

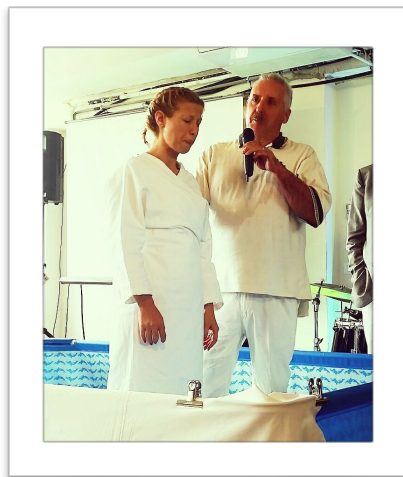
*Corato, Italy*

*Fall, 2017*

# *Stevanus News*

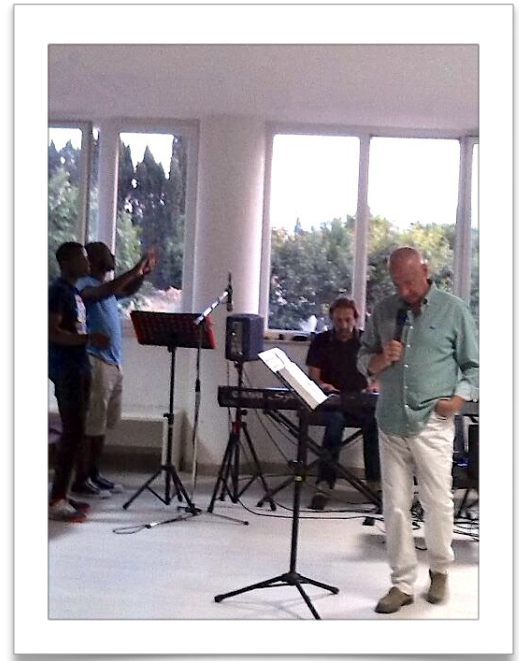
Dear Friends,

God has been working greatly over the summer months and into the fall season. We are thrilled to see much growth coming out of our home group we wrote about in our last letter. Although we suspended for the summer months, we encouraged them to stay connected in church attendance. **Two of our lead couples were married** in July and September and it was a blessing for both of us to share a word of challenge during their respective ceremonies. Both are now beginning to lead in our home group.



**Three young ladies were baptized** in late September and we had the opportunity to prepare them for that as well as directly participate and receive over 30 first time guests. Each gal gave a clear testimony as to how the Lord has saved her and begun to work in her life. In addition, some have taken on a serious effort to reach out to their friends. Two of their friends, **Gabriella and Cinzia have found the Lord** and are beginning to come to church and cell. We are looking forward to starting up a couple of more home groups, possibly one totally evangelistic, in the upcoming months.

Just recently, Mark has begun teaching in church on Tuesday evenings on the various metaphors the Scriptures use for identifying the nature and character of the NT church, such as a new *race*, a *family* and the *body*. As our **local congregation is in transition** not only between buildings but also in regrouping and solidifying an identity, it is our desire to assist Pastor Abbattista at this critical time in the history of this congregation. We are constantly being visited by people from neighboring towns and several are young adults with their whole life ahead of them. In addition, for over a year now we have been welcoming a dozen of African refugees/immigrants who need our support and prayers for getting established in their new European home.



We cannot thank you enough for your prayers as well as support for our ministry.

In His Service,

**Mark & Denise**

**Ephesians 4:16** *“From him [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*