ITALY

Readers will recall that in recent years we have been operating feeding schemes for the many **African** migrants turning up on the shores of Italy, and also teaching and baptizing many of them. The new anti-migrant Government have now severely limited migration, and closed many of the camps. The camps to whom we took food in the Cesena area are now all closed. Those baptized are wandering wherever they can, with many apparently in France and Germany, looking for black market work. Life without documents, income, housing, medical care etc. is really so very difficult. However some are still in the Cesena area and brother Joseph is also in contact with a number of African Italians who like him are settled migrants with employment, cars and homes. There is a growing tide of disillusion with the Pentecostal churches which most African Italians attend.

The constant demand for money to be given to flamboyant pastors and insistence that God will make you rich if you keep giving to them and curse you if you don't... wears rather thin over time. Many poor Africans are being guilt tripped into giving money they can't afford, even penniless newly arrived migrants are told not to come to church unless they give money. Attending church becomes like buying a lottery ticket- which you never win. Brother Joseph is inviting all the African Italians he knows to a meeting about this in a hired room near the railway station at the end of March God willing. Please pray for him as he delivers the fliers and speaks with people. He put together a simple video talking about the prosperity gospel issue and inviting folks to the gathering, it's at <https://youtu.be/ZJuMLDEPWew>

Let's pray for him as he tries to spread the Gospel truths further, especially to those disillusioned with promises of wealth which just don't come true. So although we won't be doing any feeding schemes in the Cesena area as before, seeing the camps are all closed, we plan to continue doing them in Sicily. Let us know if you'd like to come and help, and God willing we'll later appeal for some funds to support this once we have a better idea what we're aiming to do. We were also pleased to meet and baptize ERIC, an African Italian working as a car mechanic near Bologna, another disillusioned ex Pentecostal. He has been studying our material and correspondence courses for three years now, and has met before with Brother Peter and Sister Dae, who have given so much time to talking with him online and tutoring him. Eric's decision for baptism was no quick matter and he had been considering it a long time. We made a special effort to drive him to meet with brother Joseph and they got on extremely well, although they live far from each other. It was another joyful baptism in Joseph's bath tub, and it was so encouraging to hear Joseph reasoning from the scriptures with Eric. We have no greater joy than to see spiritual children walking in the truth.



We really look forward to being able to give brethren like this the Bible app, it will be so helpful to so many like him who share our doctrinal understandings and want to grow further. We're still open to donations towards the development cost.

## AUSTRALIA

We've mentioned before how well over 5000 free "2019 Creation Calendars" were mailed out to various prisons in the UK and Australia, and proved very popular with chaplains and prisoners as New Year or Christmas presents. The calendar has a clear statement of our understanding of the Gospel at the back, and also an invitation to write for an *NEV Bible* in hard copy for free. Brother John Thatcher mailed out to some prisons in Australia and is now receiving the fruit of this, as women prisoners are writing to him asking for the Bibles. They come from a wide ranging background of education and criminal experience, some say they've never read the Bible and want to read it, whilst others say they've read it but want to understand more. So, quite a lot of *NEV Bibles* going out to females in Australian prisons. One thing you can all do is to pray for those women. We now also have contact with a male prisoner in a prison out beyond Dubbo NSW as a result of this. Here are some of the letters, with names removed for legal reasons:



Thank you as ever for the regular donations which enable us to keep providing and mailing literature for free worldwide, to so many like these women.

Further north in Queensland, sis. Miriam reports the success of paying for a simple flier advertising the *NEV Bible* and *Bible Basics* to be distributed:

"Just for your interest. Here is our new flyer. Double sided/colour. I was able to do a Vistaprint special..20,000 (worked out just under 3cent ea.). Enough for half going out April May and then 2nd lot approx July Aug Sept. And our delivery charge in \$40 per 1000, we had 3,000 go out this week just in our local area. Excellent response. another 7000 going out over the next 3 weeks into other suburbs on our side of Ipswich.

Love in Christ  
Miriam Phil"

Again we see how the spreading of the Gospel is to some degree dependent upon our initiative. We mention these examples of outreach to encourage you to prayerfully wonder what you may be able to do in your own area and context.

## UK

Another example of using initiative like this was shown by Br Phil Martin, and in his talk at the *UK Carelinks Conference* he asked us to pray for his efforts to advertise the **NEV Bible** in his local area. We prayed for this specifically in the prayer session at the end of the conference, and now he reports:

*"I have just picked up an e-mail from someone who lives just round the corner for a free NEV*

*Bible as recently advertised in our Withington Parish magazine! I will try to get it plus a copy of Introduction to BB to him tomorrow. I have answered his e-mail request with a very short confirmation of imminent supply and thanking him for his interest. Good stuff, eh?!"*

The point is that God will respond to human initiative.

### **CALENDARS**

Marcus is already preparing the *2020 Creation Calendar*. If you have any favourite aspect of the natural creation which you think powerfully demonstrates the Divine hand in creation, and have high res photos demonstrating it, then do let us know and Marcus will consider it. Likewise any suggestions from you as to how to improve the calendar.

### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- For wisdom in developing the Bible app
- For those recently baptized
- For the migrant / refugee brethren in Italy
- For the women reading the Bible in Australian prisons

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