

May 2015 Turkey, UK, Ukraine

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

UKRAINE

Can we remind you of the upcoming *Bible School* in Ukraine at the end of this month, God willing- all are welcome, and we invite you to sponsor the attendance of brothers and sisters.

TURKEY

We reported last week that brother Andy Taylor had baptized 28 asylum seekers in a town in Turkey. We have commented before how xenophobia is rampant in Turkey, especially outside the big cities; and that the local Muslims are very against any Muslim converting to Christianity. One of those Andy baptized was brother Saman, who converted to Christianity whilst in Iran and expressed that by having a cross tattooed on his back. As a result of his baptism he was attacked and stabbed multiple times, and his cross tattoo was deeply slashed. The stabbing on his upper arm was particularly deep. In one of the photos below you can see the entire blade of the injection needle inside the wound. This is a reminder of the very real threat posed to our former Muslim brethren when they convert to the Lord Jesus; and they are far from safe even when outside of sharia law areas such as Iran or Afghanistan. Sorry for the unpleasant photos, taken in the hospital, but they are a reminder of the very real dangers faced by those turning to the Lord Jesus.

UK

However the spread of the Gospel to Islamic people continues throughout Europe and indeed the world. We were pleased to baptize another three former Muslims this week in London- ADEL, SIAMAK and ALI. They are living in a hostel near to one of the Islamic Education Centers that are springing up in the London suburbs [there is now a Muslim mayor of London]. Not far from that hostel we encountered abuse from Muslim youths and soon discovered a nail in our tyre after leaving the car unattended- you can judge for yourselves whether at that part of the tread and at that angle it was purposeful vandalism. Our new brethren comment with amazement at how they are seeking asylum on the basis of Islamic intolerance of their Christian faith, and yet they find Islam in the ascendancy in the West.

Can we remind you that the photos on Carelink messages are sent to you on a private basis and should not be displayed online without asking us- as you can see, there are significant security issues.

Our outreach is to all people of course and not just former Muslims. We're pleased to tell you that another Russian, LUDMILA, has put on the Lord's Name- but in Surrey, England. She is the fruit of the witness of our sister Lara whose baptism we reported nearly a year ago. Lara was an IT specialist in Brazil who has been working as a cleaner, including at a school. But she was given the job of IT manager at that school when they realized her qualifications. Her cleaning work there was then given over to Ludmila, who speaks virtually no English. She witnessed to Ludmila and we were able to provide Russian *NEV Bible* and *Bible Basics* and enter into discussion and teaching with Ludmila in Russian. She had twins, a boy and a girl, who died tragically. In her mid 40s she got pregnant again and was blessed with twins again- and again, a

boy and a girl. She heard of Job, who lost all and then had all restored, and this triggered her interest in the Bible and God, and led her to intensely seek Him. She is now living in the UK with the twins, who are now 8. With no relatives or support network [to cut a long story short]. Sister Lara's witness to her was clearly meant to be and was the right thing at the right time. Folks like Ludmila who have little to no internet access are greatly helped by hard copy literature. It was really a joyous time together in the Lord:

Our house church meetings continue in Croydon and we invite folks along next Sunday too; there's a wonderful mixture of enthusiastic believers and the Lord is clearly working powerfully.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For sister Ludmila and others like her who are struggling in a foreign land, not knowing the language and without family support networks
- For the healing and safety of brother Saman
- For the Lord's continued preservation of us and those we baptize
- For blessing and direction upon the Croydon house church

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks