

## September 2018 Sicily, NEV Bible

The *Bible Companion* readings for this Sunday include Luke 8 and there is an MP3 file about this at <http://www.christadelphia.net/audio/lk8.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:

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

**Luke:** <http://n-e-v.info/NEVLukeCommentary.pdf>

### SICILY

Every time the call comes to go to Sicily to assist the migrants and baptize contacts, one almost doesn't want to go again and have to see all that poverty and human suffering. But "to the poor the Gospel is preached". These people left west Africa to travel through the Sahara desert, where many die, on overloaded trucks which often break down, or when overloaded or with tyre or axle problems just jettison random passengers into the desert to die or find mercy from the wandering tribesmen. They are then abused in Libya by the traffickers. We have earlier reported how they are tortured to get their relatives to send more money to the traffickers, and the women are all raped multiple times. They then finally cross the Mediterranean to Sicily. And many drown on the way- this week over 100 were reported drowned in one night, but most deaths aren't reported. They then arrive in Sicily, with a nationalism Government making it extremely clear they aim to deport most African migrants and do not want them there. And indeed, Italy and Sicily especially cannot cope with all these people. It is unsurprising that our message is so attractive to these people- the Gospel of God's love, of a Lord Jesus of our nature who knows us and has experienced all we experience, and the real certain hope of eternal life in a wonderful Kingdom of God when all is finally over for this sad world.

We continue assisting with rental and some food and clean water at a room which they can use. And this trip we visited two camps and taught the folks further, distributing *NEV Bibles* as we went. Sister Blessing, baptized previously, is a wonderful force in witnessing to the women there. There are new arrivals, pregnant by their Libyan Arab rapists; and other women who have already given birth, with half Arab, half Nigerian kiddies running around. One of the camps was very run down, there had been no garbage collection for some time, and the kids were running around amidst bags of smelling garbage:



But more to be pitied are those outside the camp system, who have to live on the streets, sleeping rough with no health care or state support. We can only do what we can, but we do always what we could in providing funds and material help and medical advice as far as we can. Two of the women sister Blessing has been teaching were baptized, FAITH and GEORGINA. You can see Blessing holding up a sheet as a screen for the sisters to change after their baptisms:



There was genuine joy at conversion, and we were able to give several hours of Bible study and encouragement at the rented room as well as in meetings at the camps. It was good to see genuine spiritual growth in those baptized before:



Following is a personal appeal from brother Duncan:

"As some of you will know, my wonderful Cindy is now working full time at the hospital in Riga. This doesn't limit me for shorter trips, but it's effective to go to Italy for a week or two at a time to do the kind of work there which you read about in Carelinks messages at the moment. If I take our three young children for the longer trips as I would need to, I'm very limited as to what I can do out there. I was wondering whether anyone willing to share some child care, or maybe a family with young children, would be willing to come and share the wonderful experience of serving in Italy. I'm thinking about from May 2019 onwards, God willing. The opportunity would really be an ideal for another family with children. Let me know if you know of anyone appropriate, or are interested yourselves. Italy is a safe, western style country and our work is typically near the beaches, which are very child friendly".

### **NEV Bible Website**

Thanks to the very hard work of a brother, the *NEV Bible* website is now revamped, do have a look at [www.n-e-v.info](http://www.n-e-v.info) and share it around. You can read there the entire Bible in the *NEV* version. The printed version has basic commentary on each chapter, a few points about doctrine and practice from each chapter. But there is also the more detailed verse by verse commentary on the entire Bible, which we're calling the *New European Commentary*. It's not totally finished yet; although the New Testament and much of the Old Testament is now done. The new website enables you to easily select any chapter of the Bible, and view the text and commentary upon it, along with other resources on that chapter. The entire New Testament is also read as audio files.

### **PRAYER POINTS**

- For the women and sisters in Sicily
- For Br Peter and sister Dae Ventresca from Canada as they go out to minister in Italy for 3 weeks soon, GW
- For those recently baptized
- For wisdom and resources to continue the great work with the migrants
- For more workers on the ground to come forward

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