

May 2016 Turkey, UK, USA, Kenya

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 1 Timothy 2 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1tim2.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

Earlier this year we reported on a visit to Denizli in southern Turkey to baptize around 20 asylum seekers who have formed an ecclesia there. We appealed for someone to go out there and follow up with them and baptize more; brother Andy Taylor came forward and he reports on his trip as follows, with the great news of a further 28 baptisms:

"If anyone would like to help the work in Denizli, Turkey they are guaranteed an interesting and most rewarding time. Following a Bible talk, a question and answer session and a meal together, some 28 Iranians put on the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ in baptism. The total number of brothers and sisters who then broke bread together was not far short of 50. This represents the latest exciting development in the conversion of mainly ex-Muslim refugees. As well as being a great blessing, this also sets strong challenges for us. The growing number of converts need help with their spiritual development. Maybe the biggest challenge is to help our dear brothers and sisters find somewhere to meet together. Following Sunday's baptisms, we met together Wednesday at bro Afshin and sister Mitra's small flat to break bread together again. Large numbers meant that two rooms were filled with bro Reza effectively sitting in the common doorway to deliver the translation of my address. The brothers and sisters of Denizli have such interesting stories to tell and we could not fail to learn much from them; some have suffered serious persecution and have given up a lot to be able to live lives of relative freedom in Christ in Turkey.

Photo: Brother Andy addressing the group in a hotel conference room; baptisms



Denizli itself surpassed all my expectations. It is a growing city of around 600,000 inhabitants almost surrounded by high mountains which are snow-covered in winter. Anyone considering visiting to help would be guaranteed a warm welcome, not least by the wonderful Iranian cuisine. My suitcase was much lighter for the return flight from Bodrum to Gatwick. The absence of 49 Farsi Bible Basics accounts for the weight reduction. They were very much a highlight for all the baptismal candidates, who were very grateful to receive them. There are more residents of the city seeking baptism so they will probably need still further copies soon. The city of Denizli is near the biblical sites of Laodicea and Colosse, as well as the amazing UN sites of Pamukkale and Hieropolis. Bro Elmad and Bro Afshin (aka Daniel) enjoyed showing me around".

USA

We're pleased to announce the self-baptism of brother JASON who has a thorough grasp of the Gospel from reading material online. He has subsequently contacted an ecclesia in Ohio which he is attending regularly. We never know who is reading our material and who may be coming to the Lord quite unknown to us at the time.

UK

We're sorry to report that a brother was attacked and seriously stabbed by another asylum seeker; he has subsequently been moved to alternative housing. Our refugee brethren are clearly far from safe even in the West, as we have reported several times in connection with such brethren in Germany.

Our house meetings continue and this Sunday we were pleased to baptize MOHAMMAD and AMIR in the plunge pool of a sauna. Both had become committed Christians in Iran but encountered *Bible Basics* from other Iranian brethren in South London and desired to be baptized. Here they are with their Bible Basics outside the sauna- no photos allowed inside!



The Lord's presence is very clearly at these meetings and we invite you to come along next Sunday if you're in the London area.

KENYA

We remain in contact with brethren baptized in various refugee camps in Africa. Brother Isidore writes requesting prayer:

"Since May 6, 2016 the Kenya government has announced to close the refugees camps in the country. The UNHCR is having meetings with the government on the situation , probably at the end of this month the Deputy Secretary of the UN and the High Commissioner for Refugees will visit Kenya to discuss with the government on camps closure issue . We Refugees Brethren at Kakuma camp request Carelinks to remember them also in prayers to our Heavenly Father. With much love in Christ to you all from Kakuma Ecclesia , Isidore"

PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For wisdom regarding a meeting place for the brethren in southern Turkey
- For the safety of all our ex-Moslem brethren - Thanksgiving for brother Andy's very blessed trip to Turkey
- For the situation with the refugee brethren in the camps in Kenya