

*Corato, Italy
December, 2023*



Dear Praying Friends,

It seems like as we get older, we're getting busier! As we face signing up for Medicare in 2024, we thought it was to be the other way around. We are nonetheless thankful to the Lord for our health and opportunity to still serve Him.

Fall was a busy time for us as Mark led a *baptism class* for two young adults and two older men. It was special to hear their testimonies of how God has been at work in their lives. Moreover, we continue to serve on the *Healing for the Nations* team under the leadership of missionary colleague, Nicolas Girard, who visited us twice this fall as we held this year's retreat at a Christian camp in our area. It was a pleasure to minister during this weekend in assisting others to be free in their walk with Christ.



*"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that **cannot be shaken**, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."
Hebrews 12:28*



In addition, we travelled north by car to Switzerland with Nicolas' wife, Leia, to attend a missionary retreat sponsored by *Time of Refreshing*. There we met over 40 European missionaries some young, but most older and seasoned. It was a blessing to hear their testimonies of God's faithfulness and protection: one family having miraculously survived the earthquake in Turkey and others who work with refugees exiting the Ukraine.





“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.”

Psalms 46:1-3



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Mark has been leading a weekly *life group* in Bari, which meets in the church at the moment. He has been taking them through the Gospels and book of Acts looking at important aspects of meeting and ministering in the homes, our ultimate goal. Being in the heart of the city, we are trusting the Lord to reach many others with the Gospel.

Our home groups in the *Corato church* continue to meet bimonthly and we wish to ask prayer for one of our faithful leaders, Pina (55), who was diagnosed with uterine cancer last spring. Despite several months of chemotherapy, her condition is stable but inoperable as the cancer is in her lymphatic system. Please pray for her full healing. She and her husband have great attitudes while facing this trial.

In November, we were able to host Dr. David Boyd, a Canadian theologian/minister, who we met several years ago and has served in Jerusalem and Ukraine in Evangelical seminaries. He spent 10 days ministering in four area churches, teaching on the gathering of the



Old and New Testament books in three rotating sessions, as well as prophecy as it relates (or doesn't relate) to the nation of Israel. Denise translated the teaching materials and Mark had the privilege *and* challenge of translating for him. It was a joy to reconnect with some local pastors, meet new believers and have fellowship with them all.

We cannot thank you enough for your prayerful support in 2023, as we made you aware of the difficult birth of our 5th grandchild, Luciano in September. Many of you responded with words of encouragement and lifted up immediate prayer for this little fella. Our son and his wife boldly faced this unexpected and heart wrenching trial. After seven weeks in the hospital, he was released with the assistance of a G-tube inserted in his tummy for daily feeding until he is able to swallow on his own. We trust the Lord he will lead a healthy life despite seizures he had early on.

As we look ahead to 2024, we continue to pray for the two nations we have a foot in and for the Gospel to get out to those who seek Him. Despite a significant shift in values and morals, we know our faith will ***not be shaken*** as we are rooted in the firm foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ—the author and finisher of our faith. We wish you a wonderful Christmas holiday!

In Christ,
Mark & Denise