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NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, October 10, 2023

Dear brethren in Christ,

my wife Antonella and I hope to find each one of you doing fine in all material and spiritual blessings. We would like to share with you again our sincere thoughts of gratefulness for everything that you're doing toward us, making possible the preaching of God's Word also in a pagan city as Rome, so filled by humanism and false religious traditions. We live day by day surrounded by all this: our preaching efforts are often vanished by ignorance and indifference. The lack of respect for God is heavy and hits every level of our society. In spite of this reality, we keep on trusting in our Lord that through the power of the gospel can change people's mind and heart.

PERSONAL NEWS. We're doing very well, thanking God. Our daughter Valeria and her family are doing fine and our three grandchildren (Alessandro almost 9 years old, Alice 7 1/2, Samuele 3 1/2) are growing fast and in good health. They are back to school, so very busy with didactic and sport activities. We try to help Valeria as much as possible to share the heavy schedule. Alessandro often spend the night at our home, and we enjoy him a lot. To be grandparents is not just a relationship, but often it's a real job!

Our son Paolo is also doing OK. He just came down to visit us, staying few days but enough to enjoy him with the kids. He's very busy with his job at Milan. We still have a lot of tourists coming in and out and the flight business is still very active.

LOCAL PREACHING ACTIVITY. Our local work is proceeding according to our schedule and decisions. As I wrote you before, we had to face some internal problems that caused the withdrawing by a couple of members, that were acting unproperly, causing confusion and scandals. Sometimes a church is taught by the gospel to apply correction, hoping to earn back the lost ones to the Lord, through sincere repentance. We hope and pray for this.

We are now stronger and more ready to do our common work with higher responsibility and respect for one another. We're strongly united and determinate to do our best in announcing God's word by words and good examples.

Last week we had our gospel meeting, as announced. We did a heavy work (also economically) to advertise it but only one person came to listen. We hope that good may come out of her. This is the reality that we face, as said before. We will continue in the future to do such a type of work, hoping for better results. This will encourage us to things in a better way, without losing hopes and energies.

I'm continuing the personal Bible studies with Gabriela, a woman from Romania, with a Greek orthodox religious background. She seems sincerely interested in knowing the Bible and has a good attitude also during her attending to our worship services.

I'm still weekly involved in personal Bible studies program with Maurizio, Michel, Luca, Pierpaolo, Amedeo, and Grazia. This is a good program for spiritual growing and responsibility in the church. Those young people will be the good and sound sources of this church future.

On Wednesday evening (we changed the day from Thursday), I completed the introduction to the gospel of Matthew and started the reading/comment of the first three chapters.

On Sunday, after the worship, I am still teaching lessons on the "Holy Spirit", focusing specially to the way by which the Spirit dwells and guides Christians today.

Our general attendance runs around 42 (including those brethren that still join us at distance through Zoom).

TEACHING PROGRAM

SERMONS PRESENTED IN ROME

September 10, h. 10 AM: "Power of God and human weakness"

September 17, h. 10 AM: "Hospitality"

September 24, h. 10 AM: "Reasons of believe in God"

October 1, h. 10 AM: "Useless servants (Luke 17:1-19)"

October 8, h. 10 AM: Preaching of brother Amedeo ("The hope of Christians")

WEEKLY BIBLE CLASSES

With Maurizio and Gabriela > each Friday h. 16 PM: "Gospel of Luke".

With Luca > each Tuesday h. 7 PM: "Isaiah"

With Michel > each Friday h. 8 PM: "Work of the preacher"

With Grazia > each Thursday h. 5.30 PM: "Gospel of Luke"

With Pierpaolo > each Thursday h. 12 AM: "Old Testament Survey"

With Amedeo > each Wednesday h. 10.30 AM: "Old Testament Survey"

VISITORS FROM U.S. CHURCHES. We had the joy to meet some visitors coming from US churches and we'd like to list their names. **Porter & Joseph Setelin** (Knoxville, TN); **Rachel & Corpin Roth** (Nashville, TN); **CJ & Emma Kim** (Spring Hills, TN). We sincerely thank those brethren for their good visit and encouraging presence.

Thanks again for your encouraging fellowship in this work. All the brethren in Rome salute you, sending their best greetings.

Antonella, Valeria and Paolo send their good wishes. God may continue to bless us in His Kingdom.

Be safe and stay well in Him.

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza

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