



NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN AREZZO, ITALY



Happy New Year!

January 2020

Though the world is shaken, it's a beautiful time to serve and follow Jesus in such a time as this!

We've had a really good Christmas and end of the year both with family and ministry outreaches. Michael and Taylor Packard from Missouri spent the last 2 weeks here helping us reach the treasures who have been trafficked here on the streets. We met many new girls. They were a huge blessing to our family while we they were here, and a great help at getting us kick started back to the streets after an 18-month pause due to giving birth. Here are a few powerful stories of what the Lord has done! It was also our first outing with our new van! Nicolas was the driver and safety situation watcher. Taylor, Leia, Michael and Patrizia (from our local church) took turns talking, praying, and staying home with the kids.

There was a Nigerian woman, around 20 I guess, holder of a college degree, who was on the streets! It truly was heartbreaking! She followed her friends here on the boat just to get out of Nigeria in hopes of finding a job using her degree in communication. But the unfortunate reality is that there isn't work here available for foreigners. With Italian unemployment at 9.8 %, it's rare for an immigrant to find work. Unfortunately, she is now facing the harsh reality of prostitution just to be able to make ends meet. She was very interested in going to the safe house and is thinking about it. We pray for her to make the choice soon and not waste her life and health in the trauma caused by prostitution.

One woman we'll call "Lisa" willingly jumped in the van with us. She began to weep when we started to give her gifts and talk about the love of God. She is an older and more educated woman from Nigeria. We told her she isn't abandoned by Jesus, that He still loves her and has a good future for her, but she will also need to make steps to freedom and have courage to leave the streets and her trafficker. Her eyes swollen and red, she couldn't hold back the tears. We left her with our help numbers and continued to visit and check on her other nights. I believe she will eventually call us for help.



We added personalized magnetic plates on each side of the van with our help number. It gives us a more "official" status in the eyes of the girls on the streets.

There was one sketchy situation the last night. We visited a very dark area, no lights, you can barely see an African down there because of their dark skin, so it's quite unsafe and the girls are always on guard. There was one very young girl (maybe 16) we started to speak with, and she was hesitant but willing to receive the gifts, though she refused to give us information about how she got to Italy. Then a car came and dropped off a second girl, also VERY young. They couldn't speak Italian hardly at all. The car would have left if it were a John dropping her off, but instead it remained there next to us and both girls acted very strange.

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In their body language you could see they were not very comfortable. At this point we were convinced it was their madam in the car watching us, observing who we were and what we were up to. We then all held hands in a circle and prayed. Their madam saw it all. We do not mind, for if GOD IS FOR YOU WHO COULD BE AGAINST YOU?! We do not fear the terror that is by night for HIS WINGS cover us. The light that shines in us is FAR GREATER than the darkness that fills the minds and hearts of their pimps, and they can see that. Deep down, they know whom to trust. We left those girls with The Book of Love, new Bibles, help numbers and personalized letters and gifts. They were moved and all this is thanks to your faithful help and donations to our ministry, YOU are on the team with us! Last, we also met with other precious Nigerian women (some in worse shape than others), an Albanian, a Romanian, and a transvestite. Too many stories to write in this one newsletter.

Our Frozen 2 outreach downtown went well too. It was VERY COLD so we couldn't stay longer than 2 hours talking and meeting with families. There weren't as many out as expected also partially due to the cold. We gave high fives, hugs, and took Photos with about 60 kids and even some adults. We had a sweet tract made with a photo of Olaf on it that said "Do you know who said 'let the little children come to me?'. Though Olaf is sweet it wasn't him. It was Jesus! and He loves you too!" Then we listed our church address and said we are there for them. Many people received our gifts, tracts, and hugs. The KIDS were thrilled to meet Elsa, Anna, Olaf and Sven in real life. To put a smile on their faces was worth the FROZEN temperatures. These types of outreaches help people to understand God is not only rules and laws (about all they hear at mass) but He is also smiles, hugs, love, and fun!



Besides our daily tasks for work, homeschooling and sports for the kids, Nicolas has preached a lot the last month in the different services and brought to light to some important subjects for the church to 'chew' on.

Many people have said that 2020 will be a year of growth and victory. I agree with this, to the extent of the work we put into it, both in practical actions and in prayer.

May you be blessed in 2020 according to your faith!

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



**If you wish to support us, please send in your tax-deductible donations to World Outreach Center, PO Box 34, Fort Mill, SC 29716. Please write your checks out to WOC and write "Girards" in the memo line. To donate online, go to www.worldoutreachcommunity.org, access our page under Missionaries and then click on Donate.