



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March and April 2022

Thank you for your prayers and sacrifices of support and fellowship in the gospel. We are very grateful for your desire and burden for the gospel to be preached here. With a war in eastern Europe and various crises worldwide, many people remind us of the crowd in Athens, when Paul preached there. In **(Acts 17.21)**, **“For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.”** After Paul preached, the majority scorned Paul and refused to act on his message. But we read in the last verse of the chapter, verse **34**, **“Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed:”** Praise the Lord, that there always seems to be a few certain souls, who see their need and act according to the truth preached. With great joy, we were able to see a couple souls believe and trust the Lord as their personal Saviour these past couple weeks. Back in November, we met Andrew, a cello musician and teacher as we were doing a bit of shopping in a nearby town. Andrew is an American, but with his mother being an Italian from Napoli and his father being in the military, he grew up in Germany and is able to speak all three languages and understands all the cultures. We have given him and his wife gospel tracts and have invited them over to our house before, but as Andrew being a Catholic and his wife, Laura, Episcopalian, they were always a bit hesitant in talking about spiritual things. Well, Andrew recently came to church service at our place and on the second Sunday after we had eaten together and taken a walk, I was able to sit down with him and talk to him one on one. I was able to witness to him for quite a while and tell him what the gospel and biblical salvation is, according to the word of God. I asked him, “Are you a sinner?” he leaned back and said, “Yes, yes, I sin all the time...” He then said that this new thing, that he can have a personal contact to God and have salvation was very interesting. He wanted to talk to his wife about it. But then I saw he was very much under conviction and so I asked him, “What if you do talk to your wife, and she says you are ok, and that the catholic church is right...Do you really believe the catholic church or this Bible?” He thought about it some more and after a little while longer, he wanted to pray to ask the Lord for salvation as a gift and receive him as his personal Saviour. Andrew got saved about two weeks ago and has since already devoured books I have given him, such as, “Far from Rome, near to God,” which contains testimonies of converted Catholic Priests. We have been going through some basic Bible Doctrines and the difference between true doctrine and Catholic Dogma and Catechism. He looked at me one day as we are studying, and said, “I am just so glad that you help me to understand this. I have wasted so much time being distracted in the Catholic Church.” I could say much more about how much zeal this man has shown and how he is like a sponge with all new material, but I do ask prayer for him, his job situation, and more importantly, that his wife would also have a soft heart to the word, when we talk to her in the coming week.

Not soon after Andrew got saved, a few days later, we had a man named Maurizio and his girlfriend Mina over for a bonfire. They had come to church a couple Sundays, and we wanted to talk more to them. After reading many verses out of Romans and explaining the gospel, I asked Mina first, if she felt she would like to receive the Lord ask her Saviour. She said that she is happy with herself and doesn't see the necessity at this time. She said, “I have come a long way and am happy at the moment.” We found out recently that she was adopted as a baby from Russia and raised in a rich Catholic house, where she was physically and verbally abused as a child. Multiple times she has cut herself and tried to commit suicide. But after Mina, I turned to Maurizio and asked him, “Would you like to be saved and ask the Lord to save your soul?” He said yes and was

very eager to pray. He prayed and I asked him a question, just trying to make sure that he knew had understood everything. I said, “Maurizio, let us just say, you were to die at midnight tonight and stand at Heaven’s gates.... Why should you be able to enter Heaven?” As we sat next to a campfire, he leaned and pointed at the Bible, and said, “It that book is true, then I am going to heaven.” Well, it is true, and Maurizio told me before leaving to go home, as I asked him, “How do you feel now?” He said, “Better, I feel free” and threw his arms in the air! Amen. Please pray for his growth and Mina’s salvation.

Also, thank you very much for praying for Graziella’s thyroid and neck. It seems to be slowly getting better and we are seeing a few special supplements work. We appreciate your prayers for her.

A special prayer request: Please pray for the first half of June of next year, 2023. The Couriers for Christ have decided to hold a meeting and do a campaign here in South Tyrol with us then. It will be their first time in Italy, and we are preparing the booklets of John and the German-Italian gospel literature and other things already in advance. What this group has been doing for many years in Europe is truly remarkable. They come with a large group of volunteers, who after mapping out cities and streets, they sow in mailboxes and pass out the printed gospel of John or Romans, with a gospel tract and an invitation to receive a reformation Bible at a special service held at the end of the week. At this service music is played and the gospel is preached and many are exposed to a strong witness. Please pray God would open and keep the door open for this to take place and thousands of houses to receive the gospel and book of John in both languages. **WOULD YOU PRAY ABOUT COMING AND HELPING?** We would love to see many come and partake in bringing the gospel to these alpine Catholic souls. If you have interest and would like to know more, please don’t hesitate to write me an email. **“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”**

– **(Isaiah 6.8)**

– In Christ Jesus, Bro. Joel, Graziella, Tirzah, Luca

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