

2022 November Prayer Letter Update



Ireland Chiropractor August-September

When we wrote back in our July/August update, we had mentioned about Lori's 2 herniated disks that happened when we were in the states in June. As we said before, upon our return back to Italy we were in the emergency room the first morning. After that we were able to visit some specialists here and were able to have a MRI done which revealed for sure that she had two herniated disks in her lower back. Our problem was that we were going to have to wait almost 2 months to be able to visit the specialists again because of vacations here in Italy.

It was a frustrating situation with her in pain and knowing that we would have to wait all that time. We PTL that we were able to contact in the beginning of August, a good friend of ours who is a missionary chiropractor in Ireland with ABWE. We were able to send the results of the MRI to him and with his suggestion and offer he had us to come to Dublin for two weeks, August 20 through September 3, stay with them while he treated Lori's back.

We can't thank Rick and Jen Peace enough for their hospitality and the treatments he did for Lori's back for the two weeks that we were there! She experienced a great improvement and relief from the pain. Rick's treatments really started to help her get on the road to recovery. She still has some pain and numbness in her left leg and since our return Rick has suggested a support belt to wear during the day.

From what we have learned with this situation is that it can take from 6-8 months to recover from herniated disks and the doctors here said not to exclude the possibility of surgery at some point. So please continue to pray for Lori and a complete healing of her back.

September Holiday Club

Upon our return from Ireland, we held a Holiday Club, with the theme of S.O.S. based on Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble."

We held it on September 6-8 which was the week before school started. We have learned that this week is ideal because usually there is nothing planned during those days for the kids. As a result, it was very well attended and real blessing. This was the first time in 2 years that we have been able to hold it because of Covid restrictions.

We thank the Lord for the collaboration of organizing this event with a couple of our younger ladies in the church who are taking on more responsibility of heading up the different church evangelistic events. We also praise the Lord for the 32 kids ages 7-13 that attended during the 3 days, which was the most ever! In fact, 20 of these kids were from outside of our church and invited by the church folks.

In all, there were around 20 adults and young people on the staff for the three days of the event. At the end of the three days, 3 kids asked for Bibles. But while the "iron was hot" after the event on the Friday evening of the week, the parents were invited in for a refreshment time and to see and hear what the kids had learned during their time at the club. Please pray for the seeds that were planted in their young hearts!

50th Anniversary Surprise!

We think that we need to lead all of our church members to the Lord AGAIN!! Of course we are just joking, but we have to say that we have some pretty good story tellers among us!

We are saying this because we were completely taken by surprise by our church folks with a very big 50th Wedding Anniversary party! Our anniversary was Friday Sept. 9th which was the evening that we held the refreshment time for the parents of the Holiday Club. We of course knew it was our 50th but as we know when you are in the ministry other things sometimes have to take precedence. So we really hadn't planned anything.

While we were cleaning up after the refreshment time, our folks encouraged us to go out and get something to eat, and that they would take care of the cleaning because of Lori's back. The only problem was that it was already almost 9 pm. We finally asked one of our families to go with us to grab a sandwich together.

In the meantime one of our families had already invited us out on Saturday evening the 10th for a dinner to a restaurant up the valley, that they wouldn't tell us where it was, but we were grateful for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

The strange thing was the family that was taking us out on Saturday evening, that morning called Lori to find out where we were and to let us know that they were at the church finishing up the cleaning for Sunday and not to bother trying to come down because they would do it and that they would be at our house at 6:30 pm to have us follow them to the restaurant. We asked how we were to dress for the evening being it would be at higher altitude.

Well 6:30 pm came and as Jim was pulling the car out of the garage Lori went over to talk to the family in their car. When she got in the car, she said that she thought that we had dressed up too much because they were in shorts and casually dressed! As we were following them down the main street of our town, the lady called and said that we needed to stop by the church since there was a presentation from the Holiday Club that she said she had made some changes to and wanted our approval before showing the next morning at our church service.

We really didn't think much about it and agreed to stop. When we arrived at the church we left Jonathan in the car with the engine running. We needed of course to unlock the door and at the bottom of the steps the other door to church was also closed and as we opened the door --- SURPRISE!! There were over 80 of our church family and friends!! (see video attached)

They truly caught us completely unaware of all that they had planned! They had kept it a total secret for more than 4 months planning the whole thing! We found out that Deborah from the family that "was supposed to take us out for dinner" had been in contact with our daughter Renee since May asking for pictures of us when we met and were dating all the way through to our wedding and some through the years with our kids and had a nice album made for us as a gift from the church. They also put together a powerpoint presentation of old pictures of our "younger days" that were projected during the evening!

Evangelistic Event in Milan

We at the end of October organized a bus for our church and also for some non believers to attend a special evangelistic evening in Milan. We were 54 on the bus and it was a great evening and the gospel message was preached. In fact 2 of our teens and 2 of our younger kids went forward to receive Christ as their personal Savior!

Home Bible Study

One of our member's husband who is not saved but has been coming to services with her once in while has shown an openness to the Gospel. (His father has been coming to our services too!)

For his birthday his wife and kids gave him a Bible which he was wanting. So now that he has a new Bible he was open to start a Bible study with us on Friday evenings in their home. Please pray for Salvatore (which means Savior in Italian) to open his heart to the Lord

Christmas Program and Baptisms

This past Sunday, we met with some of ladies to start organizing our Christmas program coming up next month on the 10th. We are redoing a play that we did 9 years ago called "The Legend of the Three Trees." The story is the same but they are going to be presenting it in a different way. Please pray for those who will be coming that are not saved and the message will be clear and heart touching!

Please also be in prayer for our first baptism service coming up in either February or March. Right now there are 4 that are attending the class.

With Thanksgiving!

You all will be celebrating Thanksgiving at the end of this month. May it be a time of reflection and thanksgiving for what our Savior has done not only for us but also for entire world! May the Lord bless your time together with your loved ones!

Also before closing we want to thank the Lord for these many years of service and for your faithfulness to the ministry here in Italy! Because of your faithfulness and prayers there is a church that has been planted and growing with baptised believing Italians! Only the Lord knew that when we arrived here over 30 years ago!

As we have said so many times before - we could have not gone forward or served the Lord without you all behind us! We should all be desiring some day to hear those wonderful words from Jesus "well done thou good and faithful servant!"

Lord bless you all in these final days of 2022!!