

SEPTEMBER 2022

John & Cristina Inglese

MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER



Sulmona, Italy

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

-Romans 8:1-2

Sono Italiano!!

I am Italian!!—by John Inglese

I now have an Italian passport in addition to my U.S. passport! We are getting excited as the Lord's plans for us in Italy comes together.

In God's eyes, it's a small world. We had contacted Pastor Craig Quam of both Calvary Chapel Montebelluna and the CC Bible College in Montebelluna, located in Northern Italy, to introduce ourselves and inform him of our plan to move to Italy as missionaries. He wrote back and said that he would keep us in prayer. A few weeks later he emailed us asking what part of Italy; I told him central Italy, a city called Sulmona.

After that I did not hear from him for a time. Then, sometime later, he sent me an email saying that it was very interesting because he knew a pastor in Virginia, Steve Feden, who also had a burden for Sulmona! He shared our contact information with Pastor Steve at Calvary Chapel Fluvanna. It was so amaz-

Italy. Pastor Steve introduced us to another couple, Frank and Vicky Signoretti, who are also planning to move to Sulmona, but not for a couple of years. What a joy, what kindred spirits we all share—God is putting a team together!!

God loves to encourage: One day I was praying and asking God for “a token of encouragement” regarding Italy. I waited expectantly all day to hear something, but nothing came. I told Cristina that the Lord didn't give me any encouragement today regarding Italy. Cristina said, “Maybe tomorrow!” The next day I received a message from Pastor Steve, asking if we would like to visit his church and share about what the Lord is doing regarding Italy! TALK about a token of encouragement!! I don't think we could have been more encouraged—God is so gracious and loving!

We had a blessed time with Pastor Steve and his wife, Helga, and also with Frank and Vicky. We had been praying that the Lord would raise up people to come along side us to pray and to reach the Italian people once we arrive in Italy. The Lord has done so much more, putting a sweet team together before we even leave! Since our first meeting on the phone, we have been praying for one another and encouraging one another regularly regarding Sulmona and God's plan to let in the light.

The Lord gives the increase: Meet Nathaniel Kidd, he also feels called to Italy [the team is growing]! He has already been to Italy, ministering there this last summer, and is going back again for a few months – pray for him because by the time you receive this newsletter, he will already be there ministering. He attends Calvary Chapel Fluvanna. Two weeks

ago, he flew into Los Angeles and we got to hook up and have a sweet time of fellowship and encouragement. We are looking forward to co-laboring with Nathaniel as well; we couldn't ask for better co-laborers!



In my previous newsletter, I mentioned how an evangelist speaking in San Diego, CA, shared how God was going to bring the light into Italy because Italy had never experienced a reformation/revival. I was excited because the Lord told me He wanted to send us to Italy to be a light and part of the plan that He has for the Italian people. Since then, we've been

reading up on Italy. I had no idea that Italy is so embedded in the occult and is such a spiritually dark place.

Being raised Catholic, I know first-hand what it is like to be under the Catholic Church and never experiencing a true

personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It wasn't until I began hearing His Word taught and reading it for myself that I began seeing the inconsistencies and false practices of the church. That exposure to the Truth is when I learned that I could have a personal relationship with Jesus directly and not have to go through Mary or a “Saint” or the Church. Having come through all that, I thought this would be the main area of spiritual depravity that we will be dealing with when arriving in Italy.

However, here is an excerpt from another



“God is putting a team together!!”

ing hearing how God had put Italy on their hearts some time ago and was now bringing us together to be co-laborers in Sulmona,

Pictured above : John with Nathaniel Kidd, L.A., 8/29/22

Pictured above L-R: Vicky and Frank Signoretti, Cristina and John, Pastor Steve and Helga Feden at Calvary Chapel Fluvanna, 8/21/22. Flag image credit: jannoon028 on freepik.com

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“ In Italy missionaries need two callings, one to come and one to stay!

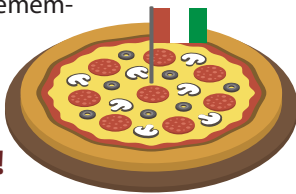
ministry's website that ministers to Italy, and it pretty much brings into the light what is currently going there. "ITALY a mission field, come on? What about all those great churches and cathedrals? Isn't there a rich Christian heritage in the country?" Welcome to the epitome of post-Christian society. "Occultism, magic, and superstition are rampant in Italy with over \$6 billion spent on fortune telling. An estimated 100,000-licensed witches, 3 times the priestly population, contributes to Italy's reputation as "a graveyard for missionaries" (less than 10% of them ever return for a second term).

