



ITALY

Preaching the Good News Of Jesus Christ

Greetings from Italy!!!

August 2013

Back to Italy with rekindled hearts for the nation!

We arrived a few days ago and came home to good news. Our dear friend Annabelle, whom we met on the streets, is doing well. We prayed earnestly for her because of her situation escaping her trafficker, that she would be safe and seeking the Lord. She screamed and ran to me and embraced me when I came to her house! She said she missed us so much and has been reading her Bible and talking to God each day and feeling His love. We told her that some generous donations were made, and we are able to buy her a computer and a Rosetta Stone in Italian. She is embarrassed to receive such a gift but was thrilled at the same time. She said, "Yes. Our God is good isn't he?" This week she will go to Rome and pick up her 3-year visa permit! This is an answer to prayer- and if you knew Italian immigration for Nigerians, it's a true **miracle** and will give her legal rights to be employed.

I was so pleased that Annabelle showed me her Bible under her covers. She said, "I always sleep with it and read it many hours a day" the corners of the Bible were all rumpled and worn, that made me OVER JOYED! She said while in the streets the last month, not a single man came for her "services". She said she believes God is keeping her from those bad men and wants her to stop working on the streets as much as she wants to stop. She also said that no "work" makes it very hard for her to eat. Nicolas and I have taken her food. Now Annabelle is learning to use the computer and will learn Italian through Rosetta Stone classes. We are helping her look for a job to start cleaning some houses so she can make enough to cover her rent, bills, and living expenses. She is willing to do any job to keep her off the streets. As a prostitute, she is tormented. Remember Annabelle did not choose this life, she was "kidnapped" from Nigeria and forced to do it. Now, she does it out of desperation because she doesn't even know the language yet. Annabelle still doesn't leave her house in the daytime, ashamed of what she was doing, feeling as if every person looks at her with the same judgment she feels, nothing but a trashy prostitute. When we go on outings and to church, Annabelle will join us. She will receive healing by being loved by a family who is not ashamed to call her friend and sister.

While I was visiting Annabelle in her poor condition, a one-bedroom apartment, I met the woman down her hall. She was also from Nigeria and had two small children, the same age as Sophie and Isaiah. I looked in her small one-bedroom apartment and asked her if she would let me bring her better clothes and better beds for her children. She threw her arms up in the air and said "oh yes, oh yes, thank you thank you! I need them". We took her our used toddler bed and she wept. When you have nothing, even the simple acts of kindness from a stranger can soften a heart, sew a seed, and change a life in time.... As Christians, I pray we will always be able to give far more than we receive- like Jesus- right?

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

We Need Your Help!

Our financial situation as a family is very difficult right now. Because of the expense in moving, then traveling within America, no matter how frugal we are, it has backed us up a lot financially.

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During this trip in America, we had more money donated to Beauty for Ashes and other ministry needs, which was wonderful, and we thank all of you precious people who contributed. So it will help bless many women, but it means we are a bit struggling on a personal level. We have at least \$3,000 of bills and living expenses this month (including car insurance) which we don't have the first penny. We know our God and His goodness and He has never abandoned us! Does He want to use you to help us out? Ask and see. Nicolas' work hours as an international sales rep are gradually increasing as well and we are thankful for this.

Healing Services and Baptism Service

Please pray for our outreach with John Mellor from Australia, whom God uses to heal the sick in a mighty way. We are holding special "healing services" on Saturday, Sept. 21st. Due to lack of funds, we were not able to advertise to the public like last year. But we hope that people will still come and hear the Gospel and be healed in their body, soul, and spirit.

We have a special baptism service in two weeks (our First in Zoe Center!) So far we have an Albanian woman in our church who will be baptized, and maybe some others will come forth as well.

We appreciate all your prayers and generous support towards our family. We are in this TOGETHER. Thanks for caring.

Love,

Nicolas, Leia, Eva, Elise, Sophie, and Isaiah

**If you wish to support us, please send in your tax-deductible donations to World Outreach Center, PO Box 3478. Fort Mill, SC 29708. Please write your checks out to WOC and write "Girards" in the memo to support the family, or "Zoe Center" to support the ministry in Italy. To donate online, go to www.worldoutreachcommunity.org, access our page under Missionaries and then click on Donate. Our new blog site is: zoecenter.wordpress.com