

THE

## **COOK FAMILY**

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY

August - September 2025

Dear praying friends,

Thomas has turned 14! Homeschool is back in full swing. We managed to still have a summer end outing with the church by going fishing.

August began with the understanding that Brandon had torn his ACL and meniscus, but all is for our good and His glory. It was clear God is at work. Remember, earlier this year, Brandon asked 5 IFB Italian pastors to work together to prepare young men in each of their churches and disciple them so that each one can help their pastors pastor their local churches? Gli Uomini Valorosi (Men of Valor) was developed and was going great. This July all 6 pastors agreed to take this group to the next level by starting an online Evening School of the Bible, teaching Old Testament Survey. So we introduced the idea to our churches, and in mid-August, we opened up registration for Fall 2025 semester to The Men of Valor, also to ladies of the churches and even to juniors and seniors in high school. Praise the Lord! Our church has made 55 notebooks and shipped them out to the 56 students and professors that have signed up for the course from IFB churches in Sardegna, Grosseto, Pisa, Foggia, near Bologna, near Vicenza, ours in Reggio Emilia, and even Tampa Bay, USA.

The first unofficial day of school was a prayer meeting. At the beginning of September every year before our church anniversary, we have a 24 hour prayer vigil asking God to bless the next year of our church. So the timing was just right to have the School of the Bible and our church plant in Foggia to join the prayer vigil to pray for the inauguration of this online school and to pray for each other. And the Lord greatly blessed.

The next week, Brandon had his ACL reconstructive surgery and 2 meniscus repaired on his right knee. Thank you for praying. Everything went very well. Two days later, we had our first School of the Bible online class, and God truly blessed. Please continue to pray. We believe that this will develop into three major after effects: 1. An in-person Evening School of the Bible in many churches in Italy. 2. We believe nearly all of these students will strengthen their church and claim responsibility in their local churches to help their pastors.

3. We believe a certain percentage of these students will be a part of a future physical Italian Bible college, and some of those will go on to be church planters. So this is the beginning of the engine to the over all initiative of Launch 107 unto the uttermost, in having a healthy church plant in each of the 107 provinces of Italy in our lifetime.

In September, we celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Truth Baptist Church in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and soon it will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of our church plant The Light Baptist Church in Foggia.

After the service, it was a great blessing to celebrate the church's 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary by seeing a young lady in the church accept Christ at the end of the service. God is at work!!!

Please pray for God to be glorified! Thank you. Have a sweet walk with the Lord.

- Brandon & Kristan Cook - Truth Baptist Church (Chiesa Battista la Verità) - Reggio Emilia, Italy

<u>Praises</u>: Clara's salvation; Thomas' 14<sup>th</sup> birthday; Italian Evening School of the Bible; Brandon's ACL and Menisci surgery; 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Truth Baptist Church of Reggio Emilia; 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of The Light Baptist Church of Foggia

<u>Prayer Requests:</u> Salvation of Giuseppe, Vittorio, and Rosetta; Brandon's recovery; larger building for the church to meet in; to receive our Italian citizenship; laborers to work with us in Reggio Emilia and Italy.

Sending Church: Five Forks Baptist Church P.O. Box 6 Cedar Grove, NC 27231 3

MISSIONS MISSIONS

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