

September 2018 Italy, Australia, Calendars

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 23 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/lk23.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:

1 Chronicles: <http://n-e-v.info/1chroncomm.pdf>

Ezekiel: <http://n-e-v.info/EzekielNEVCommentary.pdf>

Galatians: <http://n-e-v.info/NEVGalatiansCommentary.pdf>

UK

A reminder that Marcus has *2019 Creation calendars* available for 30 pence each plus postage. They make ideal gifts. You can download them

from <http://carelinks.net/creationcalendar.pdf> and email him direct for hard copies, bible.basics2020@gmail.com

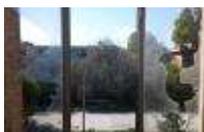
Marcus is quite stoked to have received a request from a prison chaplain in Yorkshire who wants 100 copies to put up throughout prisons in Yorkshire: "*Thank you for your kind offer of Calendars for prisoners. Colour pictures are always appreciated in jails as they bring brightness into a place that can sometimes be gloomy. If at all possible 100 copies would be most appreciated*".

ITALY

Brother Peter and Sister Dae Ventresca ministering to the various baptized brethren, doing Bible studies and exhorting them to continue in their faith in this very difficult situation. Nearly all the camps we used to take food to have now been closed. The Government is openly committed to deporting around 1 million mainly African migrants out of Italy. Many are now living in derelict buildings all over the place. Keeping contact with them all is very difficult. They have no state support at all, and many of those derelict buildings are the haunts of drug addicts and dealers. It is really such a desperate situation, as many don't have documents enabling them to be deported, and are forming an underclass of desperate people, especially as Winter approaches and sleeping rough becomes so much harder.

But although it's only one case, we experienced this week something which is about as close to a miracle as we will get in this dispensation. Brother Francis had been denied leave to remain in Italy and lives in a derelict building near the beach. He said he was looking out of one of the broken windows crying, not knowing what to do. He noticed a white man breaking into a car. He filmed it on his cell phone.

Here's his broken window:



The man returned at various times and broke into cars, sometimes towing the car away using a van, other times just cutting the window sealing with a knife and taking valuables left in the cars. People park their cars near the building in order to park for free, and then walk from there to the beach. Francis took three videos of this man doing this. Each time he looked out of the window

in desperation, he saw this man doing this. He felt it was some kind of very strange sign from God. Truly we cannot attach meaning to event at the time, just perceive and believe that God is somehow at work. He then went to the Police station, told them who he was, a migrant living in the derelict buildings near the beach, and gave them the videos. The Police were grateful, and in due course arrested five possible suspects. They held an identity parade and asked Francis to come and pick out the man he had videoed. He did this.

He is a 60 year old local Italian man who has been stealing and breaking into cars all around the beach area. The Police were pleased to catch him. And... they have ordered that Francis be given permanent residency in Italy for his services to Italy and assistance to them!! This is the unattainable dream of every African migrant. At best they are given temporary leave to remain with no rights, until such time as they can be deported. But he has been given permanent residency, with full right to work and access to all public benefits.

Peter took a wonderful video of Francis' account of it all, and we'll release it in due course once processed, GW.

In the photo below you can see our brother clutching a bag with a sleeping bag in it which we gave him:



This has only just happened, and Francis is still waiting to receive the residency permit. So for now he is still living in the derelict building, which is very cold at night. We bought him a gas burner heater and camping gas cylinder, quite a neat set up which burns the gas very efficiently and gives a huge amount of heat very quickly. We so wished we knew how we could help Francis, he was out of all the African brethren in the area, the one in the hardest situation. But paying a lawyer to pursue a hopeless case was not going to work, so we were so frustrated as to what we could do to help him. The Lord obviously has a number on Francis and wants him to remain in Europe. He will have to continue working with the Lord's program, as he has done so far since his baptism. We are left in awe at how truly there is a God in the earth.

The gas cylinder, gas and heating device came to 104 Euro, and we will likely want to get more of them for the similar issues in Latvia, although it means paying for gas refills. We made a video of the derelict house, our visit to the shop to buy the heater and gas, working out the best method, and then Francis taking it back into the building.

It's at <https://youtu.be/Ds-r4lfJoi0>



We were meant to meet Francis. On an earlier trip, Joseph and Duncan were standing outside a hotel used as a migrant hostel, wearing our "Free Bibles" vests. The manager had told them they couldn't enter as most of the migrants were Muslims. So Joseph and Duncan were standing in the street wondering what we should do. And Francis saw our vests and came up to them, asking for a Bible. They gave him one and got chatting. He got baptized. We went to the derelict building where he was living. And so all this started. We felt so powerless to really help him forward in any long term way. And now, this amazing movement of the God for whom truly all things are possible. "By His grace", as Francis likes to say. It makes us feel very small, but all the same, small wheels in a wonderfully mighty machine.

The derelict house is quite awful. The first time we approached it, we had to turn back as there

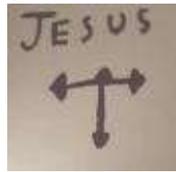
were drug deals going on in the yard, and a dealer photographed us. You can hear us muttering about it in the video as we walk away from the building. On the next trip we photographed them from a distance, right on the beach:



The derelict buildings in the street all have about 30 migrants sleeping in each of them. There is one tap for water in the street, with garbage and excrement everywhere around it. And local drug addicts also use the same tap:



We did return a second time and saw inside the dreadful place. And the broken window from where Francis videoed the car thefts. The floors are covered in broken glass and fragments from the decaying walls. About 30 people sleep in one large room (see photo), but Francis sleeps in a room upstairs. He explains in the video that he is the only Christian, the rest are West African Muslims. But he has painted the word "Jesus" on his wall, as he did in his previous place. And the Lord Jesus clearly has a plan for him.



We continue to support financially and in other ways as best we can. Brother Joseph has now got the replacement vehicle we appealed towards earlier in the year. Here he is with it (Peter to the right):



AUSTRALIA

Whilst we are feeding folks in Europe, Phil & Miri Worsnop have been feeding the Congolese migrants in Queensland, Australia- many of whom have now been baptized. And we have heard that local brothers and sisters in Indonesia are likewise reaching out to migrants where they are too, so the passion for outreach is clearly spreading worldwide:



PRAYER POINTS

- Praise for the deliverance of brother Francis
- For all the other migrant brethren in desperate situations, especially as the Winter approaches
- For all those receiving God's word through our literature

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks