

## **Peppo and Jane Biscarini ....** *serviNG* **in ROMA**

*Your grace is sufficient for me...or is it?...*

Last time

we corresponded, you were sent a one page report produced by GEM which described the conversion of Marisa. Other things happened during that period which were not listed:

1. GEM's president Henry Deneen asked me in April if I would accept the position of field director for Italy. Once I was assured that the administrative tasks would not limit my normal duties, I accepted.



**Sharing a meal with Henry Deneen**

2. Today we have three couples and two single gals constituting GEM Italia. In the next 6 months we will have three more couples coming long term and potentially another single gal, thus doubling the team's size. Please pray that the Lord will provide the *right* candidates to the field and not those who call themselves to a particular country nor those who end up in this "business" by default. There are nine people that are currently applying for further evaluation and I need Godly wisdom in discerning who would fit with the needs of the country and synergy with the current team.
3. In late April I traveled to Baku, Azerbaijan to explore the opportunity of BAM (Business As Mission), which GEM wants to exploit in the years ahead with prevalently Muslims countries. It was a good experience to see how this booming petroleum economy is so backwards when it comes

to infrastructures and "common sense" economy. I thought Italy was very corrupt at its government vertex until I discovered the intricacies that make this country work... We now have two interns in the country that are gathering additional information and furthering the relationship we have already established. In late summer I will be in Dubai for a similar exploratory trip. As a result, I am in the process of assembling a high profile task force that will interface with influencers in these countries and act as consultant on specific projects we will identify.

4. Also in April we had our first GEM Italia retreat in Sorrento...it was a time of reflection, organization and bonding, something really needed for a team that has not enjoyed leadership and bonding time in quite a while...



**R&R with the Italian group**

**FROM THE HEART:** Another season came to an end and I feel a bit drained and in need to vent as some of you have grown accustomed to. In the past three months I have increased my workout practices to 22-25 km/wk, this in anticipation of the National Master swimming championship which takes place at the end of July in Sicily. As my shoulder got progressively worse I was stubborn (stupid) enough to endure the pain and continue the workouts, increasing the leg work (not ideal since I developed a tendonitis in my rotula after surgery). This made me ponder... What is the motivation

behind enduring this nonsense?" A quote from a lousy movie (Rocky Balboa) came to mind. The aged boxer shared with his brother-in-law why he was considering getting back in the ring at his old age...: "I have some unfinished business in my basement"-*pointing to his belly*. When will we learn to put aside our own **unfinished business** especially for those of us that have a competitive spirit or some of us who are gleaning praise, appreciation, recognition with some of the task we indulge in? I realize I am a far cry from Paul's affirmation: "in my weaknesses You are strong". Instead of accepting those challenges/infirmities that hinder the activities I am devoted to (after seeing that the Lord is not removing them for a reason), I continue to fight a losing battle to hang on a little while longer to that fleeing moment that should be part of the past, but I do not want to let go of... This is the only somewhat logical explanation I can come up with to justify what appears to be an irrational behavior. Bottom line...His grace **is not** sufficient to me!! I do not think I am the only one out there who needs to understand and claim this profound truth. I am so quick to judge those ladies that have pulled, tucked, lifted, filled at an advanced aged, yet I am similarly guilty in trying to hold on to something at a costly price (my health) instead of letting Him fill those areas that men's praises once filled. May we all learn to **bask** in the presence of His grace and be filled to overflow in such a way that the praises of men will have minimal to no effect on our psyche.... (true transformation vs. conformity -Rom 12)



**Discussing teen's outreach with the principal of Isabella's school**

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We are still planning to start (Lord willing) an outreach ministry to the youth in the Fall. The adult team is assembled and it will be strengthened by the new missionaries' arrivals at year end. I am also trying to "move" the heart of the principal at Isabella's school (HS has 450+ students) in order to gain access to the campus and have a spiritual influence on the kids. So far his response has been: "Academia first, then if a student expresses an interest in spiritual things we may or may not address those issues...."this is supposed to be a Christian school...



**A rope course adventure...something very new for the youth in Roma**

### Prayer request:

- A summer of rejuvenation for all of us as we seek fresh guidance from the Lord.
- Discernment in receiving the new missionaries that have been designated to come to Italy.
- Open doors in the school project we would like to undertake (this would be the first ever Biblically based school in Italy).
- Jane's preparation for next season's women study.
- Growth of the leaders in the different Bible study groups (Steve, Fabrizio, Paola and Maria Aurora).

We love and miss you.

*Peppo and Jane*

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