

Peppo and Jane Biscarini serving in Italy

“WHY DO YOU CALL ME LORD AND DO NOT DO WHAT I SAY?” LK 6:46

Some of you have used a story I recently shared in a message at my home church in San Diego; I wanted to pass it on for the sake of those who have not heard it and yet could make use of it.

Back in 1989 a dear friend of mine, Gary Antonick, asked me to swim the English Channel with him. My answer was: “I turned it down 13 years ago after my world record in marathon swimming, I am definitely not going to do it now!” Well Gary, an All American swimmer himself, decided to go for it. He trained rigorously in the cold waters of lake Ontario Canada to endure the treacherous currents of the Channel, which can drop to 45-46 degrees. In the process he gained 60 lbs to create needed insulation in his sub-cutaneous layers (no wetsuits allowed for record purposes). Gary also spent time searching for the best boatman that could take him across in World Record time. After a few months and trips overseas he found the right man that had a few records under his lead. Finally the day came, he called excitedly letting me know that the conditions were perfect. He left in the early hours of the morning and all he could use as reference in the dark was the light and the noise of the engine of the boatman leading him at his side. Soon came the sunrise and Gary could easily distinguish the boat and the person he trusted in the dark. Still he did not have any other reference as the depths were too great and land was out of sight. Thus he followed the

boatman stroke after stroke. After six hours at a grueling pace, which placed him almost 30 minutes ahead of the world record, Gary saw the seashore of Calais. His conquest was within reach, his race almost over. Now he could rely on sight and chose to head towards the closest point to shore to end the journey. In the process, Gary ignored the urging of the boatman to follow him, and though the boat cut Gary’s strokes a few times, he persisted in his path now that he could see. However, there was something he could not see which victimized him in a short while.....*currents*. In his haste to reach land, Gary decided to ignore the warnings of the one that knew best and decided to rely on his instincts and limited

sight to accomplish his feat. Well, as you may have guessed, he battled the tide and finally landed 80 minutes after the 7:17 World record time. Gary will always stare at a list of performances that does not have his name at the top, because when it mattered most he did not follow the advice of the one that he committed to trust after months of re-search! (the last picture shows his face in agony partially because of the exhaustion, but mostly because of the realization that he failed to trust.



GREASING UP.....



THE BOATMAN, THE EFFORT, THE PAIN AND AGONY..... OF A PRIDEFUL MOMENT....



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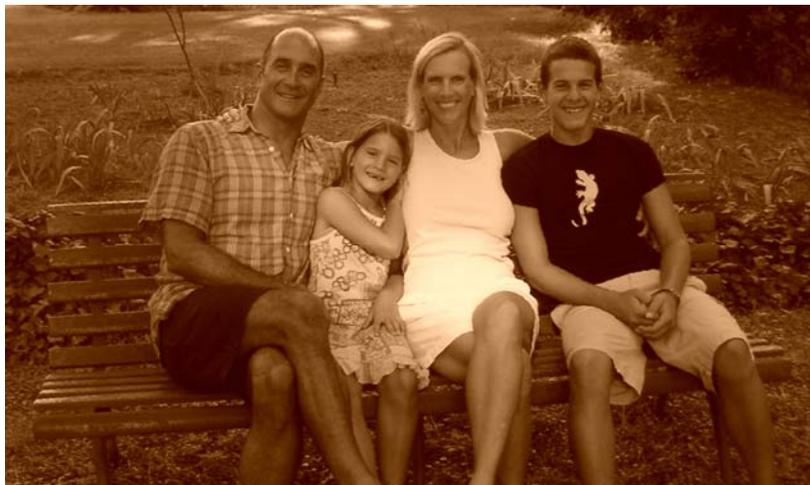
Why am I sharing this story? Because this is not just Gary's this is our **own story**. We profess to trust and believe in the leading of our Lord, yet often we opt to follow our own in-

instincts especially when we think we know what lies ahead. How well do we follow our Boatman? It is much easier to follow when we have nowhere else to go or when we are stumbling in the dark. I too fall in this trap as soon as I feel self-reliance...how foolish of me (John 15:5). God's power is unleashed through the obedience of His commands not merely their acknowledgement.

U.S. VISIT: My two week visit to the States was a blessing and thanks to the couple that hosted me in a wonderful home. I wish I could have taken the family, but the prohibitive travel costs and the danger to expose Marco to a strong temptation (he misses the USA) made us vote against it. Thanks also to a dear friend who paid for the trip to San Diego and invited me to perform his wedding (my first). The Lord was gracious in orchestrating the ceremony, as many people were touched by the message. This was the desire of the couple who knew this occasion was the closest to "church" some of the guests would ever come. We knew of at least one who receive Christ as Savior; praise God!

The following Sunday our former pastor invited me to preach for him (a daunting task for his church of over 2500). It was such a blessing to catch up with many of youboy do we miss you! You have no idea how spoiled you are with the many activities: Bible studies, fellowships, prayer groups, Biblically based schools, etc. You could pick the "flavor of the month" if you wish to do so. Here is vanilla or... vanilla. We long for these things here and Lord willing the core group He started will continue to grow deeper in the faith and more intimate in the relationship with one another. The Palm Beach

THE LITTLE ONES ...NOT SO LITTLE ANYMORE!



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stop was icing on the cake. Hosted by one of our dearest friend and surrounded by the flock we had the pleasure to lead for 2.5 years. I even had the chance to get in the water for some hunting with a dear brother and aggravate the injury on my leg (remember Swan Lake?).



TY AND JULIE HAJJAR'S WEDDINGALMOST LIKE A SOCCER MATCH WITH 10 ON EACH SIDE!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Marco will be transitioning to a new school in a few days; thus we ask for prayers for his adjustment in the new environment. Jane is back in full time language school and our Bible Study group will resume as soon as everyone is in from summer vacations. Also pray for our first dinner outreach; we are considering three potential speakers and need to secure dates, locations,

finalize the guest list etc.

Thanks again for keeping us going with your prayers (an absolute), messages (so vital), and finances (a life-line). We love you.

Peppo & Jane

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