



NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN ARREZO, ITALY

February 2022

We see many of you are all in 'snowmageddon' right now! We've enjoyed the photos of the snowstorm on social media especially you southerners who aren't used to it! Last month, we had a really nice snowfall as well here in our town, which is rare, but too bad it only lasted half a day! Ha!

We do have some pretty exciting news to share about Olivia and me. We will be visiting Kansas March 14-28 for a short break to see family and church family. I haven't been back in a few years and right now we really felt it was needed for both of us. My family hasn't seen Olivia since she was a baby. Eva will be coming to Wichita for her spring break so we can spend some time together. Eva and Olivia have a special relationship, and it will be nice to see them together again. My trip will be packed visiting with people, but it will be great! Any of you who know me know I thrive being with people. Also, the other bonus is that I can have a mental and emotional break from the mask wearing and vaccination pass restrictions. I had to show my recovery pass to buy shoes this week, it just makes my stomach turn (my recovery pass is valid for 2 more months). My friend was kicked out of the post office yesterday because she was not vaccinated. It has been 2 years now that masks are required at all times in every single public building, including church. They even put masks again as a requirement outside if you're near another person! (we DO NOT comply with that under any circumstance! So unhealthy for you!) If you would like to help with this trip financially, it would be a great help to us. All donations towards our organization are tax-deductible. Elise will also have the opportunity to come all summer long to stay with my sister in Arizona to have an experience in the USA. She is going to help watch her cousins who will be out of school on summer break.

Things are going really greatly for Eva in high school in Colorado. She has a part time job, studies her academics online for dual credit classes, goes to high school for half days doing non-academic classes such as pottery and food class, and works as a "basketball manager." As much as we miss her, we are happy to see her live this "American experience" - she is pretty excited to attend prom too! We have found that each of us taking turns to have a break in the USA is much easier and MUCH cheaper than all of us coming together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Upcoming trips
- Frank and his family
- Maranatha Farm

Below are pictures of the final development phase for Maranatha Farms that we built with YOUR help in Lagos, Nigeria. Something very strange happened to Frank the project manager. We know it was the enemy attempting to kill and destroy. The day he left to order the grasscutters for the farm, his wife fell extremely ill of typhoid fever and malaria. In Nigeria you have to prepay all hospital visits to get help, so we did this for him and literally saved her life! She was at huge risk of losing her life to this fever! She was in the hospital for 4 days with intensive IV of antibiotics. We did have to use some of the money we had set aside to buy an electric generator they needed for the farm to bring water to the animals, but we had to literally save her life.

We are believing God for a full redemption of this money so they can bring water through a pump and hose to take care of the grasscutters rather than going to the river, which is extremely hard work. ENJOY pictures below of how they MAKE cement bricks by hand and saw metal by HAND! Talk about strength!



The final news we would like to share is that things are going well with Nicolas' job. He has to travel to Switzerland for the company to sell luxury furniture to some of the wealthiest people in the world. The good news is that the whole way up he is in the car with different co-workers (architects, designers, CEO, etc.) and each time he gets HOURS to share the Gospel with them. Most of them come from highly educated and wealthy backgrounds and for many of them it is the first time they have intelligent yet SIMPLE understanding of theology, the Cross, Jesus the PERSON, etc. For some of his co-workers he's become almost like their private counselor LOL. Because so many of them come to him with their problems and God gives him wisdom to help. He has abounding opportunities to share. It is another reason why we like him in the marketplace here. He stays connected to society, and of course we need that provision to be able to live here with 5 children. Although the restrictions on the non-vaccinated just got stricter here, we do not intend to leave for any reason. We know God is asking us to stay. Right now, if you are not vaccinated the only places you can access are the supermarket, the pharmacy, and some church services. That's it! You cannot get into the bank, post office, shoe or clothing stores, coffee shops, restaurants, pretty much anywhere. We are a pretty decent size army of people resisting it, but we are not big enough yet. However, there are many shop owners standing against discrimination!

I (Leia) stay busy teaching English and a cognitive program each week in our kids' homeschool co-op. One of the parents said to me this week, "when can I come over and talk about Jesus with you and your husband"? WOW! People are hungry and curious about who this Jesus is! Also, this month I'm walking through a counseling course to get a lower-level type of certification to be a counselor, as well as hoping to finish by March a course on neurological studies to become an Equipping Minds therapist. This is the program Elise is walking through because she used to have learning challenges, but things have changed dramatically for her! Check it out at www.equippingminds.com. As always, we stay busy with church activities too. So, we just have a lot going on but Praise God for the joy and peace we feel in our home when you have troubling times just knowing at your door!

As always, thank you for your love and support and I cannot wait to hug some necks in Wichita, Kansas next month!

Remember, He who began a good work in you will complete it! (Phil. 1:6). God will not leave you hanging! His work in you goes deep and may take longer than you wish. But He has promised He would always be there with you!

Ciao!

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