

## May 2017 Turkey, Fiji, Spain

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Thessalonians 3 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/2thess3.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>

### SPAIN

We're pleased to report the baptisms of VALENTIN and MIGUEL in Spain. Valentin has been studying the Truth for seven years, and has been through all kinds of groups before becoming convicted of the Truth. He runs various *Facebook* groups where he uses *\*Bible Basics\** and other material to grab the attention of the 1200 or so members he has built up. Miguel was one of these. Valentin travelled overnight from Valencia to meet us in Madrid, where he and Miguel spent two days with us. They were baptized in a spot near Alcala de Henares which Valentin remembered, or thought he did, from many years ago. We had to walk nearly an hour through the bush to get to a point where we could enter the river. It was very muddy, with soft mud down to about 1 meter's depth. We performed the baptisms not without difficulty, but very much with the Lord's presence.

You can see the video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7Y3oVHV\\_UM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7Y3oVHV_UM)



Miguel was totally cast out of his family when he left the Catholic church; his aunty is a nun and his uncle a priest. He now lives in a hostel in Madrid as he searches for a job- a reminder of the power of Catholicism to persecute sincere believers even in modern Europe. Valentin is in Valencia, and they are really so enthusiastic, and intend to break bread together via *Skype*. If you know any Spanish speakers who would appreciate joining in, let us know.

We also made a brief video in Spanish of how to simply break bread- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHRBwq8csag> . Valentin said that breaking bread was one of the things he had so dreamed of doing once baptized.

They are very zealous preachers. We spent a day together in Alcala distributing Spanish *\*Introducing Bible Basics\** on the streets. Preaching in small town Spain is not very encouraging- time and again we were told "I'm Catholic, no!" when we offered literature to folk. But Valentin is very tenacious and outgoing in his witness. He engaged various folks in fairly long conversations in the Cervantes Plaza, with the church bells tolling in the background, including a blind man.



Would there were more willing to get out there on the streets with the Gospel. We made a video of the street preaching, hopefully it will encourage you to get out and do the same wherever you are- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1\\_xrW6ccGo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1_xrW6ccGo) . But we did have to pretty much wash the dust off our feet with so much Catholic brainwashing there.



So if you're in Spain for holiday or business... why not take a day or so to meet with these wonderfully enthusiastic Spanish brothers. Let us know if you can, and do pray for them.

## **TURKEY**

Brother Andy Taylor from the Windermere UK ecclesia reports on his recent visit to Iranian refugees in southern Turkey:

*"My recent brief stay in Turkey was amazing as always and included a visit to Colssae, and worth seeing not least for the beautiful wild flowers and plentiful free fruit. Seven women and eighteen men were baptized into the Lord Jesus on Sunday (May 14th). This took place in the Pamukkale area so well known for its healing waters as probably alluded to in Rev 3 v 18. The session before the baptisms was lively and the questions asked and the discussions indicated a strong thirst for saving truth. One of those bro Afshin and I baptised also did the Farsi to English and English to Farsi translations today. He is now bro Amir being baptised along with sis Narges his wife. Amir will bring much experience to the growing ecclesia, he is very well-travelled including many years in which he was resident in South Korea. All those joining us have their own stories and hopes and dreams; some have a particularly difficult time. These include a new sister whose Muslim husband has returned to Iran and is making life difficult for her and her two young daughters. All these brothers and sisters need our prayers and would welcome visits from others of us to give more bible teaching and help to supplement the help that they can receive today from the internet. Upon reflection we all acknowledge the benefits of human contact over merely interacting with a screen".*



## **FIJI**

We've reported previously how brothers John and Guy, two businessmen from New Zealand, spend their holidays- not taking a cruise or sitting on a beach, but getting out there to meet people and distribute Bibles and literature in Fiji. Hopefully we can all pick up something of their zeal. Here are some extracts from a diary of their recent visit:

