



The Girards

ITALY

Preaching the Good News Of Jesus Christ

Hello Everyone and greetings to you in Jesus' name.

June 2014

Before you scan down the page and are frightened by our newsletter (its about money...tee hee) I would like to start our letter off by making a list of a few things that we have to pay for in Italy that are FREE in America. You might get the picture...

1. Water in restaurants.
2. Tax for owning a television or computer in our own home (\$200 per year!)
3. Many public bathrooms
4. Ketchup and Mayo when eating out (\$0.45 per small package)
5. Insurance incase someone would get hurt in our church (forced!).
6. Bags at the grocery store.
7. Taxes on owning electronics (p.s. our sales tax is at 22%)
8. Taxes if you want to pass our brochures or tracts about Jesus at the park.

This is not an easy period for us. We are struggling financially and things in the church are just going ok right now. We keep praying and are fixing our gaze on Jesus to help us in our discouragement. The few families in our church are very needy with a lot of emotional and spiritual problems, not making the right choices. For the first time in almost two years one family finally offered to help serve in a practical way. Since none of the families give their tithes and rarely an offering beyond coins, we struggle to pay the bills. Thanks to your donations we are able to keep our church even open! If it weren't for you we would have to close the church! God will reward you for your generosity! We are asking God how we can be more effective ministering in love and power to see real change in their lives.

We felt we should bring up money for a few reasons. Not to burden anyone or pressure anyone to give. But with a joyous heart if anyone could help us we are truly in need. Right now our most urgent needs are to pay about \$3,000 of unpaid bills (including last month's church rent, our gas bill before they cut off hot water, and other bills from the winter months.)

Our budget

It's been a long time since we last wrote about our budget: we do this so you can understand our family needs and ministry needs and lack thereof. Here is our monthly expense list. Note: do not compare this list to what you spend in America, as cost of living in Italy is much higher.

Duplex rent (1500 ft sq)\$1,000
Gasoline (at \$9 per gallon) \$300
Water \$70
Car loan \$200

Church rent and church bills \$750
Utilities, trash and electricity \$350
Misc. (incl. car insurance) \$200
Groceries, household needs, \$700

= \$3,580 Monthly needed just to stay in Arezzo and keep a church open.

Between donations and Nicolas' job, we receive \$3,500 monthly.

Notice in this list we mentioned only things we need to just live from day to day. The list did not include any EXTRA ministry expenses we need for helping women who want out of the sex industry including helping to rescue and restore trafficked women. The list did not include any extra spending money, dates, or vacations (which we rarely have). It will be a miracle but we need at least an extra \$1,000 per month to be able to accomplish more for the ministry and pay bills in full.

Thank you for taking the time to review our needs. We are so grateful to many of you who have helped us out all these years. Truly it is because of your giving we made it this far, 10 years in Italy! If anyone would consider making a monthly commitment to continue to help us bring God's Kingdom in Italy, it is much needed. Thank you for praying and considering our family and our mission here to restore broken women, reach the lost, encourage and disciple believers. Amen!

We really need your prayers this summer. God is refining us, He is near to us, but sometimes ministry is just hard! A short vacation or break would be nice for us if possible.

May God bless your family and meet all your needs. May you be refreshed and filled up with His love this summer. May you grow in your love of God and love for one another.

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