



NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN AREZZO, ITALY



Dear Faithful friend and supporter to our ministry!

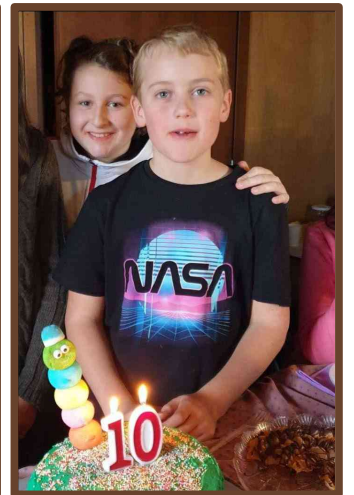
December 2021

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Thank you for taking time to read our newsletters and supporting our mission.

You have been such a blessing to our family this year with your prayers, encouragement, and donations. Without your help, we would not be able to stay here and fulfill God's calling on our lives.

We would like to give a quick end of year update about the children as we are so proud of them! Eva is almost 17 and thoroughly enjoying her time in the USA. She is currently in Buena Vista, Colorado, with her cousins the same age. She is studying in their high school and having her first American school experience. She loves it! She's also learning to drive, and just having an all around, real American experience, and eating too much Mac 'n Cheese! Elise is 14, and in 9th grade. She is doing an intensive program for dyslexia and dyscalculia at equippingminds.com. The results are phenomenal. She can crochet, draw, paint and is about to breed her dog to make a little muuulllaahh. Elise is also teaching English to the neighbors down the street. Sophie and Isaiah are both now enrolled in a homeschool co-op in Italian language and are studying pretty intense academics in Italian. They are just doing so well in this co-op and they love it! I teach English there 5 hours a week to get a discount on their school expenses.

Isaiah is quite the athlete, he pretty much keeps some type of ball at his feet or in his hands at all times. Sophie, as many of you know, has a beautiful voice and spends a lot of her spare time writing songs she wants to sing for charities. Olivia, well what can I say, she is all over the place at age 2 but is absolutely adorable and we call her our mascot. Ha! All of our children love God and think about what his purpose is for their lives. For this, we could not be more grateful.



This year has been extremely challenging to say the least. Worse so than last year. As some of you may know and follow the news on Europe, they are constantly putting hard restrictions on the unvaccinated (and now even the vaccinated again!) We recovered from covid in October, which in all truth, was the mercy of God because Nicolas now has a “super green pass” for his job (which means he doesn’t need to test with a swab every other day). Now we all have the “super green pass” for 5 more months. This is a huge relief for our family and buys us some time to make some decisions. Being transparent, our future is very uncertain here. We are certain God wants us here for now, and we will stay put unless some more serious restrictions takes place that are too much to bear.

Here is what the government needs to decide by the 23rd of December, *again...and again...*

- To make the green pass expire in 4 months instead of 6. Which would mean in March or April Nicolas would have to go back to testing every other day. (Which is expensive and damaging to the sinus membranes!) An expiring green pass would also be for those who are vaccinated, it will mean boosters every 5 months for them, basically boosters forever.
- To make masks mandatory outdoors again. Yes, you read that right. They want to make masks required OUTSIDE, fines for those who don’t comply.
- Requiring negative covid tests for vaccinated and unvaccinated for events, concerts, cinema, theatres, and clubs (this wouldn’t affect us at all as we don’t attend these anymore).
- Require the vaccine (WITH ZERO EXEMPTIONS) for all jobs nation-wide where you are in contact with a lot of people. This would include retail and other jobs similar.

There are ALSO debates and whispers of making the covid vaccine compulsory for all residents, threats of making homeschooling illegal. Likely, by February Covid vaccine will be required for public schools. They are doing everything in their power to punish and coerce those who do not choose to take this vaccine. Some teachers are shaming middle and high schoolers who aren’t getting the vaccine. You would hardly believe the stories. We are supporting and helping connect teachers who have lost their jobs to start working independently from the state (and preaching the Gospel to them as well!) Here, if you want to keep your job as a teacher, it’s a mandatory vaccine or you’re fired, effective January 1st, with no option to take negative covid tests.

Would you stand with us in prayer over these things?

We have been enjoying receiving the joy and peace that comes only from Jesus in this time. This is a time we are pressed but not crushed. What else can we have but to trust in Him? Each week we celebrate life with non-believers and have been hosting many dinners (4 this week!): we are reaching out to people like never before. Sharing God’s love. People are open, they are afraid, they are angry. Even just last night we talked about spiritual warfare with a non-believing family who respects Jesus a lot, but believe in a lot of spiritism. What a beautiful conversation we had, and we will gift them with a Bible next week. Father has called us to be a light in these dark times.

Monday night we are having an outreach to the Nigerian and Romanian treasures on the street. Please agree in prayer for us and this outreach. We are also supporting Frank and his family as we are hopefully seeing the farm up and running this spring. We’ve had some delays which are too long to explain here.

Again, thank you FRIEND for everything. May you remember you are the salt and the light in this time on earth. You are born for such a time as this! All end of year donations will go to some unpaid bills we need to get paid, our outreach, and to Frank (in Nigeria) and his family. A donation of any amount will be a huge blessing!

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 6: 9
Merry Christmas to All! We celebrate God gifting His only Son for our salvation!

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