



Hello everyone!

March 2013

Local churches unify for prayer despite denominational differences (miracle in Italy!), power of discipleship and sharing hearts, movie night ministry, mom mentoring group, and prep for our next trip to America...yes, time has flown and nearly 2 years have passed already! Mamma mia!

It has been several months since I have written. This past fall/winter was a very difficult season for me, and I passed the ball to Ciro for most things that involved interaction with others including writing the newsletter. He is an awesome husband and I am forever grateful to have someone by my side to pray with me and for me, stand by me, comfort me and lead our family.

After 5 long months of high blood pressure and mental madness, right after Christmas and before New Year's, God did an incredible work in my heart and I had the best New Year's Eve that I had had in years. This year started off in a better way than I could have ever dreamed. It would be too long to share here but if you are interested, feel free to email me and I will happily share about the goodness and faithfulness of God.

That being said, **God was the light at the end of the tunnel and not a train.** He has been moving in such great ways in our family, our church and in our city.

We are continuing to do food bank once a month as an outreach to meet and develop relationships in which we can demonstrate the love of our Father. Each month when we distribute the food, many of the families pull one of us off to the side, share problems and ask for prayer. Many others come and tell us how God has answered the prayers we prayed with them, and they come with a list of more issues. We are seeing testimony after testimony of God's goodness in the lives of broken families and hurting hearts. Several of the people who were on the receiving end of the prayers, now show up early to help with the box prep and distribution. Now they help others as well and join us in prayer when new people come in.



Some of the food bank volunteers.

This year, we began a monthly movie night for those from the food bank, and it has been a huge success. We offer free popcorn and drinks, and then have a time of discussion and prayer together after the show. The show list includes *Facing the Giants*, *Courageous*, *Fireproof*, *Faith Like Potatoes*, and *The Jesus Film*.



Getting ready for the first movie night!

As we mentioned in previous newsletters, Ciro and 3 other pastors from this area are meeting monthly to pray for one another and for our city. This is no small thing! We have not heard of anything like this happening elsewhere in Italy, and we know it is a direct result of this unity between believers that God has been doing such incredible things in our town. *(It may be happening, and we just haven't heard of it yet! Hallelujah if it is!)*

Ciro is continuing to teach/disciple the growing group of young adults in Naples. This is a precious group of passionate young people that want to see their city and nation touched by the love and freeing power of Jesus.

In the past few months, God has set up several divine appointments and now, something that has been on my heart for years, is finally coming to pass. I love pouring into people and teaching, but as you probably know it is very refreshing to have people to learn from and grow with! The older women mentioned in Titus 2 that should teach the younger women probably learned or were still learning from women older than them.

There is always someone older and wiser, and I had all but given up on praying for a mentor here in Italy. That is until a new friend loaned me a book by Sally Clarkson. Then, I stumbled across her more recent book *Desperate*. In the book, it talks about the importance of women coming together to teach and learn from each other, "and if you don't have a mentor you need to stop reading and ask God to send you one." I stopped reading and prayed. The next day, God brought to my remembrance a woman I'd met in passing 2 years ago when she gave me some used home school books. The next day I went out to coffee with my new friend, and we were discussing the chapter, *The Go-It Alone Culture and Needing People*. We both found it fascinating that God had brought us together at this time in our lives and how each of us had recently met several other ladies living a *Desperate* season of life. We decided to contact the other ladies we know and start a moms group to pray for each other, ask parenting questions, and read through the book *Desperate*. We will begin meeting this month, and I am beyond excited as are the other women we have contacted! Everyone said this couldn't have come at a better time. As for my own mentor...I told my friend about my prayer and she encouraged me to give it a shot and contact the woman. I gave it a shot, and I will just say the word **Miracle** is the only thing that comes to mind. She said she would be honored to love on me and share anything God has taught her over the past 20+ years as a wife and mom, as well as be the *wise old woman* for our group. I am over-joyed!

In addition to all of the fabulous stuff going on around us at this time, back home in America, my littlest sister is getting ready to get married. So we will be packing up and heading that way for about 2 months. Honestly, neither of us are excited to leave all that is going on here, but we know God has great things in store! During our time in the US, we will be meeting other ministers and ministries, meeting new friends and visiting old ones. If you would like to see us, please be in touch. We would love to see you! We can't go everywhere, but we would love for you to come to us.

We already have some of the funds for our travels but if you can help with the rest it is always a blessing for you and us both!

For our travels, we will be buying airline tickets and will need to rent a car for out of town travel and pay for gas. (from NC to MS-TX-FL and back to NC)

Total needed is about \$6,000 of which we have \$3,500.
Still needed- \$1,500

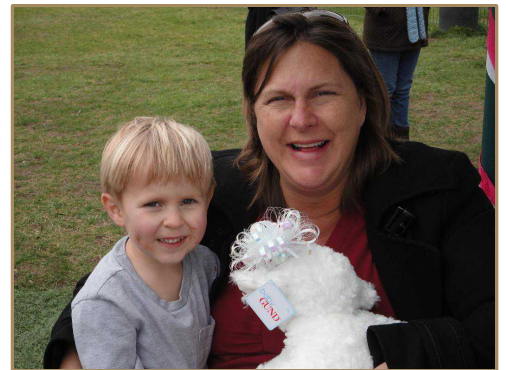
Possible bonus Bethel church in Redding, CA is having a leaders' conference that we believe would be a huge blessing to us and our ministry here. We are 100% anti-debt so no matter how good it sounds, we won't go if we don't have the cash on hand. The conference is 5 days and costs \$220 per couple plus hotel and airfare to get there bringing the total to about \$1,300. If you feel led to sponsor this trip either all or in part, we/I would LOVE to go!

With lots of love!!

The Saggese Family - Ciro, Kathy, Samuel, Isabella, and Miriam



Discipleship training in Casoria church, prayer one for another.



My new friend Janis who encouraged me on my path to finding a mentor.... A friend and I decided to throw Janis a surprise baby shower! It was a huge surprise and a super blessing to her having just arrived in this foreign land without any friends or family to support her. Sisterly love in Christ...a powerful bond.



A very serious attempt at drawing a baby on a plate on my head