



# ITALY

Preaching the Good News Of Jesus Christ

**THE GIRARDS**

**On Furlough**

July 2013

Greetings from America!!!

Thanks to the few of you who were able to help us out to bring us back to the states for a furlough. Your donations helped us pay our trip and are greatly appreciated, as we needed this time of refreshment. We arrived July 12th and will stay until August 31st. Mostly we will be in KS and CO visiting family and a few churches. So far, the children are enjoying every second of our time here with family and new friends doing as many "cool" American things as possible!

## **Annabelle's Story**

While here in America, we will be sharing a lot about what it's like ministering in Tuscany, especially to the local prostitutes, which is deep in our hearts and here is why...

"I cried to God day and night to save me from this Hell." This was Annabelle's confession to me just before I left for America. If you remember from our last newsletter, Annabelle is one of the Nigerian prostitutes that we met on the streets. She came to church a month ago and began her walk with Christ. I asked Annabelle how she found herself in prostitution. Here is her story. "I was approached by a woman in Nigeria, who became my friend. She offered me work in Italy as a hairdresser and house cleaner. She said there was work for me in Italy. I believed her and she bought my tickets to come into Italy. But when we arrived, I found it was not true. She took me to Rome where she and others beat me badly. They forced me to work as a prostitute on the streets for many many days with no sleep. Some days I woke up so exhausted it made me sick with a high fever. This woman named "Joy" would beat me and drag me out of bed and put me in the streets like a sick dog to work. I would cry day and night for God to save me. In 1 and 1/2 years of being a prostitute, I made \$20,000 and I had to give it all to "Joy". One day I was so exhausted when "Joy" left the apartment, I took my things in a back pack and ran away. I came to Arezzo and had to work the streets again to make money to eat and live. But at least I was not being beaten or forced to work when I did not want to work. But I continued to ask God to save me from this life that I do not like and is not good for me. Then one day, Joy went to Nigeria and went to my family's house. She told my family that I owe her \$40,000 for taking her to Italy and if I do not pay her my money, she will kill someone in my family. My family does not understand what is happening because they were told I was working in Italy to clean houses and do hair. Now Joy wants to find me, and if she does she will beat me badly or maybe even kill me."

This is unfortunately just another horrific story of the dreadful crime of human trafficking. Does this give you bit of understanding of why we do what we do? What a precious person she is, and did she deserve to be taken in this way? No! God defends the innocent and sets the captives free!

But I believe Annabelle's story will end well. We are helping her to find work and to help keep her location a secret from her trafficker. God is on her side, she cries out to Him daily. We pray for her family's safety that no trafficker will harm her family members.



God is doing a great thing in Annabelle's life. She said she reads her bible many hours a day and it gives her comfort and faith. She is being restored each day by the Holy Spirit for all she has suffered. She attends church weekly and we take her out often with our family to involve her in normal daily life. Until now, she would hide away in her house all day, and would only leave to make quick trips to the grocery store, and to work by night. She has never been more than a few blocks from her home "ashamed of what people think about her". I took her to a coffee shop. She was so ashamed to be in public. I put my arm around her and said "It does not matter what those people think, what matters is God's opinion about you- and you are a daughter of the King and you have His smile". Right there in the coffee shop she began to cry and receive healing, IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!!!

We are trying to buy Annabelle a laptop and teach her how to use a computer so she can be connected to the outside world. We are teaching her Italian and English (written) at no cost so she can find a real job. Also- we need some Rosetta Stone Italian DVD's to help her learn Italian as quickly as possible. We will work very diligently to get her off the streets once we are back in September. A Prostitute Getting Right With God!!!

### **Let's Be Productive!**

Without your help, this ministry would not be possible. Please continue to give to this branch of our ministry called "Beauty for Ashes" as you see there are MANY women in the streets desperate to be loved and treated as a precious human being. You have impacted Annabelle's life, please continue to pray for her.

If you want to contact me while in America to come and share more about our ministry in Italy let us know right away so we can get a schedule. Here is our information. Cell 620-243-2953. email [nicolas@centrozoe.com](mailto:nicolas@centrozoe.com)

God Bless!!!

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

Elise and Alex  
(Leia's brother) sharing  
their birthday cake!



**\*\*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](http://www.worldoutreachcommunity.org), access our page under Missionaries and then click on Donate. Our new blog site is: [zoecenter.wordpress.com](http://zoecenter.wordpress.com)**