



THE

COOK FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY



January & February 2025

Dear Fellow Laborers,

The New Year started out victoriously as we recognized those who completed the "Challenge to Know the Living God by Reading through the Bible". Then, in mid-January, Sara (an ex-nun in training) and 9 year-old Christian were baptized! We were very grateful to have Matt and Bethany Romeo with us for this special event, as God used Bro. Romeo to be a great encouragement both to us and to our church, as he preached in Italian for the first time, the morning of the baptism. Please pray for this young couple, Matt and Bethany, as they seek God's direction for His will.

In preparation for the baptism, we had a "work day" with some of the men from church, setting up and filling the baptistry. We got a little nervous when, two days before the baptism (in January), the heat at the church quit working! We were thanking God that, miraculously, it started working again on Saturday afternoon. I'm sure you can imagine how cold that baptism would have been!

On February 14, we were blessed by attending the couples dinner hosted by Chiesa Biblica Battista in Grosseto. It was a refreshing time, and we are always thankful for precious time of fellowship with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ.

The youth of the church here in Reggio also met together in February for a time of soul winning, pizza, and fun activities together. God is working in the hearts of the young people here. Please pray for the next generation that they will follow after God with their whole heart, believing Him by faith.

Finally, an update on the Sunday classes. Back in October, we tried moving Sunday school to after the morning service, rather than before, and now couples are being discipled TOGETHER, and all of the children are able to attend Sunday school as well. The adults are about half way through the "The Faithful Disciples of Jesus" discipleship course (originally written in English by Pastor Scotty Backhaus). For a few in the church, this is their first time through the course, but for others, they are going through it a second time with the goal of 2 Timothy 2:2 *"the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* Alessio has also begun assisting in teaching the adult Sunday school class over the last few months. It is exciting to see believers of all ages growing in Christ, and having a desire to serve Him.

- Brandon, Kristan, Thomas, Titus, Elisha, and Abigail Cook

Praises: Sara and Christian's baptism; Matt and Bethany Romeo's visit; Kristan's parents came for Christmas and New Years; the church youth orchestra is growing and others are beginning to learn new instruments; Elisha and Brandon's birthdays; great report for Kristan 6 month post-surgery

Prayer Requests: Salvation: Mary, Vittorio; larger place for the church to meet (the landlord where we are currently meeting is seems to want to sell the building, which could mean having to move much sooner than planned);

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