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NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, January 21, 2019

Dear brethren in Christ,
my wife Antonella and I hope to find all of you in good physical and spiritual health. Also through this report, we want to share with you our sincere feelings of thankfulness for what you are doing in our behalf, which allows us to preach the power of the gospel also in a deeply pagan city as Rome. We're trying to do all we can to proclaim the Word, even if we have to face several and daily hindrances, caused by strong materialism and rooted Bible ignorance. We ask your prayers and patience to help us realizing our goals.

PERSONAL NEWS. We are slowly trying to get over the loss of my mother Elisabetta (November 12, 2018). In some way, we are more and more persuaded that has been much better for her to leave the pains and problems of last times, and to rest in peace waiting for the Lord. I received (and thank for) many calls and cards by brethren, which witnessed their love and participation. My father and mother were very well known in Italy among churches.

The rest of my family is doing well. We're still surrounded by the warm affection of many brethren in this particular moment. Our two grandchildren, Alessandro (4 years next October) and Alice (2 and half) are growing well. They are a true joy for Antonella and I. Our son Paolo is working in the north of Italy, by Venice, with the Easy Jet low cost aircraft. It's a British company. He likes the new job. He's also studying to get the pilot license and we hope to see soon the coming true of his dream.

PREACHING EFFORTS IN ROME. The local work at via Sannio is proceeding fine. In the first week of December we had the joy to meet again **David Thomley** (Nashville, TN), who preached for us: a wonderful moment of fellowship and brotherly love. In the same week we also had the joy to see **Massimo's** baptism. He studied for almost three years at Ciampino with Marco Di Martino. Finally he decided to become a Christian, and we did his baptism in our meeting place's baptistry. It's been a good week: an encouraging time for all of us.

The local work at Ciampino is slowly growing and we're all very happy for it. Yesterday I visited them during their afternoon worship and we had a good assemble, with about 15 people. Marco is doing a good work, in spite of the delicate time due to his wife Alessia,

still in a vegetative coma after more than two years! A tremendous and heavy situation for his family and all the brethren here.

I'm keeping on the weekly individual Bible classes that I have with the young member of the church and with the new contacts. One of them, Gianluca (Marco's older brother) next Sunday will preach for us, after having studied with me about delivering sermons. Also the classes with Michel and Maurizio are going on very well.

During mid-week Bible class, I'm still teaching out of Peter's epistles, a solid and basic doctrinal writings.

On Sunday morning, after worship, we are still doing all together a class on hymns, trying to learn new songs and improve the congregational singing. We're trying also to raise new song leaders among the ones available. However, it's a good moment to be together and praising God. The participation of the brothers and sisters is enthusiastic and joyful.

Our general average attendance is about 50, with a good shuffling of new contacts and friends attending.

VISITORS FROM OTHER CHURCHES. Also these past weeks we had the joy to meet several brethren visiting Rome, especially coming from American churches. I'd like to remember them in the following list. **Mallery Parker** (Madison, AL); **Henry Jerez** (Colombia); **David Smelser** (Atlanta, GA); **Graig & Lindsay Foster** (Hillsboro, OR); **Glenn & Leslie Jader** (Peterborough, ON); **Markus & Barbara Minder** (Switzerland); **Giuseppina & Urs Dill D'Agostino** (Switzerland); **Ken & Rhonda Hull** (Bowling Green, KY); **Stephen Hull** (Tupelo, MS). We thank those brethren for their encouragement.

Thanks again for your help and faithful fellowship. All the brethren in Rome send their best greetings and love.

Antonella, Valeria and Paolo send their good wishes. God may continue to bless and keep us safe in His kingdom.

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza