

The Italian Battalion

On the front lines of World Evangelism

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Dear Praying Friends,

March - 2020

History in the making - Without a doubt, February and March of 2020 will be remembered primarily for the Covid-19 virus that has gripped our attention and dominated the news cycle with headlines of spreading panic, illness and restrictions around the world. Our otherwise-wonderful country, Italy, has taken center stage for some time as the most effected country in the West (at least for now) by the spreading virus. In the last two weeks, there has been almost daily modifications to the measures put in place by our national officials in the attempt to limit an overwhelming burden on our hospital system by the ever-increasing number of people needing hospitalization. I can verify that what is being reported by the Italian state news channels represents the reality of what we are living. I will not include any number statistics, because they would be irrelevant after just 24 hours.

Though regular life has been completely modified because of these measures, and long lines outside the grocery stores can be discouraging, we are not currently lacking food or any other necessary items.

The need to Adapt – We already had Evangelist Brent Sivnksty and his family scheduled to come right before the travel restrictions went into effect. Therefore, the evangelistic services, for which we had prepared, were forced to be held with only a few people present, while we reached many others through a Facebook live stream. We praise the Lord for this encouraging ministry to our church family just as the worst part of this virus situation was about to begin. Fortunately, the Sivnkstys were able to make it safely back home in the States without too much trouble.

Online meetings – Thankfully, we have been able to maintain contact with our church family by holding regularly scheduled services through live streaming. Please pray for our church people with varying challenges during these days.

Milan ministry – At the beginning of February, Jennie and I had the privilege of ministering in the church in Milan for an anniversary celebration, just before the Lombardy region was declared a “Red-Zone.” Though the city of Milan is drastically different from our own town of Grosseto, the wonderful fellowship we have with the believers there is the same.

Couple’s Banquette – Our Couple’s Banquette was very well attended, since it took place before the Covid-19 crisis. There were 10 visitors, as well as many of our church couples present for an edifying evening to hear the preaching of fellow missionary Joey Tacon. The following week we travelled to the Pisa church to preach at their banquette.

Family – Thank you for the many messages we are receiving expressing concern for us and the ministry here in Grosseto. We are thankful to be here ministering to the dear people of Italy “for such a time as this.” Please pray that the Word of God might have free course during this time especially.

Your fellow servants,

Frank, Jennie, Frankie, Arianna and Katiana Maietta