

The Watchstander

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Special points of interest:

- Have been invited back to train student pastors at MTS
- A new nonprofit organization Ancient Future Ministries has been created
- Have been invited back to Sicily to teach
- More Bibles are needed for the refugees

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RefugeeBible.com

Reaching Refugees One Bible at a Time

More than 2200 Bibles have been shipped to Refugees in Sicily. I had the great pleasure to be in country when the first shipment arrived and was able to participate delivering 20 cases to a couple of mission agencies that are working with refugees.

ELIM (Evangelism Lavoro Internconfessional Mission) is working with many refugee camps on the western side of the island and has a number of Bible Studies in various camps with Pastor Daniel, a refugee himself who has dedicated his life to reach his other refugees for Christ.

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First Bibles delivered to the Refugee camps



Some of the refugees that received Bibles

Biblical Leadership Seminar

The first weekend in Sicily I taught at a Biblical Leadership Seminar. Over 150 people attended the day-long seminar.

Four hour and a

half sessions gave me the chance to unpack some of the leadership principles found in Nehemiah and the issues

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Some of the Pastors who sponsored the Leadership Seminar

RefugeeBible.com (continued from page 1)

He has had the privilege of baptizing more than 100 new believers since the first of the year. Visiting with Pastor Daniel it became apparent his heart for God and for his fellow refugees. I had the opportunity to view the multifaceted ELIM Ministry. They are reaching out to the refugees arriving from Africa and the Middle East with printed Bibles but also providing clothes and food.

They are also providing medical care and supplies to those who are needy.



Thomas (Director of ELIM) in the Clothing Center



First delivery of Bibles to ELIM - Thomas (Director of ELIM), Dr Val, Pastor Daniel, and Missionary Giuseppe Collesano

Voice In the Night

I was speaking at the last two churches in my Sicilian Missions Trip, Friday night and Sunday morning at one church and Saturday evening and Sunday night at the second church.

After the Friday evening service I found out that the two churches were mother and daughter churches and had the same pastor. The church leadership and many of the members of each church would be attending all four services.

I had only prepared two messages and the pastor asked if I would preach four

different messages. Friday night and Saturday afternoon I spent time preparing two additional messages.

Sunday night I went to bed after reviewing one of my "new" messages and went to bed. I wasn't satisfied with the Sunday morning message but decided that I would fix it on the fly Sunday morning.

Two AM in the morning the Holy Spirit decided that I needed to change the message for the morning. Two and a half hours later I finished the message and went back bed confident that I

would be speaking the message that God wanted this local flock to hear from Him.

During the message I could see that the pastor was moved to tears. Following the message he told me that this was a message that his church needed to hear.

I was so thankful that I had listened to God's voice in the night!



How You Can Help

Here are some of the needs that you can help us meet.

We need 2000 5" X 8" saddle-stitched booklets and 2000 pens for Bible study attenders to take notes and review between classes.

While asking how we can continue to help these ministries I was provided with a list of hard to find Bibles in a number of different languages that are needed.

Some of the languages we have been asked to provide: French, Arabic, African languages : Amharic, Tigrigna) for Somali. Tam-

il, Bengali for India. Syrian, Farsi for Iran-Iraq, Urdu for Pakistan, Pash Tu for Afghanistan

These Bibles are much more expensive than the English Bibles that your gifts have provided.

Additionally I was presented with another opportunity to help people hear the Word of God.

Many of the people coming from these third-world



Some Bibles in different language

(continued below)

Biblical Leadership Seminar (continued from page 1)

encountered in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Perhaps the most important lesson learned from Nehemiah is that prayer should be the first response regardless of the situation you face. One old pastor used to say

that true Biblical leaders advance on their knees.

If you are faced with over-

"Biblical Leaders advance on their knees"

whelming odds - pray. If you are faced with a difficult de-

cision - pray. If you have been blessed beyond measure - pray.

Regardless of the situation, prayer is always appropriate!



How You Can Help (continued from above)

countries are illiterate.

So the challenge: How do we provide them with the opportunity to hear and study the Word of God?

I met with the Italian Director of Youth With A Mission. We had the pleasure to deliver a number of cases of English Bibles to him

and his group.

When I was speaking with him about the needs he mentioned that they were looking for MP3 Players with internal memory and ear buds. They had MP3 files of the Bible spoken in most of the languages of the refugees. They will download and give refugees

an audio Bible in their own language.

Your gifts given to either <http://RefugeeBible.com> or www.AncientFutureMinsitries.com will provide us the funds to meet these needs!

ANCIENTFUTURE MARINER

39384 Cobridge Dr
Clinton Twp. MI 48038

Phone: 586-412-0755
Cell: 586-260-8708
Email: vlprest@comcast.net



Traversing the Post-Modern Cultural Sea

Check us out on the Web!
www.ancientfutureministries.com
<http://refugeebible.com>

The watchstander is a nautical term and usually refers to the Chief Officer (or First Mate) who stands in for the captain of the ship. He has three fundamental duties: navigate the ship, safely avoid traffic, and respond to any emergencies that may arise. As one of God's watchmen my responsibilities include navigating the followers of Christ through the seas of post modernity, avoid any kind of traffic that will take us off our course or cause us to founder and to be there to address any emergencies that might arise during our journey.

As a trained theologian, teacher and pastor Dr. Vallen Prest observes society and addresses the many issues from a Biblical perspective.

More information is available at www.ancientfutureministries.com
You can follow his blog on the website or at <http://AncientFutureMariner.blogspot.com>.

New Opportunities

This past year has been an exciting ride. The Lord provided the funds to establish a not for profit ministry, Ancient Future Ministries.

We have provided a motorcycle for an Indian pastor that has greatly expanded his ability to minister in his town and to expand his ministry's reach.

Bibles have been provided to African and Middle Eastern refugees. I was able to be present as we began distribution of the Word of God.

But there is still much that needs to be done. I have requests for Bibles in a variety of different languages. These are much more expensive than the current English Bibles we are providing.

Additionally as we have already mentioned many of the refugees can not read. In order to provide them the ability to study the Bible we need MP3 players.

I've been invited back to teach in India and I have also been asked to consider another teaching trip to Sic-

ily.

Other possibilities are developing and we need funding if these needs are going to be met.

So we need your prayers for wisdom as God opens new opportunities for us to minister.

Please pray for us to have wisdom for which opportunities to follow and the funds to pursue these opportunities.

