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Peppo's Banquet *God works wonders among executive elite in Italy.*



God's presence was felt as more than 150 guests heard a moving Gospel presentation. For most, this was their first opportunity to hear about Jesus in a culturally relevant way.

that he had envisioned long ago.

Several years earlier, Peppo left his business in Italy to follow his yearning to share the Gospel with Italian influencers. Wealthy businessmen who travel in circles that have very limited access to firsthand knowledge of who Jesus really is. The people Jesus spoke about when He said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:25).

Now the banquet hall was reserved, and a high-profile speaker agreed to share his testimony and present the Gospel. However, invitations were not arriving through the mail, and a week before the dinner the phone line for the RSVP went dead. Then the event benefactor became ill and could not attend.

For All-American swimmer and world record-holder Peppo Biscarini, now serving with GEM Italy, things were not looking good. Peppo knows, from his training days and venture capitalist career, about the persistence and preparation necessary to pull off a world-class event such as the grand banquet

Two hours before the banquet, the computer program with the seating assignments crashed.

At the darkest, most desperate hour, God showed up. So did more than 150 guests, mostly Roman nobility and high-profile businesspeople. They responded enthusiastically to a sincere and gripping message. Forty people opened their hearts to Christ; another 19 wanted to know more about a personal relationship with Jesus; and 13 asked for a Bible study. Peppo's vision was not in vain. God revealed His glory after all.

An Italian pastor commented, "I have never seen anything like this in Italy, and what makes it more exciting is the target you have reached in such a short time."

Currently, more than 30 people attend Bible studies led by Peppo and his wife Jane. One of the studies includes a former mayor of Rome. Another participant, a nuclear scientist, remarked, "Peppo, thank you so much for what you are giving. I am finally understanding Jesus and taking Him into my life more and more each day."

For Peppo, this is like water in the desert. "It is a real desert here," he says, "but God has a fascination with water—and so do I."



Peppo and Jane (left) greet arriving guests. God honored the desire of their hearts, and response to the evening exceeded their wildest hopes.