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NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, January 10, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
my wife Antonella and I hope to find all of you in good health. We're all still living an extraordinary and crucial time of life and history, but we're confident that our common faith and God's blessings will sustain our spiritual hope.

We'd like to share with you our sincere feelings of gratefulness for all that you're making in our behalf, in order to allow us the honor to preach the gospel also in Rome, the Capital of human religiosity, traditions and false teachings. In such a unique moment, instead of thinking and learning, mankind continues to find protective solutions in common pagan patters. It's an old and sad story of the past.

PERSONAL NEWS. Thanking God, we're doing fine, considering the surrounding context. Valeria's family is OK, including our three grandchildren: Alessandro (6), Alice (4) and Samuele (15 months). They are growing well. Alessandro is very busy attending the first elementary school year, which makes a big difference for kids. In their schools, once in a while, there're cases of Coronavirus and we must stay very careful about it.

Our son Paolo is also OK. He's staying at home with us, waiting to catch back his job with *Easyjet Aircraft Company*, hopefully next March. Though, the risk of losing the job is still rather high.

CORONAVIRUS SITUATION IN ITALY. The pandemic situation here is still critical and dangerous. We're surrounded by people infected (even our doctor and his family got it). People that we know or friends of friends. It seems that is getting closer and closer to everyone. The vaccine campaign begun but not enough shots are available. From a fast valuation, in my case of category, I should get the shot by next fall! All is still in confusion and precarious. We're living a sort of "light" lock down, but the situation is not changing in a significant way, as it should or hoped.

The economic situation continues to be unstable and precarious for many people. Politics talk of big financial interventions to repay the lost, but often are still only "words". Some among our brethren are living this sad reality. Social and popular protest in "around the corner". We'll see it shortly.

LOCAL PREACHING ACTIVITY. Beyond the described heavy context, we're doing well, trying to do what we can to keep on our preaching activities. I already wrote you about Veronica, who was baptized next month, in spite of the many psychological persecutions by her husband, and we hope to see similar conversions among our contacts and friends with whom I'm studying the Bible.

I'm still continuing the weekly personal studying with Gianluca, Stefania, Maurizio, Michel, Luca. Some of the young ones are delivering good sermons and teachings and we are all encouraged by their efforts.

My teachings and sermons are often of encouragement in this situation, but also of reflection considering history of God's people and mistakes that must not be repeated. Faithfulness to God is the focus of our attention.

The whole pandemic situation does not encourage us to use our meeting place, so we're still seeing one another by Zoom for our week studies and Sunday worships. On Thursday evening mid-week Bible class, I started the teaching from Galatians, after concluding First and Second Corinthians along past months.

We hope to open again our meeting place sometime by next March. The general picture of pandemic area must improve a lot though.

Thanking God, my financial situation did not have changings, and we thank you for your generosity. If you need a more detailed financial picture, let me know and I'll send you the necessary information.

I close now, hoping and praying that we may all learn from this hard experience, appreciating even more the many and good blessings that we all share in Christ.

Thanks again for your patience and faithful spiritual fellowship. 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 in Him.

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza