

October 2018 Mayotte, Winter Welfare Appeal, UK

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Acts 5,6 and there is an MP3 file about this at http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/Acts5_2016.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>

UK

Brother Steve reports the answer to so many prayers and so much hard work for sister Samane:

"We rejoice to tell you that the appeal to the tribunal has been accepted and sister Samane has been granted refugee status in UK. We have to wait 2 weeks to see if the Home Office will appeal, but the case is so good and the evidence so convincing [for her genuine conversion to Christ] that it is highly unlikely they will try. We thank our Lord for all he has done."

MAYOTTE

We made another trip to Mayotte this week, the tiny islet in the ocean off Africa, technically part of **France**, where a group of Congolese brethren and sisters are stranded. We were able to baptize the three members of the group who are still unbaptized, brother NICOLAS and sisters SUZANNE and DIANE. Again we did the baptism on the beach near to where they had arrived after a perilous journey by dugout canoe from the Comoros Islands, to where they had arrived by boat from Tanzania. Hearing their confessions of faith and praying with them afterwards was a deeply spiritual experience, where surely was the presence of the Lord Jesus.



Again we reflected upon God's grace and His special purpose with them, for bodies of those who drown when the canoes capsize regularly wash up on the very beach where we did the baptisms, to be put in body bags and taken away by the authorities:



They continue in good spirits spiritually, reading the Bible daily and breaking bread weekly, with an exhortation provided by brother Phil Martin from the UK. They are very committed to Bible doctrine and absolutely genuine in their love of the Truth. But they get no support from the Government, and resources are at a premium on that tiny island. Everything is very expensive, as it has to be flown in. There is very little land, this is but an outcrop of black rock in the ocean with no soil much for agriculture, no natural resources, and little housing. Many people are just living on the streets or behind a piece of corrugated iron which they call their "door". We are renting a room for them which at least has a roof. They spend their days trying to do odd jobs, but there is huge discrimination and racism against them. The status of Mayotte is still unclear, as it only recently became 'France'. The pressure on resources is so heavy and life so unpleasant there, that many 'French French' are simply going to France. It's hard to get staff to run the local administration, and the only hospital has been shut the last 2 weeks. Simply a lack of staff. They

have been promised residency permits, which theoretically allow them to get to France proper ['France metropole']. But it's so very difficult to work out their legal status with this. We had three meetings with the immigration police ['Police aux frontieres'] in both Mayotte and in Paris. And sisters Sarah and Sonia have been a huge help with phoning and trying to find information. It does seem that medium term they have a good chance, humanly speaking, let alone with the power of prayer, to get off this awful island. They are hungry... grateful to find a banana on a tree to eat. There are clothes provided by various organizations, but basic food for survival is a huge issue, and they have a baby amongst them. The mother isn't lactating so they need baby milk etc. and this kind of thing is so terribly expensive. We left funds for these things but it is an ongoing need for support and we do ask for your donations.



We tried to brighten up the room we rent for them with a *2019 Creation Calendar*, opened it at the page with the penguin on it, seeing it is so hot there, up to +40 degrees at this time. But it is a very depressive and hard, hard existence for them from day to day and truly only through patience and comfort of the Scriptures do they have hope.



We had a special meal, they usually only eat scraps of food here and there; we had plantain and fish. The mother of the baby ate the bones of the fish, and they were very big. That's how hungry they are. Quite apart from all the experiences of rape and abuse they have been through.



So we commend them to God and the word of His grace, but are really in need of wider support in various ways for this work. They are truly thankful for our support, really they are, their gratitude is clearly genuine. And we also thank God for His preservation on the trip. Getting between the islets is only possible by ferry, on one of the journeys we counted well over 300 people plus heavy goods on a ferry designed for 233 passengers max.



Carelinks Winter Welfare / Refugee Appeal

In previous Winters for several years now, *Carelinks* initiated a major project to try to meet the significant problem of suffering as a result of the low temperatures in **Eastern Europe** and the former **USSR**. We provided funds to pay for heating bills, improved houses against the cold, installed internal toilets, delivered firewood, warm clothing, medical and other assistance to our most needy brothers and sisters.

As reported in our updates, we believe this significantly alleviated the suffering of several families, single mothers and especially elderly brothers and sisters.

Given rising fuel prices the average cost of heating an apartment is almost the entire old age pension. Those with no supporting relatives, living alone, are left with literally nothing to survive on over the Winter months.

For those living in the large concrete blocks which house the majority of the urban population, if they don't pay their heating bills, they have to vacate the apartment- which often means going to live in the night shelters, and being out on the street from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. We would like to particularly continue our project in Latvia this Winter too.

Please consider donating whatever you can afford to enable us to do this. We've attached the appeal as a PDF so you can print it out and share with others or put on noticeboards. This year we are also faced with the needs of many baptized refugee brethren from the Middle East who are facing the Winter with a minimum of state support, in various parts of Europe. Particularly there are some of those baptized in Italy who have no state support and some are in derelict primary schools in the mountains with no provision of warm clothing etc.? Following are a few typical photos of help provided in previous years and would like to continue assisting. We're seeking to provide a total of 8,000 GBP [10,000 \$] towards this project. We have no overheads and no salaried workers, so your funds go direct to those in need.

We have already started distributing firewood and giving Winter welfare support; here's brother Daniel in Latvia delivering firewood just recently:



Here are some photos of work done over previous Winters:



Sister Rita & Brother Yuri were living in a room without heating, trying to keep warm by covering themselves in sleeping bags and boiling water with an element and trying to warm themselves from the steam; we provided bar heaters, covered their electric bill and got them into better accommodation. We did this for quite a few of our most urgent cases:



In rural areas, we delivered firewood and other assistance to isolated brothers and sisters too old or ill to cope with the Winter, often due to having been abandoned by neighbours and family who have gone off to the towns and forgotten about them:

With temperatures down to -45 degrees in some parts of Russia where we have brethren, Winter becomes very difficult to cope with for the sick, elderly, single mothers and isolated. We try to provide relevant material support for them, including warm clothing and welfare packages:

This is a wonderful project, involving relevant humanitarian help being given to a lot of good hearted brothers and sisters who are in urgent need through no fault of their own, living as they

are in the broken down social and economic situation which there is in the ex-USSR, with no other source of support, and in an area where temperatures can go down very low indeed.

This isn't just a nice idea, this program has been run for many years already and we have all contacts in place for it to happen this year too if you can fund it. Please do be as generous as you can and pass this appeal on to others, and above all please pray for this project and for our brethren and sisters.

You are welcome to donate towards this work through our usual channels, for bank account details see <http://carelinks.net/doc/donations>

or PayPal to tiybible@yahoo.com

Donations from the USA and UK are tax deductible.

You can send cheques made out to "Carelinks" to

Carelinks, P.O. Box 152, Menai Central, NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA

Carelinks, c/o Jim & Anne Barton, 27 Cedar Creek Lane, RR1 Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0, Canada

Carelinks, c / - 968 Turakina Valley Rd, R D 11, Wanganui NEW ZEALAND.

Carelinks, c/o 27 Castle Gardens, Bath BA2 2AN U.K.

Carelinks Outreach Inc, 125-03 133rd Avenue, South Ozone Park NY 11420 USA

PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For those in such acute need on Mayotte, that they might be able to get off the island
- For our Winter welfare work
- For Phil & Miri Worsnop who are this weekend at the Jacaranda Festival in Ipswich, QLD Australia with a display of *NEV Bibles* and *Bible Basics*
- Thanks for the positive asylum grants for our Iranians in the UK