



Paving the Way!

Our last letter had to do with driving through “divine fog”. Staying close to Him was the main idea. Months later I was in Carmel, Indiana, and another driving moment grabbed my attention and helped me think about something: while we all prayed about our future God was already “paving the way”!

Life situations can easily translate into images that remind us of God’s promises. Let me share a couple with you. “Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear” (Isa. 65:24). “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ef 2:10).

Sometimes God seems silent, but this doesn’t mean He is not busy.

One early morning, I had woken up with one piercing thought on my mind. I shared it with Stephanie and she said she had been thinking of the same thing a few days earlier. (Yes, our wives are very often one step ahead!). A conversation from 2022 had come to mind. It was a talk with the elders from our sending church in Rome.

We had shared with the elders that things in Florence were progressing very well. New elders were ready and we believed our time there was coming to an end. The initial response was joy, of course, and then a request immediately came. Would we consider the idea of returning to assist them in the exciting things happening in Rome?

Two needs were evident: 1. Help strengthen the mother church, 2. Support the work of new church plants that were coming into existence. Some of the men I had the privilege of discipling in previous ministry terms were now key leaders being sent to reach new areas of Rome.

Long story short: we are now planning on flying back to Rome on February 26th of 2024!



As we shared in the past, another key area of service God has opened for us is the wonderful ministry of caring for fellow missionaries in Italy and in other regions of Europe. The experience we have accumulated in nearly forty years of missionary work is now a very valuable asset in helping others stay strong and healthy in ministry.

While these plans are coming together we continue to hear wonderful news from the Florence Logos church! On Sunday November 26th five more people were added to the church through baptism. The church body is strongly supporting the ministry of our new elders, Samuele and Fabio. Lots of spiritual growth continues to be evident.

All praise be to our almighty God! He has everything under His perfect watch. And, dear friends, thank you for your prayers during these past months as we have been seeking God's direction. And one more thing. Please look again at the picture at the top of our letter. Is God inviting you to join Him in paving our way back to Italy?

We also want to wish you a very blessed Christmas and New Year Season! May His miraculous birth encourage and empower each one of you to announce the miracle of new spiritual birth in the lives of many! What a message we have to bring to all people!

With much love in our wonderful Savior,
Steve, Stephanie, Simeon and Elisa Standridge



P.P.R.S. (Prayer Post Reading Scriptum)

- Please be in prayer about the following:
- New supporters are needed.
- Our monthly financial support is down.
- We are also facing new expenses in three areas: 1. Make final payment for storage of our things in Florence, 2. Move to Rome, and 3. Provide for a three-month deposit to rent an apartment in Rome.

**MISSION AGENCY:
TEAM – USA**

**Contributions should be sent to Stephen and Stephanie Standridge account #012054
PO Box 1683, Carol Stream, IL, 60132-1683
www.team.org**

**SENDING CHURCH:
Chiesa Berea, Rome, Italy
www.chiesaberea.org**

**PLEASE ALWAYS REMEMBER
TO ASK FOR OUR PERMISSION TO SHARE
ANY CONTENT FROM OUR LETTERS ON PUBLIC MEDIA.
THANK YOU!**



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