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NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, February 20, 2017

Dear brethren in the Lord,

my wife Antonella and I hope to find each one of you being in good physical & spiritual health. We would like to share with you our sincere feeling of thankfulness for your kind fellowship that allows us to preach the power of the gospel also in Rome, the "Capital" of human traditional religiosity. But we'll try to do what we can to reach as many as possible to Christ.

PERSONAL NEWS. Thanking God, we are all doing just fine. Our granddaughter Alicia (9 months old) is growing well and fast along with her brother Alessandro (28 months old). Our daughter Valeria is pretty much busy with her family and we try to help as much as we can. Our son Paolo is also doing fine, still living and working at Bologna.

My dad Sandro (tomorrow he will turn 91 years old) is doing OK, in spite of his age. He is continuing to be involved in his translating works, but obviously with a natural slowing down. His writings are a precious background for the new coming generations of Christians. We all thank him for the good work done through so many years. On Sunday morning I drive him to the meeting place to attend the worship service, with the joy of all. My mother is also doing a little better, even though always in bed and under daily cares and therapies. Recently I had to change their wedding bed with a more confortable one, so to move her according needs. All seems to work fine.

PREACHING EFFORTS IN ROME. The serious physical conditions of Alessia, (32 years old, wife of Marco Di Martino, are pretty much the same. As you know, December 30, 2016, she had a heart arrest of several minutes, causing tremendously serious damages to her brain. Since then, she is still into the hospital with no kind of neurologic reaction. All the text are just fine, blood and heart pressure, but she can't awake up from such a "sleeping". In the immediate future Marco will have to move her somewhere else, especially in a specific structure that works on such a cases. There's also a strong possibility to bring her a little way from Rome. We'll see. The whole situation is still critical and painful for all of us.

Marco is doing what he can to keep on day by day. We're trying to help in what we can but the heavy burden is on him and his family. He also had to slow down his preaching activity to take close attention to the situation. He's a good example for all of us in how he deals his feelings and thoughts.

The local work at via Sannio is doing fine. We're concentrated to our objectives and teaching programs, trying to improve in different sides of the work. We're meeting once a month to discuss the topics of the work and decide the opportune actions to increase our preaching activities. In May 2017 we'll hold a public gospel meeting, trying to invite as many as possible through advertisements and personal work among friends and relatives.

As you know, 9 new people have been added to our membership. Things are going very well with them. Their good attitude is encouraging and the work may receive the needed strength. I'm close to all of them through personal studies and good suggestions.

I've been also working on some new children classes, to improve the teaching method and build new studying material, to share with young students. Some of the sisters in the church are following the direction reaching great results so far. I'm very happy of the good feedbacks of this important effort.

During mid-week Bible class, I'm still teaching out of 1 Timothy. On Sunday morning, after the worship, I'm still the teaching from the book of Acts, trying to underline the major topics related to the N.T. church. I would like that the standard model of the N.T. Church may be clearly seen, understood and accepted. We reached chapter 12.

This weekend I will be visiting Anna, the sister that lives at Milan, to encourage her in such a difficult situation. We'll spend a couple od days up there.

Our general average attendance is now about 50, with always a good number of new contacts and visitors.

FINANCIAL NEWS. Thanking God, all my financial needs have been solved, I thank all those that worked in this field. Without your trust and support, would be impossible to do what we're doing to proclaim the gospel in this Country.

We're looking forward to seeing again **David Thomley** and **David McClister** who will be visiting us in the second week of March 2017. We'd like to hear brother McClister for the Sunday service, and know more about his recent works about the Roman culture and its influence on N.T. times.

Thanks again for your love and kind patience. All the brethren in Rome send their best greetings and loving feelings.

Antonella, Valeria & Paolo send their good wishes. God may continue to bless and keep us in all things

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza