

May 2018 Italy, UK, Canada, Resubscribing (UK and EU)

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Timothy 3,4 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/2tim34.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: *Isaiah*:

PDF <http://n-e-v.info/NEVIsaiah.pdf>

epub <http://n-e-v.info/NEVIsaiah.epub>

RESUBSCRIBING

Due to changed data protection laws, we have to ask any of you in the European Union (including the U.K.) to tell us specifically that you would like to continue receiving *Carelinks* messages. You can do this by filling the form at <http://carelinks.net/doc/subscribe>

If you don't, we won't be able to send you any further messages. That form also offers the chance to get the hard copy of *Gospel News* magazine. Please don't forget to do this!

Carelinks messages and photographs are not intended to be placed online by recipients, at least not without specifically discussing it beforehand with us. So please don't do this and please don't forward to anyone who does so.

If you are in the UK or EU and are already receiving *Gospel News* and would like to continue, you still need to fill the form.

CANADA

A reminder of the *Carelinks Canada conference* planned for Saturday June 9th in Copetown, ONT, Lord willing. For more information, see <http://carelinks.net/doc/events>

ITALY

We made another visit to the wonderful group led by brother Joseph. Many of the camps have been closed down by the new right wing Government, who have stated they wish to deport 500,000 Africans from Italy. But the problem is that a state cannot deport people who have no documents. So there develops a huge underclass of these people, who have been refused legal documents, have passed their three month period of basic support, and are now unable to work legally, get health care or state support; and no way to leave. Sister Blessing received her formal rejection whilst we were there. The Africans cycle or walk around the streets, looking for odd jobs or begging for food. Many complain they work, especially harvesting or on farm work, and aren't paid. But still Joseph and his team reach out to these folks, gathering them for food and Bible teaching.

Whilst there, there was a typical example of how we work. Joseph had been distributing literature in a park where many of the Africans hang out. One man said he was from a camp far in the mountains where there were many others who were interested in the Gospel, but as there was no public transport, they were cut off from everything. And obviously no chance of finding work there. So we drove up to this place. It was off Google maps and all GPS systems, up narrow tracks with sheer drops. We wondered if we were at all in the right place, and our contact wasn't with us. There was no network coverage up there. We turned a bend [one of countless] to find a

crowd of Africans sitting on the veranda of a disused farmhouse. We entered and distributed Bibles to them, prayed with them and then explained the basic message of the Gospel to them. Some of these men were Muslims and it was the first time they had held a Bible in their hands, the first time they had said "Amen" to a prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. And they listened with great interest, many disillusioned with Islam after their experiences with Arab traffickers in Libya. We made a brief video of our entering the camp, distributing the Bibles, praying with the men, and then Joseph launching into an impromptu talk about the promises to Abraham and the certainty of our hope in the Lord Jesus of an eternally better day to come, in God's Kingdom. The audio is poor but you can get the general picture: <https://youtu.be/gvl1-EYi-Qo> . We are really taking the Gospel to people from all nations, stuck up the top of a mountain in central Italy.

Here are some stills from the video, of the men receiving the Bibles, taking the cellophane wrapping off them, opening and reading them; Joseph teaching them, pointing out the doctrinal "*Bible Basics*" section at the back of the Bibles; and during the prayer, when some of them bowed their heads and said "Amen" to a prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus for the first time in their lives:



They are given basic food, although it seems they would appreciate more; but need clothes. We will try to do what we can when we return in July God willing.

From another camp, we were able to baptize two former Muslims, SURAJ and GEORGE, to whom brother Joseph had explained the true Gospel previously. We asked Suraj immediately he came back to the shore from his immersion how he felt, and again as with the sisters interviewed in Sicily last week, we see an absolutely genuine joy and peace from having accepted the Lord Jesus. The brief video is worth watching <https://youtu.be/os0JvNkYhCk> The Hope of the Kingdom, and the simple knowledge of the love of God in His dear Son, who having had our nature knows our every feeling and experience... is bringing a wonderful harvest.



We gave brother Joseph funds towards getting a replacement vehicle, his small car has been driven into the ground.

It's hard to know how to assist these folks in a sustainable way. But we feel we must do something. And so we have given financial help; not that we were asked for it, but because one cannot say "Be ye warmed and filled..." and do nothing more. We are therefore producing a general preaching leaflet, in English and Italian, with the help of brother Peter Ventresca in Ontario, Canada. Our idea is that the brethren in the towns and cities can walk or cycle around distributing these leaflets in letter boxes in return for some small payment from us. It gives them a kind of "job", something to do rather than beg or get abused by people who get them to work but don't pay them. Here are brothers George and Suraj along with brother Augustine [baptized previously] on bicycles, and we can just imagine them carrying packs of leaflets and distributing them. So this way the Gospel would get preached to white Italians as well. For they need the message as much as any. You will note in the photos below how our brethren are wearing whatever clothes they can get, including winter jackets in the heat of the Italian summer:



Please pray for our plans. We also invite your prayers and support for the upcoming feeding program which will begin in late June God willing. And do consider coming over to work with us; we are looking forward to around 10 brothers and sisters from the UK and Australia coming over for it.

UK

We're pleased to announce the baptism this week of ALI, a Kurdish refugee from Iraq. Like many whose claim for asylum has been rejected by the authorities, he has no documents and yet cannot be deported, yet is without access to any social support. So he has to work illegally as best he can, always moving around to different places where he can squat or sleep on the floor. Ali currently is living in a room full of migrants in a downgrade suburb, the room is packed with beds and the others allow him to sleep literally on a blanket in between two beds. It's a terrible existence, and no wonder such people are brought to their knees and really turn to God. After the uprise of ISIS, Ali realized Islam was no good and started looking into Christianity, and after a search for some years he came to the wonderful point where we could baptize him in a dirty bath tub into the glorious Lord Jesus. Our brother is near to a welcoming local ecclesia whom we've put him in touch with, and hopes to attend there this Sunday, God willing.

Here you can see Ali in the bath tub about to be baptized, and sitting on his present "patch", a carpet with a pillow against the radiator, in between two beds. He has just a few clothes, an old cell phone and his *NEV Bible* and *Bible Basics*. Significantly, it was the man who has no bed rather than the men who have beds who responded to the true Gospel:



PRAYER POINTS

- For wisdom as to how to go forward with this great work and the huge humanitarian needs
- For those like sister Blessing and brother Ali who are left on the streets with no support nor documents
- For the upcoming feeding program in Italy in late June / early July, God willing
- For those recently baptized

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks