



The Girards

ITALY

Preaching the Good News Of Jesus Christ

Dear friends in Jesus,

April 2014

In just one night of meeting with prostitutes we heard stories of forced marriages at age 13, prostitutes having all forms of sex using NO protection, forced abortion, pimps who manipulate to get anything they want, \$10,000 made in just over a month serving 20 clients per day then used for drug money... There is a lust driven world out there that we need to understand, so we can know how to pray and give to bring JESUS' LIGHT to the streets!

Mary, Monica, and Maria

Here are just a few stories. We had a powerful weekend with the precious women who are abandoned in the streets of Arezzo. They are God's princesses and He loves them dearly--they are not abandoned by their Maker! Please take the time to read these stories and imagine the trauma these women feel so that you can know how to pray for them and for us. There is some important information at the end of the letter about needing some short term missionaries- PLEASE READ.

I want to give you a picture of what it's like to go visit women from 11pm-2am. Our friend Cristina from Amsterdam came to help us with the women. She and I went out both Friday and Saturday night. First we prayed for direction, wisdom and protection of the Holy Spirit. There were many police out on Friday night, so we weren't sure what was going. We stopped the car in front of two girls from Romania. One is Mary and the other girl Monica. Mary told that us that she has been on the street for many years. Monica said that she has been in prostitution for two months. She was very sad. Monica is working on the streets because she is an orphan and must take care of her siblings. She impressed me with her sadness. We gave both girls rings and cards with a message about Easter. When Cristina told her that God loves her and that Jesus died on the cross for her, too, she started to cry. She left the place where we were and never stopped crying. I told her that tomorrow we would come again to talk with her. Mary was more relaxed even though her eyes were very, very sad. We left them and stopped the car in another place on the same street. There we talked with an Albanian woman named Maria. She has two kids and is working to support them. They don't know what she is doing. She told us that every evening she goes to her girlfriend's house, changes her clothes and comes to this location to work. We prayed for Maria and for her children. As we prayed I watched her face, and even though her eyes were closed I could see both sadness and rest in the Words of God. She needs the Good News, she needs salvation. She is hungry for God's words. We gave her hugs and when we kissed her cheeks I saw happiness and her eyes were shining. She needs love, friendship and acceptance for people from another world, and we tried our best to give it. Maria told us to go and find the Spanish woman. She said she does all forms of sex without any protection for extra money. Because this woman has become very sick Maria said maybe we could convince her to use protection and help her life (More of that story below.)

Camelia: a forced marriage at 13... WHAT???

Near Maria we met Camelia. She is a very young Romanian woman-only 24 years old, and she has two boys. She moved to Italy five months ago. Cristina asked her how she got into prostitution. She told us that

her neighbor mentioned an opportunity to work in Italy to build a good life for her kids. He said that if she worked on the streets she could soon make enough money for a house. At that time she didn't understand what it meant to be a prostitute but she made a choice and did not tell him 'no'. He treated her very badly. When we gave Camelia a ring and some brochures she told us, "I want to talk more with you. I don't want to work right now. Can I go with you in your car to keep talking?" We were very surprised and excited in the same time. She jumped in the car and told us her story.

She said, "I don't know why but I trust you. I need to tell you my life. I need to do it. I had a very sad childhood. My parents forced me to marry when I was 13 years old. I didn't want it but they didn't listen to me. I had my first child when I was 15 years old and the second when I was 17 years old. I had a very bad life with my husband. He beat me almost every day. My dream was to divorce when I turned 18. And I did it. Then my family was very angry with me. I couldn't go back to them. I met another man. He was Romanian. (My first man was gypsy because I am gypsy too). After three years I had to divorce again because he was also a bad man. He was drinking all the time and treated me and my kids very badly. I left him and I was again homeless with my children. My family did not want to help me. Five months ago I left Romania to come to Italy to work for my children. And now listen to what has happened to me.

My first month I was working for my neighbor (he was her pimp). After one month, a Romanian man named Daniel came to me as a customer. He said that he liked me and wanted to take care of me. The next day he visited me again and asked me if I could stay longer with him. He told me that he couldn't stop thinking about me and that he fell in love with me. He told me beautiful words that I had never heard. I started to like him. Over the next five hours he told me that he had five women on the streets working for him--one from Spain, another from Albania and another from Romania-- but he wanted to have a wife like him - gypsy. In the beginning Daniel was so kind with me, and I agreed to stay with him because I started to love him. He made it all okay with my neighbor so I moved into his house with his father and his brother. They came from Craiova, a city in Romania full of gypsies, and they belong to a clan called Dima. (Cristina is from Romania and knows that this clan is very, very bad people.) Each family member had 5-6 women on street working like prostitutes."

