



NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN ARREZO, ITALY

February 2023

Dear friends, family and faith supporters!

We had a really beautiful December and January. We were so incredibly blessed to be able to go to Israel over the holidays. We found some super discounted airfare, and then were generously invited by some friends to sleep at their house. We couldn't resist the trip! Israel is nothing short of amazing. How many beautiful confirmations that Jesus truly was the son of God. Did you know that historically there were thousands of people who saw Jesus alive after he died? Did you know there are more than 2,000 books written about Jesus confirming the miracles, messages, and more?! Historians have been writing about Jesus for centuries and there were thousands of eyewitness accounts of what they saw him do! (unlike Mohmad, Buddha, Joseph Smith, and others who claimed to be god and do miracles!) Also, how wonderful to see the REAL dead sea scrolls, and how their interpretation today is shockingly accurate! Amazing to sit in the prison cell where they kept Jesus right after he was arrested. What about Jericho, considered the OLDEST inhabited city of earth but also archaeologists have proven the story in their diggings that the walls IN FACT did fall flat, as our story recounts! What about the prophecies about Israel, some as old as 4,000 years, Israel is a nation today and Jews are coming back to Israel migrating by the THOUSANDS, just as was prophesied in Ezekiel. Even our kids were very touched to visit the place he was first beaten and given the crown of thorns. They didn't weep at those places because they are brain washed to believe in Jesus as their savior, it's because they walk humbly, are filled with the spirit, ask questions, and have a relationship with a living God. *Do you want to know the most beautiful thing about following Jesus? People go to all levels to gain peace of mind. But we don't have to do yoga, chant, take drugs, work like crazy, have nice things, and do all types of things to find inner peace. He gives it freely to those who ask, repent and trust. Talk to God today and ask Him for his peace, ask him to change your thinking and deliver you from the evils of this world that steal your joy, faith, and trust!*

1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."





Some other really great things have been going on.

- Eva turns 18 TOMORROW (February 2nd). We will travel tomorrow to Switzerland to celebrate her birthday there over the weekend. Many of you were there and supported us when I gave birth in Wichita, Kansas just one year after being on the mission field. She is our only child born in the USA! She's a real gem! Anyone who knows Eva knows she's the life of the party and has many talents, some of which are; book binding, ceramics, free style drawing, playing ukulele and photography. She truly loves God and I cannot imagine life without her independent and spunky personality.
- Nicolas was able to translate for the founder of Jesus Revolution in Norway Stephan Christiansen for a large conference in Rome that the apostolic church does annually in December. Nicolas is a very gifted translator (everyone raves about his job, just saying) and he is so blessed to get to meet these incredible men of God! But those are some of the reasons we are here to use our gifts for His purposes! Check Stephen out online!
- We went out to the streets right before Christmas, Eva our oldest daughter came with me one of the outings, it was great. But as always very sad stories of women who have lost hope. One woman was very teary eyed with me and gave me a big hug, I had not seen her for a whole year and she said she misses me coming out. She still wears all the clothes we took her the year before. We gave out food, clothing, and gifts to a few women. We prayed for them, encouraged them and gave them the help numbers they need to start a new life. Now we will see if they call back. The human trafficking movement has changed a lot in Italy and we are still trying to find our way to do this work and receive new training with a very intense schedule already. There aren't many girls left in the streets, many are hidden now and being used in houses which are harder to reach.
- We have been discipling some of the participants who came our retreat in October, this can take a lot of time and prayer to help people come out of their old habits, old thinking but is worth every minute. One of them in particular has told us "I've never felt so free, I didn't realize how Jesus could give me so much peace and take the anger away."
- Since coming back from Israel, we have had a lot of really encouraging time talking with both believers and non-believers about what we experienced there and encouraging their faith. Many nominal Catholics have no idea what they even think about Jesus, most of them rarely even think about Him! I was even talking to one mom in our homeschool co-op about the dead sea scrolls and the Aleppo codex (she never heard of either and knows pretty much nothing about the bible as she never read it even once!). I shared with how many times it seems "some force" is trying to eradicate all evidence of these very important texts. Truth is finding the scrolls and saving the codex for future generations was a total miracle in itself. Lots to say about that we don't have space here.
- We stay very busy in this period in church with the food bank, preaching, leading worship, taking the girls to youth groups, and hosting special events in church.

I want to suggest you follow the writings of my new friend Kate who is a Christian and a very anointed writer. She is an English writer but lives here in Florence. She was an atheist, evolutionist, and followed new age practices and never ever believed she would call herself a Christian. She has an amazing testimony and challenges ignorant statements like "Christians are stupid, under educated and ignorant". She is a very critical thinker and saw through the lies of the pandemic and began looking for truth, and there she found Jesus! You can find her blogs in link below (she's even written for The Telegraph!) Here is one example of a short writing of hers "ANTI-GOD programming." <https://katemay.substack.com/p/anti-god-programming>

You are are amazing God people and we love and miss you all! Your endless support has been amazing to us as cost of living is just absolutely crushing us some days. Diesel is back up to \$9 a gallon here and rising. We are still supporting Frank and his family monthly who had a serious tragedy last month on the farm in Nigeria, They can't catch a break! They didn't know it but the field where they gather the greens for the grasscutters was poisoned with a pesticide that killed 9 of their important reproducing grasscutters. On top of that Mery his wife became very ill with typhoid fever, a terrible infection and pesticide. We literally saved her life by prepaying her hospital stay she spent 2 weeks there, thanks to your help and donations! If you have ANYTHING you can send to them they would appreciate it more than you know to replace those grasscutters they lost. It as a huge blow for them. But they are not discouraged and look to God as their refuge!

Much love to you and your families, In Jesus,

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

