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Vitalone's newsletter 1/2017

“Lord help me do great things as though they were little, since I do them with your power, and help me to do little things as though they were great, because I do them in your name.

Blaise Pascal

Dear Brethren,
greetings from Rome, Italy. I'm writing this first report of 2017 in a warm day of April. I can feel the springtime in the air. God is always at work! How beautiful is His creation and His love for us. During the last months, God has blessed us in many ways even though the problems and the difficulties are always around us. But the secret, as the Bible says, is “Fix your eyes on Jesus...” and we try to do daily.

Church in Anzio



We had a very good time when, in January, we went to visit the church in Anzio (1,5 hours by car from Rome) where we have worked for the last 16 years. This is a small but strong congregation (10-12 members) and as the church in Philadelphia in Revelation, I can say about them: “*I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name*”. Rev 3:8.

They are keeping their faith and, as always, I preached for them and encourage them to keep the faith and continue in their path with the Lord. Please pray the Lord that this small congregation might have the strength and the faith to preach the Gospel with His power.



Young people

In February, along my coworker and best friend Franco Verardi, we hosted, in my summer house, a group of young Christian men coming from different part of Italy for a 3 days of prayers and deep Bible study. Each of them (their average age is 20) even if young, has a strong faith and is working in his own congregation. I believe in the passage *“The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will be qualified to teach others”* (2 Tim 2:1). We have spent time with these seven young people, prayed with them and encourage them to believe and trust God to find their spot in the Church’s work. On Sunday morning we left these young men to lead worship in the Rome congregation and believe me, they did a great job.



In Italy, we also have great young servant ladies and my daughter Virginia is among them. On Saturday evening, when our program with the men was heading to its conclusion, some of our ladies joined us and all together we had a special time eating pizza, laughing and enjoying time together. My aim is to continue to work along them and to have different moments to help and strengthen their young faith. In this task I'm working with my co-worker Franco and with the Lord's help I'm sure we can do a great job to help these young servants to keep in their hands the work of the Lord in Italy.

Visitors from the states

Gary and Jennifer Williams, along with two more couples from the mission committee of Lake cities CoC came in March to visit us and to have a glance at the work in Italy. The church in Lake Cities carries the work in Italy in its heart and this group, along with Gary and Jennifer, for a long time directors of the Avanti Italia program, decided to come and see our work in Italy and the work of Franco Verardi in the south of Italy. We often have visitors but we don't always feel the brotherly love that they have shown to us from the very first night at the church building, eating together. These people are the demonstration that neither the difference of age nor the big distance can divide us if the hearts are one in Christ.

Women retreat

On March 10-12, my wife Tonia organized the annual women retreat for the 16th year in a row. Almost 50 women came from 12 different congregations from all over Italy. My wife worked hardly for months to sort out everything for this meeting and she was also among the speakers. Tonia continues to work with the women in our church, leading a special Bible studies for them every week, and she continues to work among a group of Chinese girls. Some are believers and some are not and it's amazing to notice how much hungry and thirsty they are for the Lord's word. Please pray that God continues to sustain her in her task.



Conference at Bible book store in Rome



Every year, approaching the Passover, I have some occasions to preach and teach about the sufferings and the death of our Savior Jesus Christ. This year I received an invitation from the Bible Book store in Rome for a lecture about my book “*A doctor at Calvary*”.

I wrote it several years ago but remains in the top ten list of the Bible book store in Italy. I went very happy to share my knowledge about this topic and to talk about Jesus. I noticed a good attendance and a great interest among the auditorium.

A new soul



A new soul was added in the church in Rome: Gabriel. He is a young boy from Ghana. His family is Christian but when he left his country, one year ago, was just a lukewarm believer. He came to our congregation and attended several times before deciding to give his life to God. He was baptized for the remission of his sins last Wednesday! To God be the glory.



Virginia's corner



Hi all, it's Virginia (Vivi) here. Besides attending Viale Jonio CoC regularly, I was blessed with the opportunity to lead and organize the first youth retreat completely run by the "young" this past January in Florence. I was the oldest one (and I'm 25!). The guys, all in their early twenties lead the study groups and the girls did an excellent job organizing the logistics and the food. We had more than 20 people from all over Italy participating. It made us stronger and gave us an opportunity to grow and learn in our leadership skills. We are learning to work together, and because of this we have some exciting projects going on with these young ones, but I'll talk about this in our next report. Stay tuned!



Personal note

As usual, I try to give my contribution to my congregation in Rome for our Wednesday studies and, for the past three of months, I lead a series of Bible studies about the Revelation.

I have a lot of projects for this year but my first desire is to continue serving the Lord with the gifts He has given me.

Before leaving please pray for my daughter Virginia (Vivi) at the end of March she was hit by a motorcycle and her pelvis was broken. She is still in clinic, laying in bed full of pain. She is going to be fine but she needs to stay a little longer for a full recovery.

Till my next report, may our God keep all of us in His loving hands.

Tonia, Vittorio and Virginia Vitalone from Rome, Italy

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