

THE

## **COOK FAMILY**

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY

November & December 2024

Dear Fellow Laborers.

God is leading us along! The last few months have been filled with exciting things: new converts, new church members, several visitors from the States, and one visitor from Greece. Near the beginning of November, we received a visit at the church from two ladies that had formerly been training in a Catholic convent to become nuns: Giovanna and Sara. Giovanna, a lady from Mexico, had been led to Christ years ago after leaving the convent in Rome, and she, in turn, began witnessing to her friends. One of those friends, a Bolivian lady named Sara, began studying the Bible with Giovanna via video call (from Mexico to Sara in Italy). Sara trusted Christ as her Savior about seven months ago, and Giovanna flew here to Italy from Mexico to help Sara find a Bible preaching, Bible believing church to attend! These ladies have been such a blessing! In the meantime, while still here in Italy, Giovanna has been able to lead two of Sara's friends to Christ! Praise the Lord, Sara wanted to be baptized in January. Along with Sara, Christian also wanted to follow the Lord in believer's baptism (Christian is the boy that trusted Christ during VBS, and whose parents were just baptized back in September). God is at work!

In December, after having a new membership course, a new family joined the church and they have already been such an encouragement by their desire to serve the Lord in the local church. On December 14, we had our annual men's and ladies' Christmas gatherings. At the men's meeting, Evangelist Dwight Smith and Pastor Frank Maietta preached, and at the ladies' luncheon, Sister Jennie Maietta did an amazing job speaking to the ladies. God really moved in hearts, and there were several lost present; some have even requested personal meetings to speak further about the Gospel. We were very encouraged at these meetings to see so many attend; we even maxed out the space available to us at our current location! Please continue praying that God will lead us to the right place with more space for the church to meet.

As we previously mentioned, we have also had several wonderful visits from family and friends. We are very grateful for the time of fellowship, encouragement, and much needed help that each and every one that visited has been to both our family and our church family.

We also want to say "THANK YOU" for the Christmas gifts that you sent to us. We are so overwhelmed by your generosity and by the love that you have shown to our family.

- Brandon, Kristan, Thomas, Titus, Elisha, and Abigail Cook

<u>Praises</u>: Souls saved: Sara, Salvatore, & Annalisa; Sara & Christian's upcoming baptism; new family that joined the church; Men's & Ladies' Christmas gatherings; guests that came to visit & help

<u>Prayer Requests</u>: Salvation: Mary (our neighbor who came to the ladies' Christmas meeting), Vittorio (husband of a lady in our church); larger place for the church to meet; to receive our Italian citizenship; Laborers to work with us in Reggio Emilia and Italy: We need hundreds of laborers.

Sending Church: Five Forks Baptist Church P.O. Box 6 Cedar Grove, NC 27231



MISSIONS ...

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