

May 2017 Russia, Italy, Prayer Requests

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Colossians 1 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/col1.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>

PRAYER REQUESTS

There are a number of trips going on at the moment which need your prayers. Duncan & Cindy and family are beginning a few weeks feeding and preaching work at the *Riga Bible Centre*; Andy Taylor and Duncan will both be working in **Turkey** with Iranians this week, including a group of Iranians who are trying to get to Turkey especially to be baptized; a trip to **Spain** to baptize contacts there; and Brothers John and Guy from **New Zealand** are in **Fiji** following up with contacts and Bible distribution. And then Cindy is running her women and *childrens'* camp starting next weekend.

RUSSIA

We're pleased to tell you of the baptism of YURI in a remote part of **Siberia**- so remote that it is near one of the labour camps which formed part of the 'Gulag' where Solzhenitsyn was and which he wrote about in *"A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich"*.

There are lots of interesting folks living out in these distant places, descendants of those imprisoned in the area or who were quite simply forced to go and live in undeveloped parts of the tundra in order to 'open up' Russia.

There are Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, Adventists, dissidents of various kinds, and their descendants. They often live as subsistence farmers, which is not a pleasant lifestyle in that harsh climate, under snow for much of the year. With access to the internet, many thoughtful people like Yuri have been able to go online and research their questions and find others who think the same way.

Here are a few quotes from our long correspondence before the baptism:

"I have searched for God for 20 years, I tried the Russian Orthodox but I immediately saw this was wrong. I was able online to look at other denominations but I didn't like the feel of any of them, and anyway where I am, there is no possibility to attend them anyway. I got involved with the Jehovah's Witnesses but I struggled with what seemed to me direct contradictions between their dogma and the Bible. Their idea of a superior caste of believers and dogmatic views of prophetic verses seemed primitive. For all the Bible knowledge they gave me, there was no moral or spiritual growth in me, just amassing knowledge and facts. I read Raymond Franz's "Crisis of Conscience" when it was released in Russian, and then that part of my life came to a close, what I wanted was to be truly Christian and spiritually minded whilst having correct teachings... Sorry for my many questions... The most wonderful and relieving thing was learning the truth from you about the devil... You can call me and we can have an interview, you can ask me questions as I have been asking you... I so want to be baptized... but who will come to me here... "

So please pray for our new brother, and his wife [as yet unbaptized] in their isolation.

There's another English speaking brother in far eastern Russia who is eager for online breaking of bread and general fellowship, brother Alex , email alguryanov@hotmail.com Skype: guralan1 . Do send him an email and if you have time , break bread with him online

ITALY

We have often mentioned the great work of brother Joseph. He works tirelessly to share food, clothing and above all the true Gospel with African migrant folk in Italy. A month ago we reported how Joseph and Duncan went around visiting the camps, teaching and baptizing more people.

Duncan explains now: "*On that trip, Joseph was working night shifts in the meat factory where he has worked for 10 years. He was so tired, falling asleep in the car, when we sat down and talked with the migrants... I urged him to return home and sleep but he was insistent on being with me.*

I was exhausted after a full day hard work with these folks, and yet he was with me all the time and had worked all the previous night and would now work another night. He kept this up for some days. Unfortunately he made a major mistake with the operating of the machinery at the factory, clearly due to his exhaustion, and this cost the factory a huge amount of money.

He has been suspended without pay for a month already. The trade union have fought to stop the factory firing him, after all he has worked well there for 10 years, and it seems he will be reinstated. But he is on minimum wage and expecting their first baby soon.

He really is in need as a month with no pay is hard for him so we'd like to send him a few hundred Euro and are open to any donations toward this. And please do pray for him as alternative work is hard to find in Italy with all the migrants seeking work, he has been terribly stressed".

We are planning major feeding work there over the Summer and are open to your donations towards that too.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For brother Joseph
- For the work in Italy
- For the contacts in Spain
- For the contacts from Iran who are hoping to get into Turkey for baptism this week
- For the other work in Turkey and also in Fiji

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks