

October 2015 Migrants, Russian Bible School, UK, Ukraine

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Galatians 5 and there is an MP3 file about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/gal5.mp3>

You can see the archives of our MP3 files at <http://aletheiacollege.net/archives.html> and on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/christadelphian-bible-talks/id987163468>

UKRAINE

We're delighted to say that brother Maxim entered **Latvia** safely a while ago but has now got his residency permit, he got it for 2 years, although he must renew it after a year. This is good news and do thank God for it, that faith has been rewarded. He will need ongoing support over that period on the present basis but it's wonderful that he is there and so keen to work for the Lord as well as being out of reach of the military authorities in Ukraine. Thanks again for all your prayers, love and support. There were many times during the process when we wondered why the Lord was making it so difficult, but He clearly had a perfect plan. So do consider coming out this Winter and helping Maxim in running the feeding scheme in **Riga**, Latvia.

REFUGEES / MIGRANTS

We spent some time in Germany visiting our brethren and contacts in two migrant camps. Brother Farzin and Sister Katarah [also brother and sister in the flesh] were baptized by us over 18 months ago in a country neighbouring Iran, returned to Iran, were persecuted, and then fled to Turkey, and joined in the mass rush of migrants into Germany. They took with them their mother NASRIN, and two relatives SAEID and PEZHMAN. It was a pleasure to baptize them. They walked for 20 days from Greece to Munich, Germany, only taking a few local buses. On the way they ate fruit from fields and drank only water, sleeping outside most nights. Just on the level of human achievement if nothing else, this was a great feat of endurance, especially as Nasrin is in her 60s . She is still wearing her walking shoes in the photo below. They will be able to say to their children '*You were born here- but I walked here, from a far away land where I was persecuted for my Christian faith*'. The similarities with Abraham's journey are very telling. You can see them talking about their journey in a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFhnpRsRQwM>

They were put in a migrant camp in a school- and they say that at no time on their journey have they felt more frightened or vulnerable to attack. The school had a perimeter fence erected around it, with guards ensuring nobody climbed over it. But inside, it was a free for all. The migrants slept on the floor or on camp beds donated by charities, around 40 in each classroom. They took water from the classroom sinks, dried their clothes on radiators, and sat on their sleeping places as there were virtually no chairs in the school. All floor space was used for sleeping. Food was provided three times / day. Arabic graffiti was appearing on the walls. There was little privacy, and some had erected sheets over their sleeping places to give them some privacy; note the blackboards still on the wall of the classroom:



The problem is that many of these migrants took knives and guns with them for protection on the journey- and they still have them. Living in such cramped conditions gives rise to all manner

of personal feuding- and many of these migrants are armed. We entered the camp by giving our passport to the guards as a guarantee, but we had a 20 kg. rucksack with us full of Bibles and *Bible Basics*- it could've been full of drugs and guns for all the guards checked. Our brothers and sisters keep themselves to themselves, sleeping together in a corner. Walking around the school with them, we were the subject of threats and abuse, including the cry 'Kafr'- 'apostate'. Our brothers told us that the Muslims threaten them with knives at night, and every night there are fights between the Muslims- especially between those pro-ISIS and those anti. There are of course many warring factions within Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan- and there are a few hundred of these folks sleeping together on the floor of this school, with our brethren as their one common enemy. This kind of problem is apparently quite common- a recent article in Christianity Today reports that this is a common scene in the migrant camps, and that the German Police have proposed separating the Christian migrants from the Muslim migrants for their safety. We walked into the playground, where young men were playing football. After the usual cries of 'Kafr!' [apostate], a young man took a full shot with the football at us, hitting one of the sisters:



We're sure that our dear ones will soon be moved on by the Government as the whole plan is to integrate them into society, but please do pray for them. We recorded our experiences as a YouTube presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzHRjcH0TpA>

We visited contacts in another camp who were interested in baptism but felt not committed enough. We gave them *Bible Basics* and were impressed by the minority amongst the migrants who expressed interest in converting to Christianity. But they know nothing at all about the real Gospel- but are definitely open to learning it. Here truly we have huge potential and we urge all who can to get to these migrant camps and teach these kind of folks. Once they get scattered and assimilated it will be so much harder to have them all in one place to teach. Here is one such group in the other camp:



FUTURE PLANS

God willing, we plan to visit our brethren in **Macedonia** later in October, and get on the front line as it were, meeting the refugees as they arrive into Europe, giving them bottled water and basic support materials with a sticker on them, with our cell phone, website and email, welcoming them to Europe and simply stating the Gospel. The sticker will be in English, Arabic and Farsi. First impressions go a long way and our hope is that they will remember the folks who passed them free food and water on arrival, and the simple message which we had for them. Most have mobile devices so they are able to download material and remain in contact. We realize there are many who feel compelled to do something about this migrant situation- and here therefore is a way you can be involved which actually spreads the Gospel to them. We're open to your support and involvement. Do come forward...

CARELINKS UK

We'd like to record our thanks for an anonymous donation safely received. We so appreciate it. Many thanks to the 16 adults and four children who came along to Chelmsford hall to help pack and mail over 1500 pieces of literature to contacts throughout the UK. It was a great time of

fellowship and we really appreciate all the support, and especially the wonderful support from Chelmsford ecclesia by letting us use their facilities. One of the greatest things about all this work is the wonderful fellowship experienced with experienced and faithful workers for the Lord:



PRAYER POINTS:

- For the Russian Bible School which is upcoming this week
- Thanks for Brother Maxim escaping Ukraine and prayers for his ministry in Latvia
- For the recipients of the 1500 items of literature posted out in the UK
- For our family in the migrant camp
- For others in the camps who would like to be baptized but fear opposition from Muslim friends and family

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks