



NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN AREZZO, ITALY



Dear Family in Christ,

August 2021

We want to talk about a pressing and very concerning subject. We have some bad news and some good news. Many of you have already heard in the news about the green pass (basically a vaccination passport) mandate within Italy by now. Also being enforced in France and Israel. Today, we want to give a very real update about the situation we are facing in the country on forced vaccination, and how the green pass is moving forward. Millions here are very concerned and protesting. Yesterday, we had to go to the US Embassy in Rome to get Olivia's SSN (they lost all her paperwork, twice!). At 1PM we were done and it was about 104F outside. Because we're not vaccinated against covid19, we were not allowed indoors to sit down and eat lunch at the tables where there was any form of A/C or fans. Outdoor dining is all we are allowed to do. So with our little 2 year old, along with MANY others who believe in medical freedom. we were left to dine outside under just some simple shade, still about 90° under the shade. Like millions of others, we experience the anger and sadness some days because of the many places we are no longer allowed in.

How do you get the green pass? You can only get the green pass by having double doses of the covid19 vaccine, a negative covid test (valid 48 hours, the cost is \$25 for each time per person!), or a doctor's note stating that you recovered from Covid in the past 6 months. Then a QR code is issued, which you can show whenever required. There are many things we cannot get into anymore. Including places we go weekly, especially coffee/pastry shops with friends or the kids. Being at coffee shops with Italians to connect is by far the most important place we go with friends, family, co-workers, anyone!!! We take our kids on mommy/daddy dates in coffee shops all the time to spend time together or enjoy a little A/C in the summer. Other places we will not be "allowed into" include museums, restaurants, amusement parks, children educational centers. Starting in September public transportation will most likely be added to the list. We are a homeschooling family and LOVE our visits to the museums, historical monuments, science, or education centers, etc. If we want to get into these places 'unvaccinated' then we need to disguise as a dog, because they are allowed into ALL of these places here in Italy, even restaurants! Coffee shops and restaurants as I said before are open to us only for outdoor dining. Which isn't always possible depending on the weather. Many Italians are furious about this "law" (which is completely unconstitutional!) even the coffee shops and restaurant owners are furious but being threatened with HUGE fines if they don't comply. Who is going to pay 20 Euro for a negative covid test to drink a coffee or get into a restaurant to have lunch with a friend?! For us, sharing meals with friends in restaurants and drinking coffee with unbelievers and believers is one of our favorite ways to have heartfelt and deep conversations about faith. Just the other day I was talking about Jesus with a friend in a coffee shop for 10 minutes as we had that short coffee break together. Nicolas has shared the Gospel on many lunch breaks with his coworkers when they grab a bowl of pasta together. This law is tyranny and there is no other way to say it! It's a matter of time before it's the grocery stores too.... If you are wondering why we will not get the vaccine, this is one very short video from an important immunologist, pathologist, and virologist who is doing autopsies on the vaccinated (who died shortly after) and explaining his findings. If you want more videos of peer reviewed science from credible scientists there are plenty available on Rumble we can pass them on: <https://rumble.com/vkopys-a-pathologist-summary-of-what-these-jabs-do-to-the-brain-and-other-organs.html>

You can watch Dr. Malone talk about his invention of the mRNA technology here and the dangers of it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=xC7_pRidnZ0&feature=youtu.be



No green pass - no sitting! We used to enjoy our time at this nice coffee shop with the kids



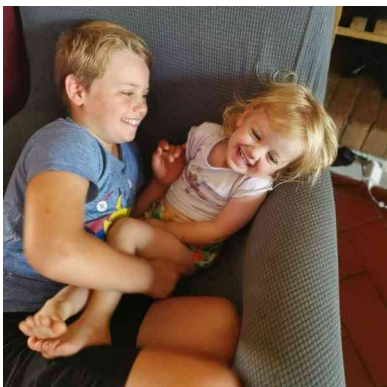
Some coffee houses sure make it very graphic! A traffic light and 6ft signs! But not everyone is willing to comply. Just like in France, large scale peaceful protests are taking place in most Italian cities.



So what are we doing about it you ask? We are talking/working with the many people who are against this “law” to be a support to one another and actively protest. Each weekend since it was announced, there have been MASSIVE protests against it with hundreds of thousands of people. Of course main stream media doesn’t report this, as it would encourage more people to rise up against this type of tyrannical leaders. Even many people who got this vaccine are still against the green pass and believe people should have a right to choose what is injected into their body and not be punished or coerced into it. Most importantly, we are on our knees in prayer over these huge changes and asking for God’s wisdom and help. You can already see the lines being divided between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated publicly. Another reason we, and approximately 20 million others will not give in, is because these mandates will not stop with one vaccine, then it will go to seasonal boosters, then who knows what other experimental medicines they want us to use. Nicolas is still safe at his job since they are not mandating it. The moment it will be mandated, he will quit and find another job. (Technically it is discrimination to fire someone based on what medicine they are taking or not taking). But we are sure glad we already homeschool! It’s already on the table nation-wide laws saying “No vax, no school”.

All that said, your donations have been very precious to us as they are helping to continue to pay our living and ministry expenses here. Nicolas’ paycheck isn’t enough for us to live off of, in most Tuscan families both parents have full time jobs. We know that many of you are seriously concerned about inflation in the USA, and we do not take your donations for granted! Each donation is precious and we feel and receive your love. We also continue to sow into the poor with the project in Nigeria, as we are waiting to complete the Maranatha farm. Currently we are feeding Frank and his wife and children as they have been so stricken with poverty in Nigeria, it’s a serious burden for them. They are about to build the cages for the grasscutters, and we hope before December be fully filled up with grasscutters, fowl, and snails that he can eat, sell, and build a business to help the poor. You helped us build this project and we will send some pictures as soon as we can! Any extra donation we receive go straight to this project. Frank is already reaching out to the poor and we are sending him money to buy groceries for the very poor.

Intermission with Olivia!



We want to finish this newsletter with some good news. For starters, God is still on His throne. We want to let you know we have intimately shared the gospel with so many people these last months. People are frightened for their future, they are worried about the next generations, they fear death, disease, and even eternity. Being able to talk to people about the Prince of Peace in this time has been incredible and people are listening! They cannot deny that we truly are not deep in worry and fear, in the same way they are. We are not concerned about eternity; we know the Good Guy wins and do not fear! Yes, we push back the enemy lines and fight battles on this earth, but we know who wins the final war. He won it already at the cross and will win the final battle on judgment day. I won't go into details because it's personal things that people are confessing to us, but I will just mention that just yesterday Leia got to share about the unconditional love of God with a grown man who started weeping as she talked right on our property. Nicolas spent 3 hours speaking about the deep transforming power of the cross to his two co-workers as they drove to France for a job. They are coming over on Friday to talk more about God! It's not time to stay silent about how God the Father, Jesus the savior, and Holy Spirit the comforter is here for us in our times of need. You are a conqueror because he is within you. Greater is He, let Him rise up within you and shine to everyone around you. If you are feeling afraid for the future, take it to the cross. It's so important that with than confess it and we do not make choices based on fear. Ask Him for help, comfort, and wisdom.

In the meantime, just since May we have fed more than 150 people in our home! Enjoyed deep conversations and doing hours of worship with friends, neighbors, and church family. It feels good to have people over and share life together. We are also back out on the streets visiting trafficked women. We had a special guest give us a hand this week and we were able to deliver clothing, shoes, and other basic needs to them. One woman seriously is considering leaving and I got her in contact with the ministry in Bologna to see how serious she actually is.

Next week we take our kids to Croatia for 8 days and Slovenia for 2. We need a break and to get out of Italy! LOL. It helps us reconnect as a family and our one annual vacation a year we would not trade it for the world. Croatia is a beautiful beach country and still very affordable for a large family on a budget.

Don't let the enemy put you to shame! Let us end this newsletter with some promises.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 1 Cor. 4:8-18

"Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him"
James 1:4

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

"Not only so, but we also give glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:3-5

God bless you all!

Nicolas, Leia, Eva, Elise, Sophie, Isaiah and Olivia

See more photos on the back page!

PRAYER REQUESTS

We covet your prayers! This month please agree with us on:

- that we may keep preaching the Gospel boldly as freely
- that restrictions and discriminations be lifted

**If you wish to support us, please send in your tax-deductible donations to World Outreach Center, PO Box 34. Fort Mill, SC 29716. Please write your checks out to WOC and write "Girards" in the memo line. To donate online, go to www.worldoutreachcommunity.org, access our page under Missionaries and then click on Donate.



Sophie was baptized last month in our backyard, with our church family!