

## 2020 December Prayer Update



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### SPOTO COVID UPDATE

It seems that everywhere and every day, we hear about COVID. Well we wanted to bring you an update on what is happening here in Italy with COVID.

From our last update that we sent out at the end of September, things have changed much - that is to say that we caught it and experienced it - but PTL in a way much different than many have.

In our case, we went out to dinner with one of the first couples that met in Italy almost 30 years ago. That was October 16th Friday. Well by Monday the following week, Jim started with a cough and by Tuesday was running a fever of almost 104.

By Wednesday evening Lori started with chills and by Thursday morning had a fever. Our fear at that point was for Jonathan. Sure enough by Friday evening Jonathan started with a fever and PTL by Saturday it was gone and after that he never really showed any more symptoms and for that we truly were thanking the Lord because of his preconditions.

But that same Friday that Jonathan started with a fever we received a text message from the wife of the family that we went to dinner with the week before, letting us know that she had started a fever the day after we were together and now tested positive for COVID!

So that explained what was happening to us but on that same Saturday that Jonathan was no longer showing signs, we hear from one of other leaders in the church who was with Jim the previous Monday evening for a meeting, had started with a fever!

So at that point we came to a crossroad as to what to do with our church services on Sunday. The decision was made for the health of the church to suspend meeting in person and going back to Zoom at least for that Sunday and for the month of November.

But then for the next few days we went crazy to find out where we could be tested and we won't bore with all the details, but finally found out and were able to set up an appointment with a local lab in our town to do a rapid test that we had to pay for.

We went on October 31st and all three of us tested positive but because so many days had passed we were on the tail end of the virus level. We then followed up with another test on November 13th and we all tested negative.

But during the time that we were getting through it we really didn't receive any help from our own base doctor and had to basically do things on the suggestions from our nurses in our church and some friends that are doctors. Between Tylenol and cortisone we were "starting to feel better" after almost 3 weeks. Of course we lost our taste and smell while we were fighting it.

So we are on the mends now and thank the Lord that we didn't get it like some, and had to be hospitalized, because the hospitals are overwhelmed and over capacity. All three of us we never had the respiratory problems like some others have had and that truly was a blessing.

So in regards to our church services, for the month of November we did them on Zoom. This past Sunday, December 6th, we started back in the church building. There were just a little over 50 in attendance. Some folks are still leary about returning with the new curfew and limits of traveling.

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## **LATEST GOVERNMENT MANDATES**

There is a curfew in place from 10pm-5am. Malls are closed on the weekends apart from essential stores. Coffee bars and restaurants are take away only. Schools are open in person for preschool through 6th grade only, everyone else is 100% online.

The regions of Italy are now being categorized by a risk level that includes Red (high), Orange (medium) and Yellow (low). Our region Piemonte was placed in the red zone on November 6 because of the number of positive cases and thank the Lord, was downgraded to orange on November 27. In both cases, we are not supposed to travel outside our city limits. We do have to say we have not noticed the strictness this time like it was in the spring with the road checks and police being around.

They have also put a curfew on for the holidays which has limited travel and for families to gather together. Who said that the Grinch stole Christmas!!?

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## **Thank You!!!**

Anyway despite all that is going on in our world, we know that our Lord is in control of it all and that nothing escapes Him.

Please know that we constantly pray and thank the Lord for you regularly. God has done and continues to do some amazing things here in Italy despite the pandemic!

Let's continue to be faithful when the moment arrives in sharing Christ with those around you and take every opportunity to spread the Good News especially in these days of COVID-19!!

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