In the words of one missionary: "In Italy you need two callings, one to come and one to stay!" There are less Evangelicals (0.73%) than in India, Africa, Russia, Japan or China. Divisions among evangelical churches is a reflection of what goes on in the government with over 32 political parties, and a chaotic state. Pastors are the first to admit: "we are few and well divided"!

"As in most societies, the upper echelon of society may have experienced a great deal of worldly success, yet many are also experiencing a deep emptiness, with lives devoid of meaning and love. They are spiritually bankrupt. The new youth generation, unlike my days, is growing outside of the church walls and learned to distrust the Institution. So the answer to the initial question is a resounding YES! —Peppo Biscarini, Via Veritas Ministry.

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March 2023 is still our target date to move to Italy, so please remember to pray for us whenever you eat . . .

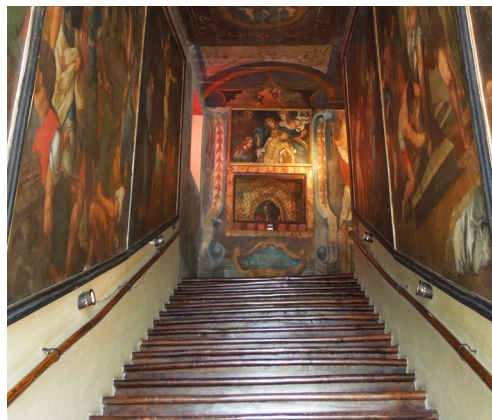


Pizza! Pizza!

Italian Culture CONNECTION

Scala Santa (Holy Staircase)

Around the third Sunday in the month of September, Catholics are offered a special four-day window in which to obtain the sparsely-offered Plenary Indulgence. Climbing on one's knees the 28 wooden steps of the Sanctuary of Scala Santa can gain a Roman Catholic the Plenary Indulgence.¹ "The steps represent the 28 steps Jesus climbed on his knees to go before Pontius Pilate",² according to Italia.it's website.



Scala Santa di Campoli (TE) - image by Infinitispazi, on Wiki-data

The Sanctuary of Scala Santa in Campoli, in the Province of Teramo, a place of worship, was built between 1772 and 1776, and opened in May 1776. It was built as a tribute to the famous Scala Santa in Rome. There [in Rome], from the landing connecting the two staircases, it is possible to see the Sancta Sanctorum with the altar of Cristo Salvator Mundi through a grate. The walls of the Campoli landing are decorated with two frescoes illustrating Pope Clement XIV and Saint Helena Empress, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great. That's why the Campoli Holy Staircase obtained the possibility to give Plenary Indulgence by an edict issued by Pope Clement XIV in 1772.

Plenary indulgence

According to the teachings of the Catholic Church, visitors praying while climbing the 28 wooden steps (leading to the chapel of Sancta Sanctorum) on their knees may obtain the Plenary Indulgence. A Plenary Indulgence is a special indulgence that remits all

temporal "punishment" required to cleanse the soul.³ The most important distinction, however, is that between plenary indulgences and partial. By a plenary indulgence is meant the remission of the entire temporal punishment due to sin so that no further expiation is required in Purgatory. A partial indulgence commutes only a certain portion of the penalty; and this portion is determined in accordance with the penitential discipline of the early Church.⁴

The following are the days on which it is possible to obtain the Plenary Indulgence:

- third Sunday of Easter
- Saturday—Tuesday of Pentecost
- Saturday—Tuesday around the 3rd Sun. of September
- last Sat., Sun. and Mon. of October
- all Fridays from after Ash Wednesday through Good Friday (this last given by Pope Giovanni Paolo II)."

Concluding thoughts

O the glorious freedom that is given to any who will believe Jesus and His last words spoken on the cross:

"It is finished!" —John 19:30

The justice of God had been fully met and satisfied by the Lamb of God. At that moment, the sacrifices of the Old Testament permanently ceased, for the perfect Sacrifice had laid down His life for the salvation of mankind. Jesus' mission was accomplished. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." —John 3:16 Amen!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the hearts of the people of Sulmona to be hungry to know God's love and receptive to Bible-reading
- Pray for our Italian language learning
- Pray for a hedge of protection from the enemy's schemes and interference
- Pray for our preparations and securing affordable housing in Sulmona
- Pray for our son Nathanael, who does not feel called to Italy, to find a place to stay

Pizza image designed by freepik.com

1 Cited from article on ItalybyEvents.com

2 Cited from article on Italia.it

3 Ibid.

4 Plenary vs. partial indulgences cited from Catholic.com

5 Cited from article on ItalybyEvents

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