*"Picked up man on side of road shared with him about correct baptism and gave him baptism book... Contacted Rina and had a good talk to her, happy to meet with us to discuss further. When we first met her, she was a backslidden JW. We encouraged her to get back into God, and shared with her our doctrine. As she knows her Bible well, she was quite open. We are hoping to have a further study with her later... Was met as we arrived by Passa again and he seemed keen to tell us that he would like us to come to his village and talk to the village, we met with 15 Men and Ladies and preached kingdom on earth, not going to heaven, and true baptism ... A lady called Api asked very good question about Elijah going to heaven... A chap called Kenny bumped into us and said are you are the missionaries from NZ. He wanted to sit and talk with us, we started with the usual where are you going when you die John 3 v 13 scripture. Initially he seemed to be proud and tried to side track, but appeared to be convicted by the spirit and said*

how amazing it was what we were teaching, confessed that he was not supposed to be at work today but felt led to be there and can now see why, he also told us about his daughter that died at a young age and he was a rebel involved with gangs and moving drugs a bit... After this spoke with 3 other small groups that wanted to hear what we teach. All heard and saw the truth and took bibles etc. During the afternoon we made contact with Jovilisi who has lost his job recently and said he's not doing too well. We felt to take him under our wing and use the time to some benefit and have arranged for him to stay with us for 3 nights, hoping to teach him some truth... went to the village on the other side of the Beachouse and ended up doing power point teaching on kingdom on earth, don't go to heaven, and gave out baptism books. Gave Kenny no trinity and other books... Every body was very happy and saw the truth. Got back to beach house about 7.15 pm went for swim and tea, a middle aged German back packer came and sat by us. Tried to share with him and he was polite but not interested.

Passa came and sought us out and explained he would like us to come again tomorrow night to chat to the whole village this time in their community hall and teach the same again as there are new people who need to hear the truth. Got up early drove to Sigatoka on the way stopped for water and gave bibles to shop people and had brief discussion about baptism and kingdom on earth. We picked up a hiker and this did not lead to anything. ... During Break drove about 20 min away to a shop to draw money. While there the lady that we had given bible to previous day said that her friend had asked for it as she did not have one. She was happy that we had come back and we gave her another 2. She said that she would email us for teaching... had appointment back at Namatakula village. 3 of the women including Api were back again and some new ones etc. This time did parts of the power point on kingdom on earth as well as baptism. A Muslim lady had decided to join them. She is a tailor and was there trying to get orders. It was interesting at first notice of her she seemed like she had been crying. John spoke to her and asked her why she had decided to come to this Christian bible study - she told us that she was curious. We shared with her that the Quran accepts the gospels which says that Jesus is the son of God, as well as the Prophets that Prophesied about Jesus. It also says that Jesus did miracles and that he went to heaven, but the difference is the Quran has no prophesy to it... Did a bit more work with Jo on bible evidence and after this went back to the Warwick hotel to find the lady security person (Amelia) talked more about the truth, kingdom etc with the powerpoint that Guy had setup on his phone. She was amazed and very blessed and thankful and probably will end up being a contender for the truth.

... As it was Sunday Morning, many people were walking on the way to Church and we stopped a number of times and asked them if they would like a bible, before stopping behind a lady with her children going to church. We asked her if she would like bibles for her family and she said yes, she said to us that she was on the way to church. John said that we were looking for somewhere to go to church ourselves, she replied you are most welcome. We had prayed the night before, asking God to be our provider in regard to this. It ended up being an independent Pentecostal church. We Shared with the Pastor why we were here and eased into sharing about the kingdom on earth. Amazingly he already had some clues in regard to this. John asked him (Pastor Sireli) where do we go when we die, he replied that we wait for the second coming. John took opportunity to expand on this understanding and demonstrated that this will be on earth. At this Sireli said that he was down for speaking this morning and that he felt John should do this instead of him. John said that he would and that he had a projector etc but needed to get it. We went and got it and came back. Once we were back the meeting had just started and he approached us and asked Guy to give a testimony. Guy did this and John gave the Kingdom talk.

*Obviously we did not know all the songs but we knew some and while it was enjoyable we did have to persevere through quite loud music on electronic equipment that had seen better days. John was asked to close the meeting in prayer and chose the last song. Pastor Sireli invited us to his house for lunch and we accepted, which was a fantastic example of Fijian subsistence provisions - fresh fish caught the day before by Jerry and other vegetables like cassava and other root crops..."*

**PRAYER POINTS**

- For those recently baptized
- For all those contacted by the outreach in Spain and Fiji
- For the safety of our new former Muslim converts

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