



THE

COOK FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY



November 2023 – January 2024

Dear Fellow Laborers,

Praise the Lord for a strong finish to 2023! In November, we had someone join the church after a new membership class. Also, another Italian, Alessio Sgrò, began Homiletics classes with Brandon! He preached his first sermon that same month, and then his second on Christmas Eve! Praise the Lord! We have all been so encouraged by the steps of spiritual maturity that Alessio has taken over the last year. After he went with us to Foggia to distribute Italian John and Romans for the church plant, he's decided to reach all of his city of Correggio with The Gospel Film card. This is significant because we have prayed for years to plant a church in that city. Please continue praying for him as he prepares to preach again on February 3 to our youth group, "The Unconquerables in Christ". They are won to Christ and now we want to teach the youth not to be conquered by the world.

At the beginning of December, we had our annual Ladies' Christmas meeting and Faithful Men's lunch. The Gospel was given, people were encouraged, and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ was exalted. One of the visiting ladies gave a testimony that a couple years ago, her daughter was saved in our Sunday School. The girl didn't tell us and she rarely visits, so we didn't know. But she told her mom that she was born again on that day. Sunday Schools teachers, do not give up! Do not get discouraged! Your labor is not in vain in the Lord!

On Christmas Eve, Alessio preached and the children presented the Gospel with Scripture, songs, and playing the bells. We are very grateful to God for the four precious children that He has blessed us with. The ministry would not be the same without them. As one fellow missionary friend once said "God often calls the parents in order to get the best missionaries [the kids] to the mission field". God also blessed us with a lovely Christmas day with our children and several folks from the church. We had a great time of singing and fellowship together. To end the year, on New Year's Eve, our church had a time of Thanksgiving to God, glorifying Him for all He has done in our lives throughout the year. What a blessing that was!

Thank you for praying for our church planters, Fausto and Maria Pia in Foggia. Their son, Samuele, was born on January 2 and everyone is healthy. Hallelujah! Also in January, we got the wonderful news from a family that has been attending our church for about a year. On New Year's Day, the 14 year old son began talking to his father about Christ. His father explained the Gospel to him, and he prayed and trusted Christ as his Savior! Then, a few weeks later, as the father was telling his other two children about their older brother's decision, they also began asking lots of questions. Afterward, they both repented of their sins and trust Christ as Savior! Later in January, we recognized those in the church that had read through the Bible. Praise the Lord, we had 5 receive certificates, two of which were children! We had Vision Sunday, during which time we took a look at what God has placed on our hearts for 2024. Thank you for joining us by praying, giving, and going with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Brandon, Kristan, Thomas, Titus, Elisah, & Abigail Cook

Praises: 3 souls saved; New member joined the church; Thanksgiving/Christmas; Alessio preaching; Elisha's 10th birthday; Samuele D'Amelio is born

Requests: A larger place to meet for church; Laborers to work along with us in the ministry here in Reggio Emilia and Italy: We need hundreds of laborers; 2 yr. old Sofia, granddaughter of church member, who has a brain tumor and must be operated on in the next couple of weeks; Kristan's health (In December the doctors found a hole in her heart; they believe this is connected to her severe migraines.)

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