



A message from the Biscarini's: *"Trust in the LORD and do good" Ps.37.3*

Happy New Year to all of you!

May this year bring a new surge of excitement, joy, peace, prosperity and love to those who put their trust in the Lord! As Jane and I reflect upon this past 2010, we need to *give thanks* to the Author of the many blessings that keep us persevering and also thank those of you that faithfully, and often sacrificially, give us **the fruits of your labor** so that the *investment* may produce *eternal rewards* for His kingdom.

Latest:

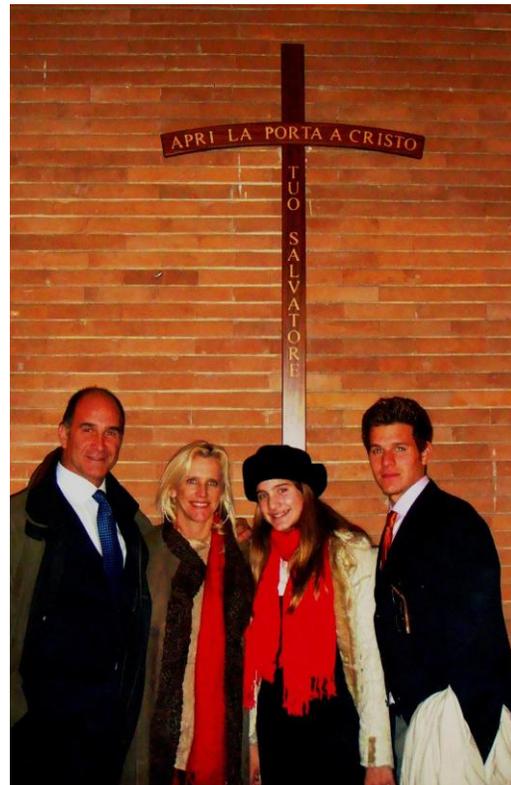
We are so excited about the new programs launched this fall which are now still thriving.

The **couples' study** just ended the initial round of 9 weeks and all our new friends want to continue on. This time they gave us a commitment for the next **20 weeks!!!** We added 3 new participants to the **men's group** as a result of the *Thanksgiving* and *Christmas outreaches*. The **Young Life** partnership is setting some great roots as leaders are committed and additional help is on its way. We challenged some of the kids to be a blessing to some lonely residents of a convalescent home this Christmas and we saw a positive influence flowing to both sides. We continue



to meet in the *crypt* (above) though we were supposed to move out as of Nov 28 because of an art gallery taking our space...praise God for a bad economy! I cut the umbilical cord with the **original**

Bible study group created over 5 yrs ago so that they may continue on their own, which they are doing. This freed me to start another similar study with beginners which meet the same time and day as the other. **The night before Christmas** we attended a



midnight mass at the parish of some of the families in our couples' study. I was encouraged by the homily which was very **Christ centered** rivaling a good sermon from the best evangelical pastors. The priest was stressing the importance of a **personal relationship**

with Christ, one that generates peace and joy; one that keeps us coming back to Him for more.... Even the standardized prayers offered by the congregation that night were refreshing:

We are here to celebrate the birth of Christ who came to give light to our world still immersed in

darkness. We pray so that every man may receive His light, which is the source of joy and hope.....May the church be a reflection of the gospel....May the believers in Christ give a concrete and genuine testimony of their faith to those who are searching for the light.

PREGHIERA DEI FEDELI

si può adattare
C - Siamo qui, fratelli e sorelle, per celebrare la nascita di Cristo. Egli viene per illuminare il nostro mondo ancora immerso nelle tenebre. Lo preghiamo perché tutti gli uomini accolgano la sua luce, che è fonte di gioia e di speranza.

Letto - Preghiamo insieme e diciamo:

Assemblea - **Salvaci, o Signore.**

1. Per la Chiesa: perché sia il riflesso del Vangelo, che ha la missione di annunciare Cristo ai popoli ancora immersi nelle tenebre, preghiamo.

2. Per i credenti in Cristo: perché diano valida e concreta testimonianza della loro fede a quanti cercano la vera luce, preghiamo.

Chronicles:

Last week one of our men from the Thursday Study (now an avid reader of the Word, though he considers himself an agnostic since he has yet to come to faith) made the following comment during the study: *"If we **fully grasp** how big and awesome is the love of God towards us, we could not, but surrender everything to Him without any hesitation"*. I wish all "unbelievers" I met would come up with such realization! Please pray that the **Holy Spirit will** reveal Himself to Alberto (not the prince), in a powerful way.

This Monday 3 new guests came to the Men's study as a result of the Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches.

From the heart:

Many of you followed us in our venture to Rome since 2004 and some have been on board with us since the beginning of this journey in 2000. Though the assignment in Rome has been very trying, both Jane and I believe and sense the Lord wants us to stay *the post* longer. A lot has been accomplished thus far, but there is more yet to be done. The knowledge we have acquired, the relationships we have deepened, the lives we have touched, the culture I came from, are all ingredients we cannot disregard. Yet, the looming financial crisis in our support threatens our stay here. Hence the dilemma: at what point am I **irreverent** to God by not having enough faith in Him as the provider- and when do I become **irrational** by not preparing for the drought? Deep inside we feel it is another heavy attack from the enemy who wants us out of the battle. Nevertheless, I feel I am **prostituting** myself by considering business ventures in order to fill the imminent financial gap. My sense is that the mission field, in the way we conventionally envision it, will dramatically change in the next 5 to 10 years. We will see more tent makers as well as *nationalization* of ministries led by laymen. However my two recent attempts in dealing with business ventures came **strangely** to a halt. I hear Him saying "Am I not enough for you, have I not called you? Have I not provided thus far? TRUST ME" Thus I feel ashamed for my lack of faith in His provision. I am sure some of you can identify in what I am saying; though not in our exact position (supported by donations of believers), you do lack an unshakable faith that

prevents you from looking to the right or to the left to prepare for something that has not even occurred yet. When He calls us to a specific task He also wants us to stay **fully engaged and focused** no matter the occurrences around us (remember Peter's walk on water). I trust this is a new level He calls some of us believer to live in and not just talk about... Each time I feel I have learned this lesson (see the latest provision for Isabella's school fees), He allows something else to happen to show me how weak my faith still is! We desire to challenge the nationals we are impacting in supporting our ministry, but find ourselves in Paul's shoes with the Corinthian church and thus function solely because of your generosity from overseas. Please pray (and **we mean this** especially for those of you that are gifted in this area) for a miracle. We do not want to succumb to the of lack of funds, but it seems a monumental task to raise an additional \$80K/yr needed to go forward with the programs and living expenses.

Jane's corner:

My Italian ladies' study enjoyed a



newcomer, Elena, who was moved by the premature death (39 yrs old) of a common friend who leaves behind 2 young daughters. Francesca came to some of our studies years ago, but always rejected our Savior. This is tragic and what we hope would never happen. On a positive note, the cheer coaching is going great as I'm bonding with 12 HS girls plus the girls' basketball team at the American school, bringing them to Young Life etc. It's a mix of Italians and intl. kids.

Please pray for the following:

- Discerning new potential leaders within the couples' group though still young;
- Salvation for Alberto in the Th study, the 3 new men in the Monday's study and Elena.

We love you all. *Peppo and Jane*

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