

The ITALIAN BATTALION

On the Front Lines of World Evangelism

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Dear Praying Friends,

September – October, 2020

“Semper Gumby” – One of the un-official motto’s I remember from my years in the US Marine Corps was “Semper Gumby” which reminded us to be always flexible.

Updated Covid situation – There have been no changes in the restrictions regarding holding church services. We are still free to meet, but with some limitations. One thing that has become evident is that though connecting with our people through online means has been helpful, we are increasingly convinced that there is no substitute for local church, in person, ministry. We continue to pray that restrictions would be removed soon.

School books – One seemingly small, yet not insignificant complication due to the world-wide pandemic has been the challenge of getting our home school materials for the new year. Frankie and Arianna are supposed to begin 12th grade and Katiana is going into 10th. After attempting several different avenues, we are now simply waiting for the shipment to arrive here in Italy.

Intern – Our scheduled intern was unable to come serve here in Italy this year because of the travel restrictions. Unfortunately, our plans to have last year’s inter, Matthew Schrock, join us again this fall for three months, had to be canceled as well. Thank you for your continued prayers for laborers in Italy.

Discipleship with Matteo – Matteo came to know Christ last winter and found our church online during the lockdown. He has since been very faithful to our service and expressed a desire to follow Christ in believer’s baptism. We are studying the Bible together weekly and hope to have a baptismal service soon.

Pisa Mission’s Conference – One of the great joys of missionary work is seeing a young church plant grow and take on the great commission as their own privilege and responsibility. The Pisa church, planted just a few years ago by the Tacon family had a month-long mission’s emphasis that we had the privilege of participating in. Please pray for the growth of the church in Pisa and the opportunity to start new churches along the Tyrrhenian-Sea corridor.

Missionary kid appreciation day – On the occasion of a fellow missionary’s children returning to the States to pursue work opportunities, Jennie and I decided to hold a special activity to share with our children along with the children of our fellow missionaries, how much we appreciate the labor of love they have contributed to the ministry over the years. Without a doubt, most of our contacts throughout the years have been the result of relationships somehow connected to our children, and through school, friends, sports, etc. Thank you for praying for our children.

Prayer – Please remember our young believers Rosa, Anna and Matteo along with those who still need salvation: Federigo, Grazia, Luca and Anna’s sister Rosanna.

**Your fellow servants in Grosseto-Italy,
Frank, Jennie, Frankie, Arianna and Katiana Maietta**