

Malta is a lovely place to visit. If you are planning to go there, and are able to spend a day or so with our brothers and sister there, they would be so pleased to have your support.

Thank you for your support which has meant this work can continue, and for our Heavenly Father's abundant blessings.

How you can help...

There are so many ways in which you can help your brothers and sisters all across the world. The enclosed leaflet tells you about some of them, including GiftAid, The Giving Machine and the importance of legacies. If you would like any more information about funding or anything else to do with our work then please contact us.

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All the brothers and sisters mentioned in this newsletter and many others across the world depend heavily on donations from UK ecclesias. As funds diminish and more ecclesias are formed it becomes increasingly difficult to provide support for them.

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND HELP YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WORLDWIDE



CBM Newsletter October 2009 West Europe & the Middle East

We have brothers and sisters living in many countries in Western Europe as well as in the Middle East. This newsletter focuses on one country from each region; Israel and Malta. Future issues will look at the lives of those living in other areas, God Willing.

Israel

The ecclesia in Israel is now two and a half years old and has 25 members. There have been brothers and sisters in Israel for many years but the establishment of a 'formal' ecclesia on the path well-trodden by ecclesias all over the world is a further step towards maturity and greater self-reliance.

There can be no doubt that the New Testament practice of organising believers, and particularly new believers, into supportive ecclesias is both wise and kind. The ecclesia provides the environment for growth and stability, and within it members grow in grace and understanding. Some of the members in Israel are scattered through the land so a monthly meeting is held where the members travel to a central location for a day of fellowship and study together, as pictured below. Other meetings are held on a more frequent basis for those who live locally.



The ecclesia showed its maturity by how the members behaved when one of the brothers fell asleep in Christ this year.

Brother Victor Alexandrovich, with his wife Nina, had been in the Truth for over ten years. They lived in Be'er Sheva in the south of Israel. Brother Viktor had lived a full and active life but had suffered from increasing blindness in his later years. He now rests awaiting the resurrection and our prayers are with Sister Nina. The ecclesia took the practical and thoughtful step to have a spontaneous collection to help Sister Nina at this difficult time. It is this caring attitude which marks our community and ecclesial life, and reflects our faith. Death is always sad, but it also marks the end of a faithful life and this can encourage those who remain behind to continue to the end in the hope of the Kingdom.

Money which you put into the collection bag for CBM is used to fund the monthly meetings and bring all the brothers and sisters together for a Bible School once or twice a year. We pray for the Lord's blessing on this little ecclesia living and witnessing in the land which is at the centre of the purpose of God, but which sadly sees so much of the vices of men and the stubbornness of heart of those who received the oracles of God.

Malta

The Maltese Ecclesia consists of five brothers and one sister. They all live on Malta with the exception of Bro Salvu who lives on the neighbouring island of Gozo, half an hour by ferry from the main island. He has been in the Truth for many years. Brother Walter and his wife Sister Josephine have been baptised for seven years. The others have all been baptised since then, the last being Brother Solomon who has been in the Truth for only a few months.

The Breaking of Bread service in Malta is organised around Brother Solomon. He works in a hotel, so the meeting is usually held on his day off, which can often be a Saturday rather than a Sunday. Our brothers and sisters are frequently joined by visitors from the UK who have either gone to Malta for that reason or are on holiday there and have made contact with the ecclesia – something they very much value.

The brothers and Sister Josephine love to preach the Word of God to those with whom they come into contact. Brother Gino first became interested when Brother Walter happened to see him reading something to do with the Bible in a local market and used the opportunity to preach the Truth to him. Brother Victor has been on Maltese television along with representatives from other religions and he held his own very ably. CBM workers visit Malta on a regular basis to support this ecclesia and its preaching, including billing and public talks. Like the UK, only a few will listen to the Gospel message, but when they do the Maltese brethren engage with them to fully understand their level of interest and how this can be developed.

We need an on-going supply of funds to support the flat which both houses visitors and provides a place for the brothers and sisters to meet. This is another service which CBM is able to provide as a result of your generous giving over recent years. Please don't stop!



The Ecclesia in Malta