THE

COOK FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY

June - July 2026

Dear praying friends,

We began June with a very encouraging missionary conference in Pisa to share resources that each of the missionaries have written, prepared, or translated. Christ-honoring materials is such a vital need here in Italy to make disciples of Christ in each age group. Please pray for Behold the Lamb Publishing. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to take dozens of resources we have been working on to present them at this meeting. Now it's time to print, collate, and ship the orders!!

Also, on June 10-11, we had Vacation Bible School in Reggio Emilia. VBS went well, praise the Lord, in spite of the great hinderance we had at City Hall in getting permission to use the public park. We had Catholic and Muslim children join our church kids. We are rejoicing that the Seed of the Gospel was planted. Please be in prayer for the parents that are interested in meeting up with us again.

During our VBS, we were blessed to have a visit from a young lady that was interning in Italy this summer. Meghan stayed with us for several days and helped with collating materials to fill orders from the resource conference in Pisa. What a blessing!

Then, an unexpected turn of events took place on June 30, when we received a 1AM phone call from Brandon's sister. If you've ever heard of the term glioblastoma, more than likely it is because it has affected someone you love. As many of you have heard, Brandon's mother had been diagnosed with a very aggressive, 7cm malignant glioblastoma brain tumor. At the time, the doctor was planning to operate within two days and we were told that she might never recognize us again after that. "You should come home." By God's grace and provision, a family member in the States offered to pay for all 6 of our tickets to fly back to the US! The next day, July 1, we were on a plane to Atlanta. When we arrived, we found Brandon's mom, Marilynn, weak, yet able to communicate and get around carefully with the help of a walker. By the time we arrived, the doctor had re-evaluated her situation and did not think surgery was a good idea. The family agreed to move forward, after a biopsy, with chemo and radiation, but before that could happen, Marilynn showed symptoms of a possible stroke. At the ER, they told us that this was merely the next step in the progression of the tumor's growth. Hospice was called in, and we noticed her gradually weakening every day. The doctors and nurses indicated that she could possibly still have a couple of months to live. So, as scheduled, we flew back to Italy on July 31, to care for the church and make the necessary preparations for the Evening School of the Bible's fall semester as well as for the children's homeschooling. We are very grateful to each preacher and their families across Italy that helped fill in at the church while we were gone. On August 5th, we received the news that Brandon's mom passed away that morning. Please be in prayer for Brandon, as he will fly back to the US on the 10th to preach at his mom's funeral. We know that God's grace is sufficient, and we are comforted knowing that she is with our Lord and Savior. We thank each and every one of you for your prayers during this time.

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

Praises: Magners at about 32% support on deputation; Kristan's bday; our 16th wedding anniversary; Titus' 14th bday; Pisa conference & VBS went well; able to spend a few weeks with Brandon's mom before she passed
Requests: Brandon as he flies to the States and back; for a new Church building in Reggio Emilia; Citizenship; the Magners need a house; Evening School of the Bible starting back up in September

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