



COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY

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where transformation happens

Prisoners and Refugees the Focus of Exciting CBSI Initiatives in Europe

Dear Friends of CBSI:

Prisoners and immigrants often seem invisible to the rest of society. They are hidden in prisons and refugee camps where no one sees them. But God sees them. And so do Community Bible Study's European leaders.

Conditions in many Lithuanian prisons are reported to be extremely harsh and overcrowded. In fact, it is said that, because of the terrible prison conditions in Lithuania, some humanitarian-minded countries will not even extradite Lithuanian nationals charged with crimes.

But God's light is shining, even in this darkness.

Local church pastor Nerijus lives near the Alytus Prison. In addition to shepherding his own flock, he has devoted a decade to ministering to the inmates there. Recently he began to use CBSI Bible studies with the men. Already he is seeing



Large CBSI prison gathering in the Alytus Prison in Lithuania



Pastor Nerijus, pictured here with his wife, Zita, leads CBSI Bible studies in Alytus Prison in Lithuania.

significant growth in the prisoners.

During his 10 years of ministry with them, the prisoners had already been hearing the Word. Now they are also engaging with the Scripture in individual study and then sharing insights with the others in the class. Studying God's Word in this way is bringing spiritual transformation to men who still have more than 20 years to go on their sentences. God is enlightening hearts in these dark, harsh conditions, and CBSI Bible studies are thriving.

New Prison Classes in Ireland

In Ireland, CBSI prison classes are just starting. A ministry that teaches a basics-of-Christianity course has been actively involved in Irish prisons. This ministry approached CBSI about following its course with CBSI in-depth Bible studies. The Ireland Caleb team presented the CBSI ministry, and the other ministry enthusiastically agreed to move ahead.

God immediately raised up 35 people eager to be trained. These new leaders were excited about this opportunity for inmates to grow in their faith by digging into the Word for themselves. Two new CBSI classes started in August, and classes will begin in two more Irish prisons soon.

One of the grateful prisoners told the leaders he would be dead if he weren't in prison. Now he's finding new life in Jesus Christ!

Refugees Pour into Europe

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of refugees are fleeing their devastated countries. The majority are seeking refuge in Europe. While their resettlement poses a challenge in the countries where they seek asylum, God has been preparing for their arrival. For months now, the CBSI Europe team has been getting ready to bring His Word to Arabic speakers.

So far, the CBSI courses *Genesis*, *Daniel*, *Philippians*, and *Luke* have been translated. Arabic-speaking believers are being trained



Women and children live in crowded refugee camps.



Refugees make the difficult journey toward what they hope will be a better life.

to start leading caring, in-depth Bible studies in a number of European countries.

The refugees are primarily Muslims, with some Christians mixed in. Currently, CBSI Europe is sending leaders into key refugee camps to begin working with those who are seeking answers. The refugees will need Arabic Bibles since they arrive with nothing.

CBSI is working hard to make the most of this unique opportunity. As CBSI provides a means for refugees to encounter God through the study of His Word in their heart language, many will find healing and real, lasting hope in Jesus.

How Will You Respond to This Incredible Opportunity?

Hebrews 13:3 says, "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."

We are remembering the prisoners and the mistreated refugees in Europe and elsewhere around the world. Will you join us? Will you pray with us for these "invisible" people? And would you pray about contributing to the ministry effort in Europe? Thank you!

With hope in Him,

Frank & Marian

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