

May 2018 UK, Sicily

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include 2 Thessalonians 1,2 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/2thess12.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>

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SICILY

We were able to spend some days here with the brethren already baptized. The room we assist with renting is a real blessing to them all, and a point from which food and clothing can be distributed. The new right wing Government in Italy is simply refusing to grant citizenship to the Africans, and announced whilst we were there a plan to force 500,000 such folks out of Italy. How exactly they can achieve this, with people who don't have documents, isn't at all clear; but it is starting to smell of the far right attitudes which gripped Italy and Germany in the 20th century.

Meantime, the Government policy is to make such folks feel very definitely that they're unwelcome in Italy. If they aren't accepted as asylum seekers [which the vast majority aren't] then they slip into a huge underclass of people who whilst they can't be deported, are without the right to work nor receive any state support or health care. This underclass is huge in Italy, and growing by the day- as the migrants continue to arrive on the beaches every day.

We are doing what we can to assist our local brethren [some of whom are long term settled migrants to Italy, are completely legal, have regular jobs and Italian documents] to do what they can to cope with providing at least basic care, as well as preaching the true Gospel to them. Racism is everywhere to be seen, especially in Sicily, where the mafia eagerly exploits the vast mass of Africans who cannot work legally and are desperate for basic food and shelter.

We have described earlier the traumas most of them pass through in Libya. They are typically tortured until they call home and get money sent over to the traffickers. They finally arrive in Sicily thankful they didn't drown or get killed, with the women nearly all having been raped multiple times... needing at the very least post traumatic counselling. Some women are pregnant, and others are in need of major surgery. But they get no health care, and have no

money. And this goes on within the European Union.

Raymond was beaten, tortured and starved whilst in Libya. He needs major surgery, has heart problems and can currently only go a few minutes without oxygen. Without our help, humanly speaking, he'd likely be dead. He's unable to wander or cycle around looking for odd jobs as the other young men do, and would have been one of the many migrants who die whilst sleeping rough near the beaches.



We took him some food and arranged for a local brother to continue to do this; and gave 300 Euro for hospital care. We are also supporting the rental of the meeting room. We'd really appreciate your continued donations so we can continue. And your prayers for this really so difficult situation. You can see him in the photos with his *NEV Bible* and also clutching a banknote we gave him to buy things from the hospital shop.

We send out large numbers of *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics* to Sicily and this is bearing fruit. We were able to baptize brother OBIOSA and sisters ANNA, OSAROME, HAPPY, EDITH, JOY and VICTORIA . Nearly all those sisters were raped multiple times in Libya. Despite their utter poverty, they all dressed their very best for the baptisms, borrowing clothes even.

The rented room has now been decorated and we even got a screen for it although no projector as yet. Showing these folks movies of Bible teaching whilst we're not there to teach would be hugely popular. There's a video of a 35 minute Bible study and discussion session about baptism at <https://youtu.be/SxIxMXk4j7E>

You can see a brief video of the baptisms at <https://youtu.be/vhplMS0b2mE>



Right after they came out of the water, we asked three of the sisters how they felt. They are ecstatic. This brief video is a powerful and simple exhortation to joy in Christ. it concludes with a sister triumphing that "I am now an heir of the Kingdom!".

It's really worth viewing: <https://youtu.be/O3MNH2aWKOa>

It is a wonderful encouragement that all the work, teaching, caring, prayer, donating, mailing of literature... is all wonderfully worth it. This is the fruit of it- joy in Christ. Those who are desperate and have nothing, finding love and hope in the Lord Jesus and the things of His Kingdom. One of the sisters in the video is called Happy. She explains how she really is now truly happy. You can see her here in a nice dress borrowed for her baptism. She has just sandals and just the clothes she stands up in:



These dear folks are so very vulnerable. Do pray for them, and for our wisdom in how to take this work further, to the glory of the Lord Jesus who was bruised and beaten for our iniquities, who tasted death and suffering for every man, and thereby can find a "fellow feeling true" with these dear ones.

UK

Special prayer request for sister Samane Roushan, baptized by Carelinks in Cyprus a few years ago. She returned from there to Iran and after persecution for her faith, fled to the UK and joined the East Ham ecclesia in London. You can see her in the photo below with sister Jill Graham. However her UK assylum application has recently been refused by the Home Office... She has appealed and, if not adjourned, the hearing will take place on 31st May. Meanwhile, a pre-trial preliminary hearing is set for this Thursday at which witness statements will be taken, and many brothers and sisters in the UK have given statements.



PRAYER POINTS:

- For sisters Samane, Blessing and other asylum seekers struggling with their paperwork
- For brother Raymond and others without access to health care
- For those newly baptized
- For wisdom in how best to help the migrants

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks