

## October 2017 UK, Italy, Ukraine, Teaching Children

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Philippians 1 and 2 and there's an MP3 about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/phil12.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>

### ITALY

We have commented over the last couple of years on the hopeless situation of African folk arriving on the shores of Italy. They are given accommodation for a few months but food is provided only by volunteers or the local council, if they feel inclined or able. There is high unemployment in Italy and little chance of getting work, and so after the initial accommodation period ends, the migrants are left in a terrible situation which none of them envisaged- homeless and penniless on the streets of a European country which speaks a foreign language. Many turn to crime, or live in the hope that somehow things will resolve; but there is no way that Italy can take in thousands of job seeking foreigners every week. The advice to 'try Germany' is now not working, because Germany has effectively shut their doors to arrivals from Italy and tell them they must return to Italy. There is a scheme whereby in some cases the Italian Government will fund the transport for the Africans to return to their country of origin. The problem is that they all had their reasons for leaving; they would arrive home often penniless and without anywhere to go. Many borrowed money to make the journey and would need to live away from family members to whom they owe money; others had family situations such as sister Blessing which involved abuse, sexual and otherwise, which preclude returning to the family. And life in Africa without a family isn't easy, it requires living in an urban area, having a job and renting somewhere to live. These are the kind of factors which mean so many migrants continue their miserable existence in Italy rather than returning home.

It's our opinion that living half legally, half illegally in Italy, often being abused in the labour market, or having to live in accommodation far in the countryside with no chance to get serious work let alone education... is really not conducive to spiritual development towards the Kingdom if it can be avoided. There are just so many temptations. We therefore want to encourage appropriate brothers and sisters to make use of the Italian offer to return home, and we would then fund them up to 500 Euro so that on returning to Africa they can rent accommodation and hopefully get themselves started on at least a modest new life in their homeland. We're open to donations towards this, and especially for your prayers.

Brother Tony is one such brother and we have spoken with him at length about these matters. He asked for our advice as to what to do, and it seemed to us that to return home was going to be better in the long term- although he continues very active in preaching and nurturing those newly baptized. Here's a photo of him last month assisting with baptisms, as ever wearing his "Free Bibles" visibility vest:



### UK

After some delays, the "Free Bible" advertisements are now live on 30 London buses, and replies are coming in throughout the day every day- including some from people in Europe and Africa

who've noticed the adverts, presumably whilst visiting London. Here's how they look:



Please do pray for all the many thousands of eyes who are viewing them. The quality of response has been good too. One man looked around our website a bit after noticing the advert, downloaded "*Bible Basics*", and has been reading it on his 2 hour each way commute to work. He's read most of it and invited us for a coffee. This is the face of preaching in this generation - people downloading material and reading it on their phones. And we have other meetings planned with other contacts.

We hung around the bus stops distributing literature and then recorded any of "our" buses we saw displaying the advert. It's great to know that throughout London, the offer of God's word is being made. You can view the brief video of the buses with the adverts at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QIhPz5uGN4>

Thank you to all who donate to enable these initiatives.

We're also pleased to tell you of the baptism of MOHAMMED, an Afghani who has been already 8 years in the **UK** and like many, will not be deported but is also not being given permission to work. Such people are in a very depressing situation, as they are trapped and can't move forward in life. No wonder the Gospel of the Kingdom is so attractive to them. Mohammed is not from the bus adverts, but more fruit of our outreach at a migrant centre in central London.

## **UKRAINE**

We're looking for speakers for our *Kiev Bible School* at the end of February 2018 God willing. Let us know if you feel able to respond.

## **TEACHING BIBLE STORIES TO CHILDREN**

Brother Duncan writes:

How can we teach young children the basic stories and message of the Bible? For a few years now I've read the Bible to my children morning and evening, explaining things as we go along and answering their questions. Sometimes I've recorded them and put them on YouTube. In the evenings after we've read and prayed, I leave them to go to sleep listening to the old recordings. I've arranged them as two playlists. Just hit "Play All" and it keeps going... until they fall asleep. I just thought others might like to make use of it. Putting children to sleep with Bible readings playing seems a good way to get them familiar with the basic stories and themes of the Bible. So the New Testament is

at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR\\_xdlwpWiloNhBDocbiCrB5m](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR_xdlwpWiloNhBDocbiCrB5m)

and the Old Testament

at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR\\_w0WhMWhvKc5DLC5xbh4mon](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqHWDPHDmR_w0WhMWhvKc5DLC5xbh4mon)

## **PRAYER POINTS:**

- Thanks to God that we are able to advertise His word so freely in the UK
- For those recently baptized
- For those viewing and responding to the advertisements
- For our migrant / asylum seeker brethren in Italy and elsewhere in Europe who are in such a difficult situation

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