



**The Girards**

# ITALY

**Preaching the Good News Of Jesus Christ**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**November 2013**

December is right around the corner, Isaiah will be two this weekend. Having a boy around sure adds a loud dynamic in the house. He is able to keep the girls screaming for about anything, stealing their toys, hitting then running away, or making "scary" dinosaur sounds. He's a lot of fun though and makes us all laugh. Speaking of our children, we wanted to do something different in our newsletter this time and share from our heart a moment about our family, something we are struggling with.

## **Help Us Bless Our Kids**

We think that our children are fantastic, wonderful, amazing. Clear enough?! ;) We are very close to our children and as most of you know we decided to home-school (for several different reasons, I don't have the room to write about it in this newsletter). We only have one car so the kids and I spend A LOT of time at home. Throughout their childhood, they have always had less than children around us. Children notice everything. They often ask why they don't get to go to swim class, ballet, sports or music lessons, or big cool birthday bashes- like all the other kids. But they never throw fits, pout, or demand any of those things. Though, not a month goes by and again they ask when they could be able to do a sport or program outside of the house. I don't believe it's appropriate to burden children with money, so we generally tell them "maybe one day you will get the chance, we can pray about it" avoiding telling them that we cannot afford those things. We think our children are pretty special. We have had so many seasons of difficulty, but they still manage to grow and learn and be content with little. They have grown up without family nearby and in some seasons not a single Christian buddy. Lately, it has been a burden to us that "Missionary kids" are deprived of things "regular" kids have, just because they are "missionary kids". As mature adults in the Lord, we accept the fact that we cannot have many things we want and are content with what we have. As "lucky" or "fortunate" it seems for children to grow up in a foreign country learning 3 languages and seeing castles, history, and beautiful architecture. Those aren't such "cool" things to them when they are very young. Most of the time they don't even notice those things because they were raised here so it's their normal environment.

We desire to give our children a great surprise at Christmas, but we can't do it alone. We would like to have a playground put in our back yard. They would love it and it would help out with the fact we cannot afford to put them in sports right now. We need around \$1,700 to put a decent sized one in. That might seem high to you, but the cost of living is significantly higher here than in America. If you want to help us and contribute you can give your tax-deductible donations to WOC. No pressure to give, it's just a personal desire that might seem "unnecessary" to some of you. What can I say? It's not a vital element to our children's well-being, they would just really enjoy it and they would have more to do around the house after schooling. Italy doesn't have homeschooling groups, free children's libraries or other free children programs like in America. So this makes it hard to find things to do within our budget. We truly thank any of you who feel inclined to help us with this project. We do thank God each day with our children for our warm beds and good meals. We pray daily for children who don't have even that.

## God is Sending People

We do appreciate all your prayers and we need prayer support in this time. Ministry goes through seasons, just like our own personal lives. Right now we are persevering in what we believe God has asked us to do. If you have ever done it, it's very hard work to plant a work without a team or leaders near us, and finances are short. When things are difficult for us in many areas, our daily lives can be overwhelming with a whirlwind of emotions, thoughts, and tasks - we covet your prayers that we will not become discouraged. On a good note. A solid Christian family with children is starting to come to our services. They have been a real blessing so far, and we think they might join us soon. They are the only family coming right now who are also serving the community and reaching out to others outside of their daily jobs. If they joined us they could be a great blessing to us so we could do more outreach in Arezzo and surrounding towns.

Be a blessing to those around you, always. Seek the Lord while He may be found. Our Jesus is alive and well and wishes to speak to you. He will show you the way.

Elise is sitting with me as I write this newsletter and she told me to write "thank you for taking care of our church. oh mom, sign it with a heart".

Love 

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



*This is the kind of playground we would like to bless our kids with.*

**\*\*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)**