

FROM FLORENCE TO FLORENCE!

Dear friends,

It's so good to be back with you! Thank you, once again, for making room, for one more prayer letter! We are so thankful for you!

This letter is a bit different. It's going to be focusing primarily on our family. We need your prayers, probably, more than ever before.

Some of you might remember this picture in a prayer letter... four years ago.



Simeon was saying goodbye to his grandparents in Germany. Mom was helping Simeon try a new shirt and God was preparing us to “let him go” as his college adventure was about to start! Now, four years later, as I was taking the shot below, that picture came vividly to mind...



Mom... still happy and proud to help... and Simmy getting dressed for his graduation ceremony!

Yes! Simeon just completed his four years at Liberty University! We want to celebrate with you the fruit of your prayers and personal involvement in his life. We have always believed that our children were part of the team. This means they are grateful to God and you for the achievements you have been a part of by supporting our family.

Here are five praises to God for His great love and faithfulness in Simeon's life:

- 1.** Voted first in his Molecular Biology major with a 4.0.
- 2.** Two minors in Bible and Psychology.
- 3.** Three years of experience in campus leadership roles as resident shepherd and R.A.
- 4.** Scholarships and jobs during school and no debts!
- 5.** Acceptance into medical school at Indiana University.

May 11th: what an amazing day this was. We, just like after church, were among the last ones to leave! We couldn't help but bask in the blessing of God's faithfulness in our son's life.

Now, let us share some important prayer requests.

Simeon, right at the beginning of the year, had a very serious skiing injury to his left arm.

Elisa's especially hard year in school had already been heavy on our hearts.

Stephanie and I were encouraged by godly people in our lives to take immediate action and time to focus on our family.

We arrived in Lynchburg, VA, several weeks before graduation and immediately got busy with medical evaluations and seeking God's wisdom for our next steps. We prayed for God's leading to the right place and right people. In the meantime, we found God's strong outstretched arms in mighty ways. One amazing sister let us borrow her car and a wonderful family, we had never met before, generously opened their home to us. Such a comfortable place and very close to campus. Once again, God brought us to recognize His perfect timing and provision in every way.

But that's not all! Now, in Florence, KY, another godsent family opened their arms to us. The husband is an orthopedic specialist and surgeon. He immediately evaluated Simeon's healing process and connected us with help in the area of therapy. His dear wife, (also a doctor!), is a marathon runner and made her gym available for all kinds of work out and therapy. A close friend, a highly experienced therapist offered her help at no cost to us! God's goodness is so detailed and always so on time. We praise Him for all of these new and very special friends!

So, why is prayer still so needed right now?!

5 REASONS. Please pray for:

- **Deep healing in Simeon's arm. This was the arm he had injured at birth. His injury required four surgeries as a child. The healing and therapy process is not a simple one.**
- **Spiritual renewal and strengthening for Elisa and, of course, for us parents as well.**
- **Praise to God for bringing us to Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, (interesting match!). Two cities with the most important thing in common: God's family! This church, (as Faith Church in Lafayette, IN), is where Stephanie and I received much of our biblical counseling training. What a great place to find help many years later!**
- **We left "our" Florence while still in complete lockdown. We have been able to continue all of our regular meetings (including Sunday morning 4:30am services!) thanks to the well-oiled-trio: Zoom, Facebook and WhatsApp. Once again, praise God for these amazing tools; solutions He lovingly prepared well ahead of the challenges we are facing.**
- **A lot is still on our plate as we continue to see the need for a close walk with the Logos Church. We see many wonderful signs of growth (more on this in our next letter), but still experiencing the ugly aftermath and slow recovery from the attacks of God's resourceful and tireless enemy.**

Dear friends in the harvest, we need lots of wisdom and strength each day. We thank you for your patience and faithfulness while not hearing from us. We will be in touch, I promise, very soon with an update on how God answered your prayers.

Again, we thank you so much for being our amazing team!!!
 Together with you in His arms of love,
 Elisa, Simeon, Stephanie and Steve Standridge

A BIG P.S.

Two more prayer requests:

1. **We are traveling this weekend to work on Simeon's move to Indiana University School of Medicine in Evansville, IN. He has found a very adequate and economic place to live with two other young men. They are believers and we are super excited about this!**
2. **If you would like to join in helping in the medical school journey, we have a special request. If God has a lead to a reliable car, through any of you or your contacts, we would be very open to this! We are praying for a financially positive solution :)**

MISSION AGENCY:

TEAM – USA

(800) 343-3144

PO Box 969

Wheaton, IL 60187-0969 *Contributions should be sent to*

PO Box 1683, Carol Stream, IL, 60132-1683

OUR MAILING ADDRESS:

Via del Renaio 32

00514 Florence, Italy

standridgesss@gmail.com