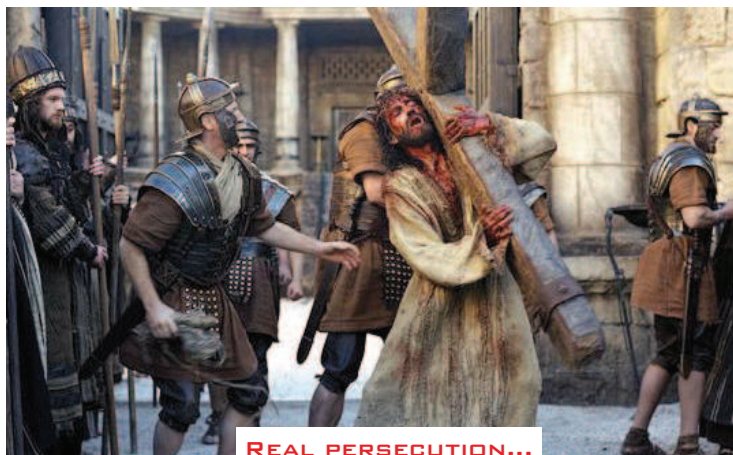


Peppo and Jane Biscarini serving in Italy

PERSECUTED LATELY?

I picked this topic because lately we sense the first wave of prejudice hitting us. How often do we ponder on this question? Some of us may feel persecuted, but that may be as a result of our own stupidity, ineptness or impulsivity. Others of us may truly be looked down upon or emarginated in some ways because of what we stand for. It is hard to believe that our Lord, the miracle worker, the healer who poured out love, peace, joy wherever He went, could actually be a victim of persecution; it does not make sense, but it happened and it still does today.

Our Lord made it clear in John 15:20 that we ought to expect it as we become obedient to the calling: "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..." The apostle Paul was not helping either when he stated in 2 Tim 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." However, he left us an encouraging note in verse 11 "what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!" No partial deliverance nor abandonment and neglect, but full deliverance. Boy, I love and envy this kind of faith and commitment. Could I speak that way



after my first whipping or stoning???

I do not intend to make anyone feel guilty because he might be enjoying the crest of the wave and nothing is crippling his ride. If the Lord is currently blessing you in that manner -wonderful-, but if you have grown apathetic in your faith, than it might be time to reconsider which wave you are currently riding.

Some voices are labeling us as sectarian/cultic, but these are comments generated out of ignorance (these people never attended one of our Bible studies). Two weeks ago one of our "original 7" was at a gathering at the Costa Rica Ambassador's house and overheard a guest talking to a Cardinal in regards to our study: "What could I ever learn from a protestant?". The Cardinal responded: "if it is a Bible Study, then try it". She came and was moved to come back for more. Another agnostic couple came once then decided to watch from a distance (just getting reports without showing up); yesterday they called to see if we would please take them back...(praise God, for His Word transforms lives!). Other voices are floating in the small aristocratic Roman circles; some approving of our work, some condemning us since we are not an officially recognized Catholic organization, nor do we operate under the auspices of the Vatican. That is our "modern



MY PETER (ENNIO, CENTER) AND MY JOHN (FABRIZIO-LEFT)

days" persecution. I have to say I am proud of the little flock who is still attending the study amidst the comments that could lead to their "social suicide". They are also doing a wonderful job at recruiting their friends (which is the principle of personal evangelism which we are trying to teach them). Thus, please keep praying for the "safe" and uncontaminated growth of the group (both in number and in deepening of faith). In time if more deliberate persecution should arise we will want these new saints to stay firm as their Roman ancestors did 1900 years ago.

LATEST HAPPENINGS:

- Praise God one of our current problems is venue. The group is expanding and we are looking for a convenient location where we could meet regularly (vs. changing homes weekly) and accommodate the 15 to 17 that are now coming. Last week we met at the Foreign Affairs Club and we are now preparing a petition to request regular meetings there.
- Last Sunday we became members of a local Church (one that does not subscribe to liberal theology and is one of the very few Bible preaching/teaching Churches in Italy).
- Two Fridays ago we opened our home to launch a weekly Bible study for couples from the church and neighbors (non believers).
- This month we will celebrate 2 Thanksgivings as a form of outreach to the parents at Marco's school and the neighbors.



JANE'S CORNER:

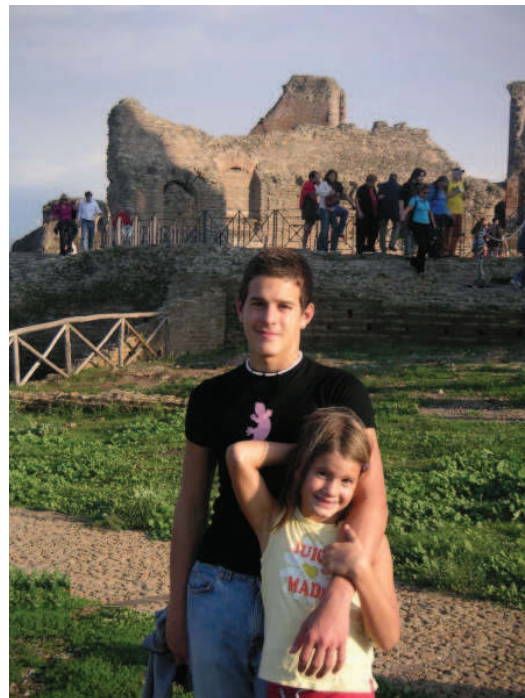
On October 13, Isabella (brown top) turned 8. One of her gifts.... was a whooping cough which afflicted her for nearly forty days! She had fun dressing up the guests, including mom!!!

I COULD ACTUALLY FIT IN MY HIGH SCHOOL CHEER-LEADING UNIFORM !

Peppo has been doing a great job in teaching the Bible studies and the group has embraced him as their shepherd; it baffles me to see how they respect him though he is quite many years their junior (definitely a work of the Lord). I am taking some

THE OLD MIXES WITH THE NEW!

Roman art history lessons in Italian to sharpen the conversational skills. Thanks for the prayers for Marco; he is coming around by accepting the cultural changes (less argumentative) and making new friends.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray:

- That the Bible Study group will be accepted at the Foreign Affairs Club as an ongoing activity.
- That the core group, especially Paola, Fabrizio and Ennio will grow into leadership roles.
- Pray for the outreach dinner with (United Nations US Ambassador) Tony Hall which, Lord willing, will happen the 2nd week of February.
- That the new couples' group will grow, find strength, nourishment, wisdom and love as we study His Word together.
- We mentioned via email that our budget will be burdened with new expenses as we prepare for the outreach dinner, purchase new Bibles and learning materials (thankfully a dear sister has underwritten the cost of the dinner event). Thus, I exhort those of you who have been looking for an opportunity to get involved in Italynow is the time! Use the enclosed envelopes and write our name or account # 4410. Carpe diem!

We love you

Peppo and Jane

Peppo & Jane Biscarini

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