

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November and December 2022

Thank you for your prayers, sacrifices of support, and fellowship in the gospel. With another year behind us, we want to thank each of you for your part in our lives and work over here and that we are grateful to be able to labour alongside you and are looking forward to seeing more fruit in this new year. A special thank you for your prayers and special gifts and support toward the end of the year, which really were a help and encouragement. **“...the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. “-(Philippians 4.18b-19)**

At the beginning of November we were able to visit and spend a week down in Palermo with family and be edified by the fellowship. Brother Josh Leib, who married Priscilla, one of Graziella’s younger sisters, is pastoring a church in the center of Palermo and we were able to be a part of the Sunday services while on the trip. My ability to preach in Italian is still a work in progress but I had the open door to preach in English and then did try to preach a short bit in Italian on the streets, as we went out witnessing as a church. It was a blessing for my kids to spend time with the cousins and around other Christians there. We were grateful for this short time together.

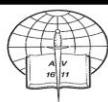
Beginning about Thanksgiving time over here in the Alps, there start to be many Christmas markets set up in the center of towns and cities with wood huts and booths selling local products, Christmas decorations, and also local traditional foods and drinks. As you walk through the markets you notice people are in celebration mode and having a good time. Sadly wine and alcohol is consumed in abundance at this time of the year and much of the happiness and smiles are more a show than true inner joy. As we started to pass out Christmas gospel tracts and wish people a merry Christmas, it is always surprising how many people reject the gospel tract and do not want to hear about the birth of the Saviour and the only reason to even celebrate anything at the end of the year. Some people took gospel tracts and we hope to see fruit of this later. During one particular witness, a man behind me in a supermarket rejected a tract and the man in front of me read the front and then turning to me, thanked me heartily as we shook hands, and almost embracing me in appreciation for something about the good tidings of the season and how the Lord died for him. Maybe he read the rest later. There are always a few here and there that are searching. Graziella and I were in a shop and before walking out, Graziella gave the employee lady who was helping us, a gospel tract. The lady immediately said, “I needed this....” and walked away tearing up in her eyes as she had to go back to the job. We pray for her. Over the course of December, we were able visit and evangelize in markets in Innsbruck and Salzburg Austria, Sterzing, and Brixen in South Tyrol. Also, we were able to be part of a Christmas Concert and outreach in Switzerland at Brother Verhoefs church, where we sang and participated in music. We made a two-day trip into our nearby areas just south and east of us into the Dolomites and were able to pass out many tracts and go house to house in Pozza di Fossa, Falcade, and Cortina d’Ampezzo. In Cortina, where the winter Olympics are being prepared for 2026, we saw the wealth and luxury of this life and many living for the present. The Bible says, **“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” –(Matthew 24.38-39)** Noah didn’t have a great following much time of building and preaching in open sight, while so many ignored the warnings of a future judgement.

On Thursday this week, a container with 250, 000 bilingual booklets (German& Italian), with the Gospel of John, a few chapters out of the book of Romans, a two gospel tracts in the front, one entitled “Do you have Religion or Salvation” and the second, “A Personal Relationship with God, How?” will be shipped to us for the outreach in May and June with the Couriers for Christ. Please pray for this shipment. It will be your prayers that help it to arrive timely despite the enemy’s resistance.

Please continue to pray for Graziella’s health and wisdom and guidance. We have had some allergy tests performed and had to make some necessary changes to diet and also are supplementing some new things. We hope to see some results and improvement with time. She went in for a check up and scan in November and the doctor said her that the cysts in her neck have not grown larger since last year and seem to be fine. We covet your prayers and will keep you updated. Vielen herzlichen Dank! Grazie mille!

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

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