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NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, March 10, 2016

Dear brethren in Him,

We hope to find all of you doing fine in all things. We'd like to share with you our deep feeling of gratefulness to be able through your fellowship to preach the gospel also in Rome. To accomplish to this service is not easy in a city as Rome, in the midst of a culture filled by humanism and pagan religiosity. We need to be constant and patient waiting to reap the good fruit of the gospel. We will do our best in preaching God's will, hoping to find good and honest hearts.

I'll try to send a report per month, maybe shorter than usual, so to inform you about our efforts and results.

PERSONAL NEWS. We're all doing fine. Our grandson Alessandro is growing in many things and he's a real joy for all of us. Our daughter Valeria is close to deliver her baby (Alice will be the name) since the time is due for the end of April. There's also a possibility to anticipate the birth but we don't know now the developments.

February 18 my wife Antonella went under surgery to remove a thyroid tumor. The surgery went fine and the surgeon was very positive about it. We are now working on the protocol to begin radiotherapy and other control test. We are trusting to solve all as soon as possible. Antonella is much better now and facing the problem with a very good attitude and serenity.

My parents are also doing well. My dad Sandro (just turned 90 years old on February) is in a fairly good health, still working at his work of translating commentaries. What he built up in so many years of diligent work became a real treasure for Italian brethren that want to grow in knowledge and dedication. Also my mother Elisabetta (88 years old next August) is doing fairly well. She needs everyday specific medical cares and therapies but things are proceeding as we expect. She needs a constant nurse and but the situation is under good control. Sometimes they make confusion and forget things important so the major work is upon me and I must be always present for every aspect of practical and psychological life.

PREACHING EFFORTS IN ROME. The local work is proceeding fine. We are growing in responsibility and personal activities. Thanking God, the church is living a good moment of compactness and fellowship one another. The power of the gospel seems more visible than in other times.

My personal and individual weekly Bible classes are continuing well with brethren and contacts. Especially with **Gianluca** (Marco's older brother) and **Amedeo**, I'm having great encouragement. Now we are studying together the book of Hebrew, after having covered Ephesians and Colossians. With them I also started a training class focused to improve their speaking and exposition in public speeches. Both of them can be a good source for the congregation in this sense.

During mid-week Bible class I completed the study of the John's gospel, and started a class on prophecies and fulfillment in Christ. After the worship service on Sunday, I completed the study on "Minor Prophets" and ready to start a series of topic lessons from N.T.

We have now another extra class during the week (Tuesday morning). In this way we can help those brethren that for specific reasons are unable to attend the midweek meeting on Thursday night. I began teaching the epistle to "Romans".

Our general average attendance is about 38, with a good number of contacts and visitors.

The new local work at **Ciampino** is going well. Marco has new contacts and people that asked for information. The meeting place is in a very strategic position and visible to all the residents. The service begin at 5.30 PM, so also the brethren from Rome can attend and encourage this "young work". We need patience and endurance to see the first good fruits. Marco is giving his best in taking all the responsibilities in this work. We are proud and happy for him.

VISITORS FROM US CHURCHES. Recently a large group (about 20) of students from the Freed-Hardeman University visited us. We are also waiting for another large tour coming next week and will have the joy to see again **David Thomley** among them. We thank all of them for their kindness and encouragement.

God may continue to help us to serve Him with joy and faithfulness.

Thanks again for your trusting fellowship that allows us to do such a work. The brethren in Rome send their best greetings.

Antonella, Valeria & Paolo send their loving salutations.

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza