



## NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN ARREZO, ITALY

December  
2023

Here we are, the end of 2023! **Anything we have done for the good of the Kingdom of God this year is because YOU have partnered with us!** Isn't our God awesome?! We feel totally overwhelmed with joy and acceptance in His presence, and we look forward to the future, working and resting (simultaneously) IN HIM! We are so thankful in this season that Immanuel, God with us, was revealed to us.

We want to keep this greeting short and just share about the beautiful connections and meetings we've had the last month. First, we've had 4 more meetings to work out details in the founding of the Christian School in Florence. Our missions director John Cava came and joined us in some of our meetings about the school. He was a great encouragement to have! Right now, we are writing up information and a brochure explaining the project, as well as producing a video before the end of February. We will launch 'something' NEXT fall 2024. We might still be a Christian homeschool co-op (not recognized by the state), BUT we are moving forward to make plans to be recognized as soon as possible! In Italy, to become a verified and recognized school we would need to turn in our ENTIRE program and prove we've hired teachers AND FOUND THE BUILDING by March 31 in order to start the school year of September 2024. If all the money we needed came in in January next month, it could happen by a miracle. BUT, right now things are slow and steady, which is ok too! We wait on God's timing as we plan and prepare the way!

**Proverbs 16:9 (AMP): A man's mind plans his way (as he journeys through life), But the LORD directs his steps and establishes them".** If the homeschool project is established next year at any point, and it looks like IT WILL HAPPEN, we would then start packing to move to the Florence area. Nicolas is already applying for jobs in Florence to "see what's out there". For now he will at least have to work a secular job and stay in that position, until we know if he could have a paid position at the school. This project is bigger than you can imagine, a private Christian middle school or high school DOES NOT EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY. This will be the first of its kind that's all based on a Christian Curriculum (the curriculum is called The Principal Approach). You can only imagine the pushback we are getting from the enemy. But we will not shrink back and be destroyed, we push forward until there is victory!



*Meeting with people interested in helping in the project.  
In the forefront, Giacomo whom we partner with on this project*

Our October intensive Healing for the Nations retreat was very good. We had to change the format at the last minute, so there were only 3 participants. But we got very far with the 3 participants who are looking for change in their broken relationships, ungodly/sinful patterns, and unhealthy emotional cycles. We held the retreat in Bari, and we learned something very valuable in those retreats. The first thing is, we are changing the format and we are now going to start doing more 3-day intensive retreats, rather than 5-day intensive. What we are finding is people just cannot take enough time off to do a full 5 day. We will be doing another 3-day intensive retreat in our local church in Arezzo (in January)! God willing, this year we will travel more with the new program of 3 days and be able to minister these healing truths in more churches. Bringing these retreats into churches helps the believers mature in their identity in Christ, forgive, and be free from oppressive life cycles. So, we look forward to the future!

We didn't get to do many Christmas outreaches for one main reason: our town/church was hit with such sickness (fevers, coughing, colds, flu, etc.) that we weren't even able to get some concrete plans down to reach out to people. The church did have a party for the 20 local families in need who receive food from the food bank monthly. They prayed for and ministered to each person coming to get food donations.

Next year we look forward to many plans and new beginnings which we will mention in our newsletters NEXT MONTH. We just want to leave this letter with a HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who have given towards our projects here and in Nigeria in 2023. 'You' are the 'reason for the season'. Why? "For God so loved the world that He gave His ONLY son, so that whoever believes in Him would NOT perish but have eternal life." John 3:16. You are the reason He came, to be together forever. Isn't our Immanuel 'God with us' just wonderful?!

**Merry Christmas!** *Nicolas, Leia, Eva, Elise, Sophie, Isaiah and Olivia*



*May your home be filled with love, fun, and His Presence!*



*A close-up to one of the many nativity scenes on display in each city. Did you know St Francis of Assisi started this tradition?*

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- The Christian school project in Florence
- The Italian people