

May 2018 UK, Italy

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Acts 16 and 17 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/acts1617.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: Acts: Acts PDF |.epub| .mobi

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

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. We have had the unfortunate experience recently of photos of our Chinese brethren being placed online on Facebook. Carelinks do not sanction this as it creates a security risk for the brethren concerned. There is a growing opposition to Christianity in China. We ask for them to be removed.

UK

Response to the Gospel continues from the UK. We're pleased to report the baptism of SEAN in small country town UK. Like so many, he came to us from searching for "Free Bibles" online and seeing a recommendation for our *NEV Bible* with commentary. He really had a hard life. At the age of 3, his father murdered his kid brother, his mother then put him into care, and he was raised in a strict Catholic background, forced to recite things in Latin and beaten if he forgot them. He became deeply angry with Christianity, especially with all the threats that as a sinner he was going to "hell"; and so to provoke Christians he had a large tattoo of Satan placed on his arm. But he felt God kept showing him grace in little things, there seemed some Divine hand at work trying to say "I love you". He passed through Islam, Mormonism and a brush with Pentecostalism before coming to us online.

He is a great Bible reader and has the Bible playing constantly as he knits and crochets for local charities. He was deeply convicted by reading that Israel were not to have the sign marks of the heathen upon their bodies, but instead were to be circumcised; he was so convicted he even went to his doctor and asked about circumcision. He enquired about getting the tattoo erased but it would really require some major procedures which his various health issues and high blood pressure wouldn't sit well with. So he tried to have the tattoo doctored by having an Angel superimposed upon it, hiding the numbers "666". As he says in the video, it was the best he could think of doing at the time. He's a great example of humility to God's word. So when it came to baptism, he realized that indeed he must do this. It was a pleasure to baptize him in his bath tub. He had earlier thought that his tattoo would preclude him from ever being baptized.



Although very shy he made a brief video to encourage others who have satanic tattoos that there is still a way to come to the Lord Jesus and have the past erased through the water of baptism. He suffers from various health issues so the video is very much from the heart. You can view it at <https://youtu.be/2cxdVuZ5Yig>

Whilst near the same time we also enjoyed a wonderful meeting with Dave, an ex-Pentecostal who swore he'd never enter a church again after being so disillusioned. But for many years now he's had a nagging conscience about wanting to return to Christ, but not organized Christianity. The Lord keeps sending people like this to us. There really is interest out there, even in white Anglo-Saxon UK.

ITALY

We have reported much about the work of brother Joseph amongst the refugees in Italy. They are scattered in various camps, often disused buildings or schools in depopulated rural areas, and now many camps have been closed, they are just sleeping where they can. Joseph is a long established immigrant in Italy with a stable job on a factory production line, and renting an apartment where he and his family live. He has given his heart and soul to the work of caring for the refugees and migrants, which involves transporting them from wherever they are to meetings and work opportunities, as well as providing food and clothing as we can. He has been doing all this with his own small vehicle. But that vehicle is now about driven into the ground and he needs to replace it. He's not asked for any personal help ever, for anything, but we consider it would be appropriate to give him 1000 Euro toward getting a new car. This is completely our initiative to him and not at all requested by him. Faced with so many in serious need, including some now our baptized brothers and sisters, we think that enabling him to continue gathering them is the most appropriate way we can help apart from when we're actually on the ground there and can run feeding schemes.

So we invite your contributions towards raising that 1000 Euros. You can donate by the usual means [tax deductible in the UK and USA] or by PayPal to tiybible@yahoo.com.

And do join in prayer for this wonderful work. Joseph has come to the UK and spoke at a previous *Carelinks Conference*, and is personally known to many of us as a man of total integrity and devotion to the Lord's work. We also ask for your prayers for our next visits to Italy and Sicily planned for 2 weeks' time God willing.

In these photos you can see Joseph (far left) teaching some refugees in a camp; and one of his converts just baptized, with brother Steve Jones of Australia



PRAYER POINTS:

- For those recently baptized
- For the work in Italy
- For brother Joseph to keep on keeping on
- For the security of those in China

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks