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## 2021 Summer Furlough

We pray that you are all doing well in this season of COVID. When we started organizing our furlough for this summer back in January, it was all up in the air with uncertainty whether or not we were going to be able to complete it.

Well, praise the Lord, we were able to visit everyone and were able to update everybody as to what the Lord is doing in Italy. We traveled over 7,500 miles in 8 weeks and were in 11 supporting churches as well as visiting some friends and personal supporters in between the church visits. We traveled through TN, KY, OH, MI, NY, WVA, VA, NJ and PA! (got tired just writing the letters out!)

The only hiccup is what is seen in the picture below - a flat tire!! The first day, we had driven over 10 hours to arrive just north of Atlanta to stay the night with some friends, who originally were from from our home church in Florida. The next day as we went to go for coffee, we found this waiting for us! As the Italians wrote back when we sent the picture to them to ask them to pray more - "it was only flat on the bottom!!"

Well we were able to get the tire changed, after unloading the suitcases, in around 15 minutes and right down the road was a tire shop which plugged it and changed it back with the spare. So we were back on the road again (that is our theme song). PTL!!

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## Our mothers - Lori's and mine

As we all know as we age life doesn't become easier, it actually becomes harder and we start having our "problems." Both Lori's and my mom have been having their bouts with their problems.

Lori's mom has been having trouble with osteoporosis (now 92 years young) and as a result, her vertebrae have been fracturing, besides her knees not working anymore because the cartilage is gone. So she has been operated on this summer two times to fuse the vertebrae together. She is still in a rehabilitation center and maybe coming home in these days if she doesn't fracture them again.

My mom traveled to NY at the beginning of June, to be with my two brothers. While she has been there, about three weeks ago she suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized in Erie PA. They did a heart catheterization found out that only 25% of her heart is working and she is in congestive heart failure. They have been able to stabilize her with her meds and so far PTL she is doing better. She is being cared for by our niece for right now with the promise of being able to return to Florida soon.

So we ask you when you remember to pray for them. We PTL that they are both saved and have the hope of eternal life.

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## COVID in Italy

As we have been seeing on the news here in this country, instead of things getting better, we are returning back to where we were before this past spring and in some case worse. We were praying that the virus would dissipate and that things would somewhat return to "normal" at this point, but as we have heard now there is a variant that is more contagious and soon there maybe another one!

So Italy has now instituted "the green pass". You can have the green pass in 3 ways - get the shot, have had COVID in the last 6 months and that it can be proven, or have had been tested in the last 48 hours and are negative. Without one of these 3 proofs, one can't go into a coffee bar and sit, sit in a restaurant and eat, go to a stadium and many other events.

For example, one of our co-workers who got one shot in Italy and the other here in the states, wasn't allowed to eat in McDonald's because his pass stated that he only one dose and until he could prove that he them both, he had to eat outside.

Please pray for wisdom for us as we prepare to return soon.

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## The Church Transition

Please continue to pray as we return back for another term. This summer Giorgio DeAngelis and the men that are being trained as the future leaders have been "holding down the fort". Before we left for the summer, we had been in the process of turning over more and more of the responsibilities to them.

So please pray that as we move forward that the church will stay strong and united through this change of ministry leadership.

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## **Thank You as always!!!**

We for sure know that our Lord is in control of everything 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 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 craziness!!

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Spoto Prayer Update*

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