



The Girards

ITALY

Preaching the Good News Of Jesus Christ

Dear Friends,

March 2014

God is answering prayers for laborers

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done to you." John 15:7
Some prayers take time to answer. Sometimes God answers them in His own timing, sometimes He gives you the exact opposite what you "think" you needed, and sometimes He just surprises you. Last month we had more prayers answered in a 30-day period than we do in a 12-month period!

We have been praying for almost 2 years for the Lord to send us some women laborers to dedicate time with the prostitutes, ex-prostitutes, and trafficked women. God has answered that prayer in a glorious way! He put together the pieces of a beautiful puzzle in a way we never expected. We were put in contact with a Romanian woman who has spent the last 10 years of her life dedicating her time to loving prostitutes and showing them Jesus. She has been working under a major organization in Amsterdam in the red light district. She's gotten many women off the streets, helped them find work, and disciplined them. God spoke to her and told her He would send her to the streets of Italy now to minister to women in prostitution. One morning in the middle of a school lesson, I had the strongest urge to write this woman (whom I hadn't communicated with for 4 months) about coming to Italy. So I wrote her and invited her to come for a visit and see what the situation is like in Tuscany with prostitution. She wrote me back immediately, she said that the very night before she had decided she would write churches in Italy the next morning to see what door could open to work with women. So she woke up the next morning, and there was my email in her inbox! We both understood this connection was from God in His perfect timing. She is a person who speaks 4 languages and has many years of experience in getting women out of prostitution and helping them get back into a relationship with their Father who loves them deeply and feels their pain.

Very soon we will be getting a professional website up (Donated by the fabulous Dye family!) and begin selling products handmade by the women who are coming out of prostitution. This will keep them off the streets and also keep them busy so they can accomplish something unique and earn money to keep them alive. The girl coming from Amsterdam as well has many trendy hand made crafts she can teach the girls. We will open up our church in the day time and it will be a workshop, discipleship house, and place of refuge and love for these women (and young teens!)

God is answering prayers for unity

We have made our first connection to other Christians in our city who want to fellowship!!! If you are American and are reading this you might be like "what?!!" Arezzo's Church history is a very sad one. There are only a few other small churches here, and they will not speak one with another. (we have tried, believe me they want to be left alone) They congregate among themselves and if you are not part of their denomination, you are generally looked down on or considered competition- or by some not considered saved!

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A pastor from Naples (down south) was told by God to come here to start a work. We know him well and have ministered in his church before. They only have a few people, but they are hungry for God and fellowship with other Christians within our city. This Friday we will have a joined prayer meeting in our building (not sure how long it's been since any two churches prayed together in our city!!!) The Holy Spirit is leading us as well to go out together on Saturday morning to pray in strategic places of our city where darkness prevails. There is no competition between us and them, this is incredibly refreshing! We believe this model of collaboration between two different entities is prophetic for our city and will be duplicated with other churches eventually.

God is answering prayers for our local body

Our last weeks in church have been anointed by the Holy Spirit and God has been in our midst and blessing us with signs of His power. All the children (aged 9-12) were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues and prophecy. (Maybe you think that happened because they have seen some type of Pentecostal television program! Or have seen us do that. Well, I assure you neither have they seen, nor have they ever heard of it before!) I simply picked up the Bible and read from the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost (they didn't know what that was). I asked them if they wanted that too and they all said "yes yes yes, we want more of God - He is so good!" They were so touched by God that even their physical bodies began to "get hot" and they were "shaking inside". One girl was delivered from rejection and began to weep confessing how she despised herself- God touched her with His love. I had a word of knowledge for a 10-year-old girl and vision of her deep fear of a place in their house. The girl was shocked and said "yes it's true, I am very afraid to go to that part of the house". So we prayed for her and she asked God to take the fear away and she reported last week that it has gotten much better, only sometimes does she feel afraid. This all happened in the children's room. The kids were so filled with the power and presence of God they went out into the main service and began to bless the adults and lay hands on them and pray for them. One of the girls pulled her mom up who suffers from severe depression and started to pray over her for her deliverance from depression! There were great testimonies and this was a work of God. No one worked up the atmosphere to "fabricate" an emotional moment - HE JUST CAME because He wanted to!

We are praying and expecting more from the Lord. Please join us in prayer, as we need all the help we can get! When God is on the move, we also see that the devil attacks the church and its leaders. Those great reports came also with struggles, in our health, mold growing on our walls, things breaking and needing to be financed, etc. We sometimes feel that the devil tries to steal our funds, our time, and our joy. So WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!!!

Thanks again to all of you who have been supporting us financially. We could not have been part of all this without your help! We are currently raising funds for a sound system, ever so needed in our church building. So if you feel like helping us out, we need about 2000 dollars for this project.

God bless you all!

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