

July 2026 Czech, Italy, Ukraine

CZECH

We'll Lord willing be in Czech next week for a baptism and working with Ukrainian refugees who have got there. Anyone who'll be in Czech, do get in touch if you'd like to come along.

ITALY

For some time we've been chatting with ANNA, a Roman Catholic in Rome... who was indeed a very pious Roman Catholic, who thought that loving Jesus as her saviour meant having extra sessions with her priest, obeying all rituals and moving to Rome so as to be closer to the Holy See, easy visits to the Vatican etc. Her desire to know the Biblical Jesus, however, didn't find any easy answers in pious Catholicism. And so she went online looking for an app that would quietly explain the Biblical Jesus to her, which she could quietly study without telling her priest.

Because she rightly got the impression he would not be too happy about her doing that. So she was led to our Bible Companion app, which she became a devoted user of. And she read about many things there... which were very very different to the Catholic worldview. She asked about baptism, and we discussed it. She weighed it all up, imagining meeting her priest and telling him she was leaving the Roman church and getting baptized as a Protestant... imagining not being able to be buried in the Catholic cemetery, the wrath of her priest, not being able to have all the 'benefits' of being a Catholic, getting married in church etc. And so she decided to just leave it at that- and remain a Catholic. We told her to pray about it and let the Lord lead her. Our correspondence went dead. Until beep-beep on the phone... and there was a message from her.



It wasn't directly clear what that meant. Stay or quit with Catholicism. So we called her. She said it meant... she quit. And wanted to be baptized. Absolutely rightly, her decision was based around wanting a relationship with Jesus. So Daniel and Duncan went to Rome, met her, and baptized her in her bath tub in her apartment. It was of course quite the emotional experience:





As you can see from this old photo, she's a very different woman to when she was a pious Catholic trying to [kind of!] look like the Blessed Lady [Mary] in her piety:



It was indeed a massive decision, and she is quietly sharing it with close friends, one of whom we hope will be baptized later, Lord willing.

So we give thanks to the Lord for the power of His call, His word, His personality, that can lead to such life changing transformation from all that is old and familiar and traditional.

Whilst in Rome we spent a pleasant evening with brother Darek, a relative of brother Wacek in the UK who was baptized some years ago and who visited Croydon Pub Church when he was in London a couple of years ago. Originally from Poland, he has lived and worked in Italy since 1992. We had a lovely meal with our brother and his wife and daughter at their flat, noticing Bible Basics in Polish and Italian on the bookshelf. So good to be with sincere folks of the same

faith and understanding, as we all long for the wonderful days of the Kingdom when we shall be eternally united.



UKRAINE

There has been very heavy bombardment this week especially in Kiev. Glad to say all our dear ones are safe, although the mental health issues being caused after over 4 years of this... are significant. Constantly taking shelter in the not very pleasant bomb shelters, seeing your city in flames... it all adds up. Do pray for them.



Ukraine is increasingly short of men. All men have been called up but most haven't turned up at the barracks, and so the military police are dragging men off the street at random and taking them to the barracks. Many of our brothers are staying at home all the time, and they are often the bread winners. Their families suffer hugely. And that is why in so many videos of men being dragged off the street by the Military Police, there are women furiously trying to pull the officers off the men so that they can run away. We've put another one up on our channel:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/0sWStKl-QBY?feature=share>

PRAYER POINTS

- For those recently baptized
- For our work in Czech Republic this week
- For our dear ones in Ukraine as they struggle with the mental health issues caused by years of bombardment
- For our brothers and their families who are confined to their homes in fear of being dragged to the war

With love from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks