

Corato, Italy
Winter, 2025



Dear Praying Friends,

We send you warmest greetings from southern Italy with a view from the beautiful seaside quite close to our home one warm November day.

We trust that this past year, despite any problems or difficulties, was still an opportunity for God to manifest Himself as a loving and faithful Savior. For us, it was once again a chance to walk by faith experiencing peace and rest as we studied and navigated how to sign up for medicare, better understand social security options, and sell a home we purchased in New York 12 years ago —what a blessing to have all that behind us!



“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Philippians 2:3-4



Ministry decisions and activities are also a walk by faith as we continue to invest in the life of the local church, namely through leading up Life Group meetings. In our opinion, it is a natural way to disciple and develop young leaders as well as receive new seekers of the Gospel message. Pictured above are our group leaders who have faithfully served in this capacity for several years; two couples became parents in 2023. Pina (centered) continues to thrive with the help of chemotherapy drugs; her doctors are amazed and we praise the Lord!



In late October, Denise flew to the Pisa area of Italy to attend a women’s conference sponsored by “*Il Faro Counseling*” (The Lighthouse) under the direction of her supervisor, Dr. Stefania Marchi, a psychologist who founded this organization. *Il Faro* offers basic Christian counseling courses for lay leaders as well as works alongside local, provincial governments in assisting the immigrant community and abused women. Denise, along with qualified professionals on their national team, teaches

“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

1 John 2:14b



over 40 online hours annually and plans for a Level III course are in the makes starting in March. It was a special blessing to meet and fellowship with several former and current students face-to-face.

No different from other fields, as pastors and missionaries near “retirement age” there comes the personal challenge to begin to step aside, raise up younger leaders, and pray about a successor. For some,



this may appear as a threat to one’s identity, but if that identity is secure in Christ, it is an opportunity to see the Kingdom of God expand and bless a Joshua or Caleb to courageously face the giants of their generation. Our current pastor is also gearing up for this challenge as he is trusting God for his successor. The good thing about the ministry is that older leaders can continue to train and assist and redefine their ministerial roles as they pass the torch onto the next generation. We appreciate your prayers as we look towards the future as a church.

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To close, we realize that some 14-22 years have passed since each of our four children left home for Christian college—three have married and two are in full-time ministry. This summer in particular Chris and his family will be on home assignment, flying in from Thailand. It will have been over three years since we’ve seen our four grandchildren, so naturally we desire to make the trek home. We would appreciate your prayers in that we can spend some quality time with them as well as with our other kids, our siblings, and Mark’s father. We deeply appreciate your kind friendship, thoughts, and prayers for us in this regard.

May this year be profitable and fulfilling for us all and do not hesitate to let us know how we can pray for you, as well.

Many blessings in 2025,

Mark & Denise