



## NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN ARREZO, ITALY

May 2022

**Grace and peace to you in Jesus' name!**

**By God's grace we have wonderful things to report in this newsletter.** First of all, we are currently in a kid swap out. Ha! Eva our oldest comes back to Italy in June after being 7 months in the USA having such a wonderful time, thanks to my aunt and uncle hosting her in Buena Vista, Colorado. Elise our almost 15-year-old will be leaving in 10 days to stay 2 months in Arizona with my sister. She'll be babysitting her cousins this summer while they are off school and get to do a lot of fun things with my sister and brother-in-law. She is pretty excited for this "American experience" as well. Since our kids were raised solely here, they feel like they are experiencing their roots!

**There is a lot happening that we are excited about.** We are welcoming 2 teams of missionaries/ministers next week. One couple served in China the last 2 years and the other couple are worship leaders in the USA. We hope to reach out to some local Chinese people with the Gospel this next week. We are having some Chinese believers over to our house hopefully next week and also some secular Chinese. Italy has the highest number of Chinese immigrants in Europe. Just in our town, we must have a few thousands Chinese living, working, and developing businesses together. But one thing we have felt in the last years is that God is showing mercy to the Chinese by getting them out of China. One thing we know is that the Chinese government does not show mercy, and they are a cruel government. Think about how much relief many of them must feel experiencing freedom and democracy for the first time when they leave communism?! Maybe we need to rethink our position on the Chinese immigrants because they get a REAL chance at meeting Christians in a safe environment and to hear the Gospel freely without persecution (of course I'm not talking about people who move to another country to do evil like drug dealing and human trafficking. I'm talking about the average family who migrates to another country). So all that said, we want to share our testimony with some Chinese in town and be able to share with them the Gospel. Many of them here are probably very confused with what Christianity really is. "Christianity" to many here means worshiping statues of Mary and crucified Jesus on every corner and going to mass occasionally. Very few Catholics here walk with Jesus, let alone show God to others! We are praying for God's truth to be revealed to the Chinese that we speak with and for His wisdom, power, and love to accompany our conversations.

**Last month we had in an incredible time of outreach and discipleship!** Our team of 4 (Barbara and Lorenzo Mascia and us) went down to a church in Naples to minister (Revival Church Naples). God moved in a beautiful way and most of the people really got it and received a deep healing and are starting a new journey towards wholeness! In these intensive weekends, besides teaching in Scripture, we use symbols, real life examples, testimonies, skits, and devotional times to demonstrate the 4 world traps (performance, shame, blame and approval) and exposing strongholds (lies we believe that exalt themselves above the truth of God). Our retreats are called "from head to heart." Where we move out of 'head knowledge' of what God's truths are to really believing them and LIVING them.

We can see how much of God's truth we have in our lives through our healthy relationships within our immediate family, by our healthy emotions, and the wholesome way we speak to one another. When we are out of balance, it's time to look within and ask the Holy Spirit to show us what's really in our heart and expose any ungodly belief systems. That's what we do in a nutshell. Helping people see what in their mind that needs to be renewed so they begin to see 'healthier fruit' in their daily lives. **Quoting some of those who attended that intensive weekend.** *"I have never felt so clean in all my life", "This weekend changed me from the inside I can feel it." "I had no idea how much shame and pain I was carrying in my own life." "I'm ready to start living a wholesome life with Jesus." "I have never heard these types of teachings on performance and how it affects our daily lives. I'm excited to see change in my own life." "I had too many effects of my traumatic childhood in my life, I didn't realize how much it was affecting me even today." "These teachings make sense to me, I understand better why I am in the traps I'm in."* I could go on and on with all the testimonies we got in the end of the 3 intensive days. **Glory to God! He finishes the GOOD WORK He starts within us!**



The last weekend of May, we are going to another conference in Naples to join up with other WOC missionaries there and our missions director John Cava. (We rarely get away for conferences anymore!) In this time we will also be doing some one-on-one follow-up with some people who came to our Healing For the Nations retreat last month. June 4-5 Nicolas will be traveling and ministering in Bari presenting Healing For the Nations so that we can come down and do an intensive retreat there this fall.

Currently, for lack of time and a team of helpers, our anti-human trafficking ministry is paused until July. We also feel our focus is in other areas these next 2 months. Your prayer and financial support are extremely important to us as we have travel expenses and some outstanding needs and we thank you so much for your sacrifice to give and sow into God's kingdom here.

*1 Peter 1:3-6*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

God bless you guys!

*Nicolas, Leía, Eva, Elise, Sophie, Isaiah and Olivia*

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

We covet your prayers!

This month please agree with us on:

- Elise's trip to the USA
- Eva's safe return
- Our ministry trips to Naples and Bari

