

A message from the Biscarini's:

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb." *Luke 24:2*

Christ did not need to roll the stone to get out, but for His own to get in and see that He was gone!

Latest:

This past quarter has been very hectic. I do thank my Father for His mighty protection over me. For the past 2.5 years I have been feeling a strange light pressure on my chest. I have done cat scans, EKG, stress tests with scans and have been told that my heart is like the one of a 20 yrs old athlete... don't worry... Finally one cardiologist, after seen my



persistence,
decided to do an
angiogram and
discovered that
one of the 3 main
coronary arteries
was 90% shut
and told me a
major heart
attack was
around the
corner. "Thank
you Lord for
letting me see

around that corner ahead of time". So an angioplasty and a stent later- I am good to go!!



At year end we challenged some of our 20somethings to get involved in **making a difference with their lives** starting with

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cleaning up some areas of

town. So in



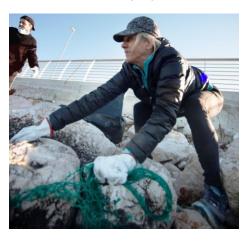
February we organized our first clean up: we had 15 people (6 Americans and other people from our fellowship). This effort made the local paper and social media started to rock. At the second



cleanup 44 people showed up and the FB page got **81,000 hits!**The 3rd project saw 82 of us involved and the last one, while I was in the hospital, had 132 people. I am listing the numbers only to show the progression and outline the fact that **people want to see**

change and be part of it. The 3 lead people involved,
Marco, Stefano and
Emiliana (we brought her to the States 5 years ago), are atheist...well,
were atheist. Now

they define



themselves **agnostics** and asked to come to our Sunday Gospel. Emiliana even expressed a desire to grow in "spiritual knowledge", thus pray for her. What I am trying to emphasize is that clean up operation will get old soon and people need a cause bigger than that to keep coming. Just like the Baptist we are trying to convey the concept of **cleaning the inside** in order to keep the outside clean. As an example, one girl after cleaning a certain area, planted 10 small plants she bought on her own. They lasted 2 days and someone snagged them leaving big holes in the dirt instead...This is the mentality we are dealing with, one of **entitlement, apathy, egocentrism at any cost** and with no



boundaries. Our positive and inspiring example has given us **exposure on** radio, newspapers, and social media; well needed coverage to clarify false misconceptions about us being a cult and a chance to tell our story... I have asked the owner of the local radio station, were we were interviewed, to find a slot to air the weekly 3-5 minutes podcasts I produce. He was very interested and is trying to work out a schedule: he also offered

to propose them to **TV Padre Pio**, a religious program that has a **worldwide audience**. Pray this too will come to fruition.

From the heart:

While in the hospital my roommate told me about an individual from Manfredonia who came to the States and had **tremendous** success in the IT world (over 100 patents and big in Cloud Computing Systems). I reached out to him and got an immediate reply. After a couple of interactions he sent me the following:

Be careful with Manfredonia... there is a big criminality there and a lot of bad people. First they love you and then they are ready to kill you in any possible way if you don't give them what they want.

90% of the people from Manfredonia is like that. That place is more dangerous than Tijuana and Kabul put together. I wouldn't trust them at all! Bad, bad people! They would deserve Trump's wall!!! There are so many better and more beautiful cities in Italy.

Manfredonia is just a nest of snakes! Be careful!

Wooooow...Obviously I am not revealing his identity, but he does

have a strong point when identifying the makeup of the people we are dealing with here. For instance during our clean ups we been encountering "resistance" from waste management companies which are run by the mafia and have strong ties with the government. Thus we need to be very cautious in our maneuvering. I do not want pride to be the glue that keeps us here. Many people have avoided this town like the plague because they know of the corruption (even in the local church), the mafia, the ignorance, the darkness. However, impossible tasks have always been attractive to me (but also feed pride) and the Lord has been teaching me more and more not to rely on the flesh. Thus we need to be sensitive to read these obstacles properly: a way of God to say move on vs. a way to defy all odds in God's power.

Jane's corner:

At the end of February we had a chance to meet with the European Young Life leadership to outline a tighter relationship in order to launch a University program here in Italy. We have been doing life with the university age kids in many different ways (trash cleanup projects, Thursday movie nights and discussion, Pilates with the girls, knitting on rainy days, 1on1), yet coffee seems to be the strongest draw. Every culture has its habits and here, though they may be hesitant to come for dinner if they don't know you, they'll always meet for coffee! Some friends, from our Bible study in Rome, came to spend Easter with us. However, talking to Isabella (who was alone) and Marco and Romana (who did not have any family either) was very hard on us. We missed our kids even more seeing all the large family gatherings here. That is one of the huge costs of being on the field which most people will never know or understand. Peppo did a 5:55 Easter Sunday sunrise service on the beach which no one here has ever done. It was a great way to ponder Mary's prospective on Christ's absence from the tomb. I'm so grateful to God for protecting Peppo from a heart attack! I know He has great plans to keep him around much longer.

love you

Peppo and Jane