



THE

# COOK FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY



February – April 2024

Dear Fellow Laborers,

God is at work! February and March were two exciting months here at the church. February began with our first preteen and teen activity with 14 young people attending. We call them "The Unconquerables in Christ". Many of them have been conquered by Christ and now we want to teach them to live unconquered by the world. During this time, Alessio preached and then presented the first Bible he ever had to a young teen in the church who had recently trusted Christ. In the following weeks, that teenager took the Bible with him to school and, during a time when there was no lesson being given in the classroom, began witnessing to his classmates! Glory to God!! Thank God for this teenager's boldness for the Lord. Please continue to pray for Alessio as he has more opportunities to preach in church. Then, on February 11, Franklin followed the Lord in believer's baptism. Franklin came to Christ after Fausto D'Amelio preached while we were on furlough.

March was 5 Star Christian month, when we challenged everyone to become more dedicated servants for Christ. It was a time of preparation and launching a new soul-winning program in the church. We divided our 885 sq. mi. province of Reggio Emilia into 19 zones. We prayed for 6, and God gave us 7 Soul-winning captains consisting of 5 teams that have accepted the challenge of being responsible for reaching every home in their zone with an Italian John and Romans and a Gospel Flim card. Along with this outreach, we have received wonderful news that a number of Italians and others across Italy have made professions of faith after watching the Gospel Film. Please pray that each one can be contacted, disciplined, and become part of a local church. March closed out with a glorious Resurrection Sunday seeing several guests.

We planned our second meeting with "The Unconquerables in Christ", with preaching, and giving them challenges to be the best at making animal balloons, face painting, and puppeteering. All of this was in preparation for these young people to be leaders do these very things in our Vacation Bible School on June 13 & 14. We had our very first Friend Day where we asked everyone to bring one friend to church. God blessed in an amazing way! God is so good! Members brought guests, as well as new families brought guests, and then we had a spectacular meal afterwards. Over these last few months, God has greatly added to Chiesa Battista la Verità. We are in need of a larger location as we are currently renting a 645 sq. ft. room (this includes the bathroom, kitchen/SS room). Please be in prayer for us about this. We are running out of room to put seats!! What a wonderful "problem" to have!! It is not easy finding a place to meet here in Italy, as often we are denied a rental contract due to the fact that we are not Catholic. This happened to us again just this month, when the store front just next to our current meeting place became available to rent. The owner said that they are not interested in renting to our church, even though we offered to pay the exact amount they are requesting to rent the building. We are praying for the will of the Lord in this and waiting on His timing and direction. **We want to thank all of you who have supported this ministry through the years as we have just celebrated the 10th year anniversary of being here in Italy. Please continue to pray as we are now able to apply for citizenship and we continue this journey together!**

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

**Praises:** A blessed Resurrection Sunday; souls saved across Italy; Franklin's baptism; new youth group; more people committing to soul-winning; Alessio preaching; Friend Day 2024; 10 years in Italy; Brandon's b-day

**Requests:** Kristan will have surgery on a hole in her heart; A larger place to meet for church; Laborers to work with us in the ministry here in Reggio Emilia and Italy; We need hundreds of laborers; SBV June 13 & 14

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