

# John & Cristina Inglese

## MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER



SULMONA, ITALY

### *How God Met Us Our Christmas Story*

By John Inglese

This past Christmas holiday, the Lord met us in a very special way. We usually decorate for Christmas, with a tree and some lights somewhere in the house. Christmas holidays have always meant holiday festivities and special meals with the kids—a tradition Cristina and I both grew-up with, and we did the same with our children. But this last Christmas was hard. Matthew felt it too. Being separated from four of our five children, our daughter-in-law, our son-in-law, our little granddaughter, as well as a few friends who would come to our house to celebrate. We were really feeling sad missing our kids and hurting and not looking forward to the holidays. We did not buy any decorations; a poinsettia was given to us by my cousin and a little bear ornament was a gift from a store purchase.

Then the Lord began to minister us by filling our holidays with new experiences. First my cousin invited us over for Christmas day to celebrate with



John at the train station with the Huls

her family and friends. Then, she invited us to come back the next day to celebrate Saint Stephen's Day on Dec. 26th. Then a new friend, Aaron Huls

(from the states) who I had met at the Italy pastor's conference back in May/June 2023, along with his wife, Amanda, and their three little children came down from northern Italy to spend a few days here. Also joining the group was his pastor friend, Kirk Kaikkonen, visiting from the states, along with his



L-R, Rebekah, Amanda, Cristina wife, Rebekah, and daughter, Salem. It was such a blessing! Our house was filled with brothers and sisters in the Lord! We were not alone for the holidays, we were having wonderful time of fellowship. We shared meals together at our table, we, spent time getting to know one another, and we prayed together. It was so wonderful!

And then, if that was not enough, while walking around town with Aaron and Amanda we ran into a mutual friend (unbeknownst to us until now) Loretta



L-R, John, Cristina, Matthew, Arden, Jonathan, Loretta, Rafael

Manzanares. Loretta and her family were back in town visiting her mom for the holidays. After the Huls and Kaikkonens left, we got to meet Loretta's husband, Rafael, and their two sons, Jonathan and Arden. Matthew really enjoyed talking with Jonathan. What a total blessing!

We know many of you were praying for us, knowing how difficult it was going to be for us being separated from our family for the first time. But God answered those prayers in such a way that was so much more than we could have imagined. Thank you Lord and thank you everyone for your prayers! We love you!



### *"I Am Doing It For You"*

By John Inglese

Late one night, not too long ago we received a call from one of our kids who was going through a very difficult and rough time. We spoke for a long time on the phone and after we hung up, we cried out to the Lord to help our child and to help us because we just felt so helpless, drained, and anxious because we couldn't be there because we were half way around the world. Needless to say, that night I continually prayed and called out to God. The next morning, I went for a walk; I needed

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*"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*

—Romans 8:28

—Continued from front

to get out and get some air and alone time with God. As I was walking and praying to God about everything my kid was going through, and what I was feeling, the Lord brought to mind Matthew 8:23-26 where the disciples are on the boat during the storm and shaking Jesus, who was asleep, to wake up and saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" and the Lord, waking up, replies, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" It was like the Lord was saying to me "why are you waking me up 'Where is your faith?'"

At that moment, I was flooded with peace, and I asked the Lord to forgive my lack of faith, for focusing on the storm and not Him. My crying out to God was like shaking Him awake, in a sense, like the disciples did on the boat.

Then, I felt in my heart that the Lord was telling me that what I needed to pray for was 'what do I need to learn through this experience? And what does my kid need to learn through their experience. So, I asked Him to teach us what we needed to learn. And taking it a step further, what is it that I, we need to be learning each and every day?

The next morning as I was doing my devotions and thinking on all the things that happened the previous day, the Lord brought to mind *Romans 8:28*, we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those

who are the called according to His purpose." I sensed the Holy Spirit was saying to me, "I did it for you!" Everything that happens in my life, the good and the bad (what I may be interpreting as "bad") He is doing it for me, for my good. Remember God is Good and only does Good!

Everything that happens to us, is for our good, He is doing it for us – it is allowed by God for our good! Though we may not want to see it that way at the time – ALL THINGS means ALL Things - He's doing it for you! He's doing it for me!

I told my wife that the next time I start to get caught up in the circumstances, the tribulations, to just say to me "He did it for you!" because it will stop me in my tracks so that I get the right perspective.

"He's doing it for me!"

## praise report

✦ I've been posting short videos in a couple of FB groups here in the Abruzzo region, in which Sulmona is located, which have enabled me to meet some local people in person. They are reaching out to me! Just a couple days ago, one of the people who has been following my posts, reached out to me and asked if I was a Christian! She has been searching for fellowship to no avail. We are 1 hour from Chieti by train. What a blessing, Cristina and I spoke with her for over an hour on the phone, and we are planning to get together for weekly Bible studies. The Lord is moving, please continue to pray!! Thank you Lord!!!

✦ Also, a car fund has been started, with \$3,000 so far!!! Thank you Lord!!!

✦ We passed Italian A1, just started A2! Thank you Lord!!!



### When you eat pizza

- **Pray for the Ingleses**
  - **Pray for Calvary Chapel Sulmona**
- Send us a photo of you eating pizza!

### Prayer Requests—

- Draw the Italians to Himself, give them a hunger for His truths, give them a desire to read His Word
- God's guidance, direction
- That we would meet the Italian Christians in Sulmona
- Bind the Enemy and his attacks
- Protection over our health
- Language learning, to learn quickly
- Raise-up people to come along side us, physically, prayerfully, and financially
- A vehicle
- John's broken tooth, that it won't need a €750 crown

## thank you!

We just want to say thank you to everyone who have come alongside us prayerfully and financially in 2023 to help us share the Good News with the people in Sulmona and surrounding areas. We want you to know what a blessing you have been to us. Everything you do for us, no matter how small it seems to you, is a huge help and encouragement to us!!!! We pray that the Lord would bless you 1000-fold here on earth and in heaven! ♥

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