

## 2021 March Prayer Update

### How Do You Spell - COVID? "LOCKDOWN"

Yep - We are having to face it again! --- **LOCKDOWN**.

The government in Rome has now established "colors" to distinguish the different regions of the country for the severity of the spread, for those that are contagious and for the number of those that are hospitalized. There is also a nightly curfew in effect that no one is

allowed on the streets from 10 pm to 5 am and there is talk to move it to 8 pm. Travel is only allowed for justified work, health matters or of necessity (not sure what determines necessity)

There are 20 regions (like counties) in Italy including the island of Sardinia.

The colors consist of -white, yellow, orange, red



Looking at the map below, you would think that it would be easy to understand the rules and restrictions. Right? But if you notice the orange isn't just orange - there is a category for DARK orange! And not only is there "dark orange" but there is also a category for "reinforced orange." The frustration of it all, is that no one really understands all the restrictions. Depending on what article you read or what person you ask there is always a different interpretation!



As a result of the new restrictions, it has put a damper on our in-person services again. Since we started in-person services last June, of course with facemasks and social distancing, temperatures taken and recorded, we can't greet each other with a kiss, we no longer have our coffee time after, we no longer have been able to eat lunch together each month as we have always done, and the service needs to be done in an hour and half so as not to keep the folks closed in too long.

So as a result of the new restrictions that started this past Saturday, being "dark orange" our folks that come from another town can't travel in for the service. And because of the "quick decision to change our color" we had to do our service yesterday on Zoom. We PTL that there were over 70 connected and we had a great time celebrating the Lord's table and giving testimony of how God is working in their lives. Starting next week we will be doing it in person for those who can come in and will be also sending it out on Zoom for those who can't come into town.

Please pray for the situation here. It is supposed to stay into effect until after Easter! As we have said it is very frustrating. In fact today on the news they were saying that there is a possibility of changing our region to RED. That means no services in person, and we would have to even close the bookstore.

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## **Il Faro - Church Transition**

As we move forward to transition over the church completely into the hands of the Italian believers, we have to say that it is going well. They have been taking on more of the responsibilities. We as leaders meet every Monday evening either in person when we can or by Zoom. All of the property has now been turned over and it is in the name of the church along with the bookstore. Along with myself, and Giorgio DeAngelis, we have 4 of our men taking turns preaching and teaching. Lori has been getting the ladies involved in the the Sunday school responsibilities, but because of COVID this past year it was suspended, started up again in June, and then suspended in the fall, and just started again this past December using Zoom and January in person.

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## 2021 Summer Furlough Plans

Please pray for our plans for this summer furlough to visit our northern supporters. We have, for some time now because of the ministry needs here, been taking our furloughs every two years dividing up our supporters between north and south. In 2019 we were in the states for 4 months and visited and updated our Florida supporters. This summer we will be visiting the northern churches and personal supporters. By doing it in this way, everyone gets to be updated every 4 years. We will be in GA, TN, MI, OH, PA, NY, NJ, TX (via video) and VA.

In preparing our schedule, so far we have been able to schedule "in pencil" (because with COVID we never know) all of our supporters. Please pray for our time back in the states, for our safety as we have many miles to travel, and also for our time with all of you that we visit in person, it will be an encouragement as to what the Lord is doing here.

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## Thank You!!!

Despite all that is going on in our world, we for sure know that our Lord is in control of it all and that nothing is a surprise to Him.

Please know that we constantly pray and thank the Lord for you regularly and for all your part here. 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!!

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Spoto Prayer Update*

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