After a long sigh Camelia continued, "When I moved in with him I realized that the situation was different than he had promised. I don't live with him. I have a room in his brother's apartment together with his sister-in-law and the other women who are all working for his brother. I was very disappointed but he told me that this is going to be the situation. He doesn't want to make the Spanish woman angry because she knows a lot of things about him and she could speak about it. He has sexual relations with all of the women but he sleeps every night with the Spanish woman. (This is the woman Maria had mentioned earlier.) Even though things are this way, I cannot stop being in love with him. He tells me each day that I am his wife and that he wants to have children with me. That makes me happy but at the same time I am sad because I don't know what to believe.

For example, the Spanish woman was pregnant by him two months ago. He was so angry that he beat her and told her that she must have an abortion. She didn't want to but he was very aggressive with all of us. and wanted to teach us a lesson that pregnancy is not allowed if you work for him. The woman took three pills and was close to death. He did nothing for her. I felt so sorry for her that, with all the money I had saved, I paid for her hospitalization and treatment that saved her life. In that time I doubted Daniel and I said it. He told me that I had to believe him and his love for me. But he says the same thing to each of the women so I was angry about it. He got me in car and told me we were going to talk in private. He said, "You have to believe that you are my love even though I sleep and have sex with the other. It is because I need them to work for me. But all of this business about the future is just for you and for our kids because you are my gypsy like me. And to prove to you my love I decided to let the truck that is coming crush straight into us." He began to accelerate and went directly toward the truck. I started to scream, "Don't do it, I believe you, I will trust you all the time!" At the last second he turned the car and we were not crushed. I was so scared. I told him he should not do that again. Now I do believe him that I am the one for him and I accept his rules."

Camelia is very much in love with Daniel... But though she is in love with him she doesn't give him all her money. She saves a part for herself. We prayed for Camelia and her kids. She asked us to pray for Daniel, too. She said that three days before he had spoken with her, saying that he wanted to change his life to do good things and to have a real family. The day we spoke with Camelia, at four o'clock that morning, the police had quickly arrested him and his family. All of the women had to work that day and give the money to a lawyer to save Daniel and get him a lower punishment. His father is now in prison for 12 years and his brother for 4 or 5 years. We prayed that God would meet them and change their lives. We promised to visit again and bring a Bible. Camelia said that because of all this she was too sad to work but would like to have a normal job. We also gave her a DVD with testimonies and worship music and brochures about life with Jesus.

On Saturday night, we returned and found Camelia again. We gave her the Bible and she talked for another hour with us. One detail she mentioned was that she had worked extra and saved up 10,000 Euro. She gave it to her pimp who said he wanted it to make a new life for them in Romania. Instead, he used it to buy drugs. This made her upset, but she is so blinded by his manipulation that she still "loves him" and trusts him. Friends, we have to pray to find a way to help Camelia start a new life.

Andreea, the Police, and our Need of short-term Workers

We met Andreea, who is a very young and beautiful Romanian girl. She speaks English too. She looks like a very smart girl--friendly and open to talk with us about her life. She is 22 years old. She is not alone here. She said, "I am with my man but he is smart. He did not bring me here (the location where she prostitutes) and he never visits me or calls. He stays home and waits for me there."

Because of this the police can't arrested him. She doesn't like to work in winter so she just came back from Romania two weeks ago. She told us that she wants to stop this job because is not good anymore and she doesn't make much money. It is very difficult for women who have a pimp to get away from him, and because she speaks very good English she could work in other places. We gave her a ring and brochures and we told her that God loves her. She smiled and said, "Yes, I know it and I believe that He loves me."

THE POLICE PULL US OVER: We had to stop our conversation with Andreea because the Carabinieri (police) came and asked what we were doing there. I spoke with him in Italian and told him how we minister. He was shocked to hear that we give gifts to prostitutes. I said that "God loves them and we bring a message of hope- and he loves you too!" He had something like a mental block for a while and then let us go. On our way back home we met Evelyn from Nigeria. We gave her a ring and we talked with her about Jesus-how he loves her and wants to take care of her. She doesn't have children and is alone. She cried as we prayed for her. We gave her a hug and a friendship kiss to let her know that we don't judge her but just want to love her.

Late in the night we came back home, safe and full of the presence of Holy Spirit. Our hearts were, and are, full of compassion for these women. We prayed for the women again, hoping that God will do miracles in their lives.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO ITALY THIS SUMMER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOOK SOME OF THESE GIRLS IN THE EYES AND TELL THEM HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM? Right now we believe that Cristina from Amsterdam will come back to Italy for two weeks each month, all summer long, and hopefully move here in September. As for right now we could use some short-term missionaries!

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP IS BY GIVING. We are starting a business for the girls to assist them in getting off the streets. You may remember hearing us talk about Annabelle, who we follow diligently and is very involved in church... We believe the Lord is leading us to train her, and the others who follow, in making simple leather jewelry and home-made cosmetics. We only need \$6,000 to start the business. Though this may sound like a lot, rescuing women from the horrors of the sex industry is priceless.

Thank you for your unfailing **LOVE , PRAYER SUPPORT and DONATIONS.** Without your help we cannot do this- your support is vital to running our church and starting this business.

In Christ our Savior,
Nicolas, Leia, Eva, Elise, Sophie, and Isaiah

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