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THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES, ENTRUST THESE TO FAITHFUL MEN WHO WILL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO. 2 TIM. 2:2

“God holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved” Psalm 66:9

Dear brethren, friends and prayer companions,

It's a great blessing to believe what the Word of God teaches us through faith! We could tell you about specific circumstances in which we experienced the reality spoken in this verse, but this would diminish its impact. We just see the tip of the iceberg of His complete care. The presence of God is true not just when we perceive it, such as when He does something special for us, but it is also real when we are “distracted” by our peaceful and calm circumstances. Our feet need to be firm, especially when we think we are safe. The Lord has a special care for us and we can observe it in a lot of situations, but this care is exalted when, looking back, we can rejoice that the Lord “holdeth our soul in life”. It is a great source of peace knowing that God works this way. On the other hand, God teaches us to consider His deeds, even in the specific circumstances, so we can find more reasons to praise Him. And we have a special blessing you will be able to rejoice in!

A new birth . . .

His name is **Sebastiano**. He is a man who called us just a few months ago, wanting to know more about the Bible. We couldn't believe it! He came to the church meeting and Marco started to have a Bible study with him. He came to Christ at the end of June. Obviously, he has a complicated life story . . . but **we** know Jesus is looking for sick people! He found it difficult to understand the gift of grace. First his pride was in his presumed deeds, and then he thought he couldn't be forgiven for his sins; but God convinced him and He saved him.

Another new birth... or better still — two new births!

Let us give a special place to this news. Chiara, our daughter, is pregnant and, God pleasing, we will be grandparents in February. You could imagine how mom/grandma Simona's heart is beating, waiting for the birth! She already checked to see if during that period we would be busy with the Academy . . .

The surprise is even bigger, because when Chiara went for the physical examination, the physician showed her the little child... but he wasn't alone! That's it — there will be two grandchildren at the same time — twins! Marco, her husband, was speechless for a while — and we too — but we all know that this means double blessing. It's wonderful!

The book table

We're very glad to be present with our book table in the Acireale Market. A few weeks ago, Alessandro, a young man from a near by city, stopped by and talked with Marco with the specific desire to learn more about God. He had heard the witness of the Gospel a long time ago, but he never made a serious commitment to follow Christ. This time he

seems to be convinced about it. He came to the church on Wednesday and on Sunday, and he is thinking about starting a personal Bible study.

The church

We are very busy. Simona holds a Bible study with **Francesca and Teti**; we, together, have one with **Nicolò and Palmina**. Marco has a study with **Carmelo, Sebastiano, and Massimo**. Except for Nicolò and Palmina, who still don't have a commitment for Christ, the other ones are all believers and they have had very difficult trials in their lives. They all attend church faithfully, and we trust that the continuous exposition of the Word of God will bring results in their hearts. Please pray for them. Pray also for another **Alessandro**, a believer who came here to Acireale because of his job. He needs to grow spiritually.

Marco is enjoying his studies and sermon preparation on Luke and 1 Peter. We are happy that very soon he will share this responsibility with Johnny Gravino. We are confident that Alexandra, his wife, will be an excellent support to the women's group and to the Sunday school.

The Academy

Since the last letter, five training classes were completed and we are preparing for August, when we will have three classes back-to-back. As we told you, Simona will be attending one of these courses and Marco will "try" to replace her in the kitchen! We trust that Johnny, the Academy Director, will give a new boost to the already progressing work at the academy.

Pray for Marta and Cesare. They are under crunch time for exams and in August they will need to study for September's session at the University. As I said before, children are great blessings!

One more thing, before we leave you with our prayer requests, ... we've got our new car! It was difficult to have all the documentation completed, but a few days ago we were finally able to register it. It was stored in the garage for a month! Thank you for your prayers and your gifts.



In the past someone asked us not to send them our letter anymore. At the beginning we were sad, but later we were able to reflect and know that many others — you — are still by our side for the Gospel's progress in this area. It is thanks to the mystery of God in prayer, that He continues to hold our life and soul and does not allow our foot to waver. God will give you at the appropriate time the prize you deserve for your toils. We, on our side, confirm to you our love and our great thankfulness.

Yours in Christ,

Marco and Simona



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