

*Corato, Italy*  
*July, 2024*



Polignano a Mare (BA)

**Dear Praying Friends,**

It seems like the older we get, the busier we are! We are nonetheless thankful to the Lord for our health and opportunity to continue serving.

It has been nearly 15 years now that we have come alongside in ministry Past. Aldo Abbattista, a full-time businessman and accomplished musician. It has been a privilege to be both an assistance and source of encouragement to him and his wife as our fellowship and friendship has deepened over the years.



Glorify the Lord  
with me; let us exalt  
his name together.  
Psalms 34:3



The church in the center of Bari is taking shape and the Christian bookstore it sponsors was recently inaugurated. In addition, the building is also open to Nigerian and Brazilian congregations who meet on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, respectively.



In March, Denise helped the women organize a National Women's Day dinner, which was catered and sponsored by our Corato church. She did her best to delegate each area to the younger women: special music, games and decorations while concentrating on giving an evangelistic message. About 80 women attended, over 20 as first-time guests. As we mentioned in a previous newsletter, Pina, who is prayerfully battling uterine cancer, not only invited a woman she met in the supermarket, but also gave a powerful testimony. In fact, she was so inspired that she took off her head scarf during her presentation and has not worn it since. In May, she had a life-threatening reaction to oral chemo treatments and we almost lost her but, the Lord sustained her once again and her medication dose was readjusted to where she is almost back to normal.



*“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! ...*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

*Galatians 1:5; 5:1*

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Life Group ministry had a good year where three groups met bimonthly finishing up a study on discipleship and entering another on *Being Free* —taken from Warren Wiersbe’s study on Galatians. It was a pleasure to make an occasional visit as well as see our leaders come up to the plate in this area of service. New people are beginning to come and we are earnestly praying for their salvation and consolidation in the faith.



At the end of June during the morning service, we presented our leaders to the church where they and one member from their group gave a testimony as to how the Lord worked in their lives this past year. As a couple, we presented each leader a copy of Paul Tripp’s book, *Instruments in the Hands of the Redeemer* (which we unexpectedly found translated in Italian) as a gift of our gratitude for their participation in this ministry.



As you receive this letter, we will be stateside for a couple of months once again spending precious time with our family—in particular meeting our latest grandchild, Luciano who is now 9 months old and doing great! We thank you with all our hearts for your prayers and support, which keep us going as we continue to minister in God’s Kingdom.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Mark & Denise**