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NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, May 11, 2020

Dear brethren in Christ,
my wife Antonella and I hope to find each one of you doing fine, notwithstanding the critical sanitary situation in which we're all living day by day. We'd like to share with you once more our sincere feelings of thankfulness for your confidence and fellowship, which allow our preaching the Gospel also in Rome, the Capital of human religious traditionalism and false teachings.

As I wrote in my last report, also this one will be mainly addressed and influenced by the planetary coronavirus situation, which is forcing all of us to change radically our way of living and also thinking. Something that maybe mankind never experience in such a proportion along history. Something still unknown and unpredictable in its future consequences.

PERSONAL NEWS. We are doing fine so far, and we thank God for it. We don't know of any serious sanitary situation for the rest of Christians in Italy, as far I know.

Also Valeria's family is OK, including her three kids. We've been shut in for about two months, as the rest of Italians, in following the Government rules intended to avoid any contact and so contagious. Our son Paolo also is fine. He's still in his apartment by Venice, not been yet able to move down to Rome, since it's forbidden to leave regions or Counties to go somewhere else.

CORONAVIRUS SITUATION IN ITALY. Since two months ago, the situation now is a little better. Contagious people are down and the hospitals are not in crisis as they used to be at first. Restrictions are lower than past since this past week. Slowly we're trying to get closer to "normal" life. Everybody hopes that the situation will not be critical again, but the risk is implied. Much depends by the responsibility of each one. We must still be at distance from anyone and wearing mask outside or inside shops.

We are still unable, though, to meet at the meeting place since such an aggregation of people in close halls are forbidden, also for Catholic Churches. Maybe from May 18 something could change but with severe conditions and protections, I read. For instance, everyone with mask, will not be possible to sing out, publicly collect money, and after each meeting is due a disinfection of the environment. Other restricted rules

will be added, including close inspections and controls by official guards. Will see next week.

The economic situation is not the primary need to solve. Many are losing jobs and future perspectives to find a new one are discouraging. The way to get back seems long and hard. Several of our brethren are on unemployment list or layoffs (including also my son Paolo). They will receive some money (70% of regular wage lasting one year) but not to cover all the daily expenses and needs.

Our brother Gianluca, who leads a Hotel downtown of Rome, has only 5 guests. Most of rooms are empty. I hope he can bare such a situation as long as possible, without shutting all down.

ONLINE PROGRAMS AND CONTACTS. However, through Internet and meeting applications (as Zoom), we are able to see each other for weekly worship and Bible classes. Better than nothing for sure. I'm also following regularly my personal Bible studies with the people interested (as Luigi, Maurizio, Jacqueline, Gianluca). This is good and helpful. I'm trying to do what I can to overcome the problems and keep on my preaching activity.

I'm also trying to join with international meetings of brethren, trying to be as close as possible to other Christians in this difficult moment. It's a good way to encourage and strengthening one another.

I close now, hoping and praying that none of you would be under contagious or physical problems, since this virus could be very aggressive and dangerous. In this moment of introspection and thinking, we all thank God of the eternal hopes we can share in Christ. More than ever, we're seeing very well, and clearly, how temporary are material things and expectations. I hope that this world will learn something out of that, and get closer to real things and truths.

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

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

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza