

## May 2019 Photographs needed, Israel, Latvia

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Acts 27 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/acts27.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:

**Deuteronomy** <http://n-e-v.info/deutcomm.pdf>

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

**Colossians** <http://n-e-v.info/NEVColossiansCommentary.pdf>

### PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

Progress is beginning on the *Bible app*. We'd like to have a different photo / picture for each of the 66 books of the Bible. So, we're looking for 66 high quality photos, they can be of Biblical scenes, photos of Israel / Jerusalem, or of ecclesial life wherever you are [perhaps to go with the New Testament letters], or spectacular nature photos. But preferably with some Biblical relevance. So please email us any that you have, assuming you own the copyright on them and are granting us the right to use them freely on the app.

### ISRAEL

The work in Israel continues and we're pleased to tell you of the baptisms of FRED and his wife GIFT, a married couple in their 30s who came to Israel on a 5 year working visa. Things didn't work out in the promised land as they thought- they are working long hours doing manual work for low pay, and living in a squalid basement room. No windows, no heating in the Winter nor air con in the summer, no running water, no kitchen, no toilet, the two of them can hardly lay down full length to sleep there. They are in the infamous area around the Tel Aviv bus station where Mike Flaherty and Duncan went preaching earlier in the year, distributing Bibles and coffee etc. This lovely couple attended various churches but were disillusioned by the continual emphasis upon money and the wealth of the pastors. They wanted spirituality rather than religion of that kind. And so they started just meeting with folks in a park on the Sabbath, the only day off in the week in this very work-centered society. They're really a lovely couple with a strong marriage, starting and ending each day in their squalid room with prayer and Bible study.

Over the Winter, Fred was on his bicycle when he noticed the hi visibility vests which Mike and Duncan were wearing whilst they chatted to some Africans. "*Free Bibles*" was the slogan, and this attracted Fred. We spoke for some time and then went to visit them and gave them *Bible Basics* and other literature, and we've kept in contact by *WhatsApp* ever since. We were really meant to meet. It's a great encouragement in our work of distributing literature on the streets, and shows the value of the hi visibility vests- Fred noticed the slogan and cycled over to us. Everybody who comes to you, rather than you pressuring them, is worth having. But you need to keep up the contact with such contacts- hours of video chats online, emails, messages etc. We took them to the Jordan River baptismal site and made a bit of a day out of it for them, given their rather miserable existence otherwise- although, as is typical of folks in that situation, they managed to turn themselves out for the occasion in their Sabbath best. It was a wonderful thing to baptize them, we all marvelled that none of us were born in Israel but we had been brought to meet here by the grace of Divine providence, to the glory of that grace.

You can see a brief video of the baptism and their testimony afterwards at <https://youtu.be/72qB5U4t6Ow>



It is natural to want to continue the work which led to you personally coming to the Lord, and so they were keen helpers in our continued distribution of New Testaments and food on the streets: They do have a group who meet with them in the park on Saturdays, although evangelism is illegal in Israel and they have been broken up by the Police and local Orthodox Jewish residents. They really need a meeting room and they will look out for a suitable place. There are many migrant churches, catering for e.g. Ghanians, Eritreans, Filipinos, Russian speakers etc. It seems that such meetings are tolerated by the authorities if there is no attempt to evangelize Jews. And south Tel Aviv is bursting with non Jewish migrants. So we told them to try to find a meeting place if possible, and that we will pray for them in this, and also stand ready to raise funds for it initially. It would of course be a good place to base a feeding program.



## LATVIA

We've had a relatively long run without any baptisms in **Riga**, most who come are mainly baptized, but this week one of our visitors came forward and it was a pleasure to baptize ROMAN. Roman is a really interesting brother. Unlike many who attend our meetings, he has a job and a flat. He had a run of extreme "bad luck" in life. He bought a new phone, for which he saved up, putting his weekly pay in an envelope marked "phone", and then dropped it at work onto concrete, and it smashed. He crashed his car into a concrete barrier on some roadworks, and with no other vehicle involved, had to bear the loss. So he began saving for a new car, again putting his cash into an envelope marked "car", which he with his mother for safe keeping, and put the cash in it when he visited her every week. He built up to 1200 Euro in it. But then she uncharacteristically turned to alcohol and told him one day she'd blown it all. And many other such things. So he went to the Russian Orthodox church, who told him to buy an icon from them for 70 Euro and this would protect him from bad curses which the priest said someone must be putting on him [how's that for paganism in the name of Christianity]. So he had lots of questions, and as with many people, was attracted to our position about the lack of demons and a personal Satan figure. He heard of us and began attending, not for the free food but for the Bible study. So it was a great joy for us that he joined the dots and decided to identify with the Lord Jesus in spirit and truth. And recognizes that there is no "bad luck", but rather the humbling hand of God, which seeks to exalt us in due time. This is a great encouragement to us to continue with the meetings and feeding program over the Summer. We do need folks to come over and help with the daily cooking for the Winter feeding program from October 2019 to March 2020 God willing, as well as your continued financial support of the work as it continues this Summer.



**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- For those recently baptized
- For Fred and Gift to find a meeting place for their group in Tel Aviv
- For workers for Riga to come forward
- For continued wisdom as we develop the Bible app

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