



NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN AREZZO, ITALY



JANUARY UPDATE

January 2018

Happy New Year! We pray that in this new year you may continue abiding in Him, Jesus Christ. Apart from Him we can do nothing! Amen?!

Could you help us with our plane tickets to the US for a furlough?

As you can see, we haven't given up on a potential trip to America this spring. **Right now tickets are ON SALE.** It would cost approx. \$4,000 to bring all of us to Kansas together after a 3-year absence. The sales fluctuate from \$700-1000 per ticket getting into Wichita. Right now they are at a annual low flying into Wichita for \$700 each, it should stay this cheap for the next few weeks. We won't be able to come home for a furlough without your help. **Would you consider making a one-time donation to get us there?** We are aiming for being in the States from March 1st - April 18th (only visiting Kansas and Phoenix). If we don't come now, we will likely not come at all this year. Tickets almost double from May on. We appreciate any help towards our trip, it means so much to us, especially the kids who miss family a lot. (If the kids and I are unable to fly due to lack of funds, Nicolas will be there the first week of March, he must be there once a year for immigration reasons).

As for 2018 God is showing us important steps for the ministry this year, improvements to come.... As ministers we make plans, but Father guides our steps. Lean not on our own understanding but acknowledged him and HE will make STRAIGHT your path!

We will be doing some Healing for the Nations weekends this spring. We're currently setting up an itinerary and networking with churches to do three-day weekends for their congregations. Our five-day retreat last October touched and changed the participants so deeply that they're also speaking with their pastors to get us into as many churches as possible. They have also seen the need to teach on such important subjects like shame, blame, approval, co-dependency, boundaries, and performance, and how many believers stay bound and were robbed of joy and inner peace. Often we are amazed at the hand of God and how He is continually bringing people into our home who are asking freedom from exactly these things. Nicolas and I seek to be a safe place for people, Jesus dwells within us and He is our refuge in times of trouble. We seek to be real with people to testify how God took us to a whole new level of freedom as we begin facing lies we believed about our self worth and allowing God to truly 'renew our minds' His way!

Joining the Apostolic Church of Arezzo was the right choice for our family and the ministry! Nicolas has been able to help them by preaching, teaching, and I'm beginning to help in kids ministry. We've brought many newcomers to church with us which is also a blessing to them as well. The Apostolic churches gives us room as missionaries to follow what God is showing us and not forcing us to 'submit' to their main leaders with every activity we plan. They really are wonderful people, and we are so glad to know them. Our building Zoe Center is still open. (we might close it by June, depending on if we get another church to split the rent with us) **We hope to be using our building in February to start a new outreach to the muslims with our friends moving to Italy this month.** They were ministers in Turkey for 20 years, now God has called them to our area! We'll update on that next month as the vision and plans develop. Our building is in the middle of very large muslim community. So even though it's a financial stretch to keep the building open, we do so to bless our community and see lives changed by the power of salvation! I continue to teach English to kids 7 hours a week, both at home and at church to help with the expenses of having a building as well.

World Outreach Center P.O. Box 34, Fort Mill, SC 29716 www.worldoutreachcommunity.com 803-548-9980

NEXT weekend we will make an Important drop off to the prostiutes. We will bring warm clothes to the new girls who've been forced on the streets since the new year. Sadly in our news this week 18 Nigerian girls trafficked heading towards Italy died at sea. Last year alone 3,000 died in the Mediterranean sea departing from Libyan ports. This is a reminder to keep it in your minds and hearts to pray for these poor girls in the middle of this evil happening on the earth today. Jesus has conquered evil and with His help anointing we can change one life at a time.

Last year, we hosted more than 80 people! It amounted to about 180 days of guests sleeping over in 12 months. We estimated we hosted about 100 meals throughout the year. In the Italian culture the conversation and time spent around the table is crucial in building relationships. Even today most families sit around the table without electronic devices and are engaging in conversation. People open up about life around the table. Long meals and with good food and conversation is an essential part of our ministry here (as it was in Jesus' days). In the mix of visitors, there were also several short term missions teams who often come and help us on the streets and/or bring special teachings to the body of Christ. Last year we met so many wonderful people passing through Tuscany for both ministry and pleasure. This last week, we had our first guests of 2018. It was a married couple who are American missionaries in France! As a matter of fact, next month Leia will be traveling to their home for a women's meeting set up to encourage and refresh ministers and missionaries.

On a practical note Nicolas continues his job (selling magnetic shielding www-g-ironshielding.com) working Monday - Thursday afternoon. But in his contract there is an agreement for special ministry purposes he can take of work and make up the hours as needed. He excels at what he does and is a living testimony of Gods love and has many opportunities share about God with his coworkers and clients too! He loves his job and it gives the family financial stability in a time of real crisis here in Italy as the country is slowing coming out of recession.

The kids are doing well. We homeschool in the mornings and in the afternoons they are busy doing actives. Eva does areal dance and art projects, Sophie and Isaiah run track and field, Elise does violin and swim classes. In Italy, band, music, and sports are NOT provided by the state or the school system. Here it's on the parents dime if you want them to be a part of any type of sport or music. But they have develop strong friendships through these actives, very important for homeschooled kids.

Thanks again for all your love and support! You rock!

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- ◆ The funds needed to purchase plane tickets for our furlough
- ◆ Upcoming outreach to victims of human trafficking