

## September 2017 Uk, Italy, Sicily

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 17 and there's an MP3 about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/lk17.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

Next week God willing the "*Free Bible*" adverts will begin on London buses, do pray for the right eyes to notice them and respond.

We continue house church meetings with various converts and interested folks. The group of Iranian sisters we mentioned earlier, some of whom have been in the **UK** for 30 years, are particularly zealous:



It was a joy to baptize one of their contacts, HOSSEIN. He arrived in the **UK** with 18 others, lying face down on shelves containing fruit, on a refrigerated lorry. The oxygen supply failed and they were close to death, so on arrival in Dover they kicked with their feet on the sides of the truck until the Police noticed, arrested the driver and released them. Hossein thinks they were but minutes from death. It was that '*breath of fresh air*' which motivated him to seek God in spirit and truth.



Most asylum seekers from **Iran** are turned down almost automatically, but are allowed appeals- if they hire a lawyer at their own expense. They are typically not deported, but also aren't allowed to work legally. So they are left to join the growing underclass of migrants and asylum seekers left in limbo. He works distributing advertising leaflets and fliers just to get money to buy food and share a room. He does this for very low pay. We'd like to reprint some fliers and have him distribute them; we're open to donations up to a few hundred pounds to print good stocks as we're out of fliers at the moment, as well as to support Hossein and others to distribute them around the houses of south London.

We've also sent funds to brother Valentin in Spain to pay for the printing of more fliers; he's on the streets of Valencia most days distributing them.

### ITALY

We made another visit to contacts in several camps who have been given *NEV Bibles*, *Bible Basics* and other teaching by brothers Joseph and Tony. After years of failed IVF treatment, Joseph and Osha gave it up and we appealed for your prayers for their pregnancy. We're delighted to share their joy that now without IVF but by the Lord's grace, Osha gave birth to a baby boy last week:



Brother Tony has stepped up to the work whilst Joseph is domestically occupied, and it was a pleasure to work with him in baptizing FRANK, MAXWELL, VICTOR and DANIEL. They are from two camps far in the mountains, with no chance of getting work apart from being paid a pittance by some local farmers occasionally. But they are a captive audience for Bible reading and absorbing the Gospel. We left funds for Joseph to arrange transport for them to come and meet him for more teaching and breaking of bread.



We also met sister Blessing. She was given a job in a hotel and signed a work contract, but now she realizes it was for only one month. She has worked for nearly three months for them, but only paid for the one month she worked. This kind of deception and abuse of migrant labour goes on all the time. She is very depressed.

## **SICILY**

We appealed earlier for your prayers for a young lady from a Christadelphian family in **Nigeria** who had got to **Sicily**. Her parents and brothers are all *Christadelphians* and she grew up attending Sunday School and CYC and has a good knowledge of the Truth. The journey through the Sahara and the abuse in Libya is really awful. The Italian Government are doing what they can for vulnerable female migrants, but at best it means sending them to live in dilapidated buildings in some remote spot. She has been for a year in a very remote village in central Sicily, living with other vulnerable African women. The area is very poor, with many houses deserted and people just buying things from visiting mobile traders as the shops have largely closed. It's really a ghost town:



The conditions in the camp are so bad they have attracted attention from an NGO which tracks the abuse of migrants; you can read their reports about it at

<http://migrantsicily.blogspot.it/2016/10/the-extraordinary-reception-centre-for.html#more>

<http://migrantsicily.blogspot.it/2017/01/miss-im-sorry-but-i-have-to-inform-you.html>

The reports claim that only 1000 people live in the area, and that the statistics office reports that the average age is 70. Anyone younger has gone to the towns or emigrated. If the women just leave the camp, then they are outside the system and will never again get any help at all from the Government. Those who have done so are left on the street, and can be seen working as prostitutes or pedalling drugs, which are about their only options in an economy which is so weak anyway.

Happiness says they have been fed only white rice and water for weeks. So the women plait braided hair for each other, and sit and talk. The total boredom with nothing to do is enough to

send anyone into deep depression and psycho problems.

But from a spiritual perspective, they have time- and Happiness has shared the Truth with another woman, and it was a joy to baptize HAPPINESS and FAITH in a huge lake situated a further 15 km. along tracks from their place. The manager of the camp accompanied us. We left significant welfare for our sisters, not least to buy food.

The NGO claims the mafia control the camp finances and the funds given to run them suffer major leakage. And central Sicily is indeed in mafia control. The sisters were so happy, it was indeed their happiest day since arriving in Sicily from the indescribable traumas they suffered from the traffickers in Libya.



So please pray for them. They have one phone which the women share and there is internet there, so they get some limited access to email. Let us know if you'd like to contact them, or better still, go to Sicily and visit them and spend some quality time with them, teaching further and breaking bread. Central Sicily is very beautiful and untouristed, the large lake we found was not mentioned on the internet much at all, and was a breathtakingly beautiful setting for the baptisms.

But please do not encourage the sisters to leave the camp system, because otherwise they will be on the street and without any possibility at all of even basic state involvement in their lives. There is huge cause for prayer in all these things.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For those newly baptized
- Especially for our sisters in Sicily who appear in such a hopeless situation
- For the bus adverts which begin next week God willing
- For the situation of those left without documents in the asylum seeking process

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