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Marco and Simona Albanesi

Via Santa Maria la Stella, 80 95025 ACI SANT'ANTONIO (CT)

Tel: 095 765 1131 Marco: 320 353 7406 Simona: 335 577 2222

marcoalbanesi@auroramission.org

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

We found it very interesting attending a seminar recently on the topic of “Replacing Ourselves”. Considering the size of our church and how young the ministry of the Theological Academy is, it appeared it would not be pertinent to us, or at least it could be a matter that we will have to consider only in the future.

Instead, we found great encouragement in the task that Paul assigned to Timothy, a responsibility entrusted also to us today. This command requires important steps to be taken.

The first one is to prepare faithful men. We cannot think about “replacing ourselves” when we realize our time is coming to an end, but we have to think about it while we are performing our tasks.

Therefore, to “replace ourselves” is the objective of every church planter, as well as of every Christian who has a clear understanding that the Christian race is not an individual one, but is a relay race. Our responsibility is to hand on the baton of the faith.

Dear brethren and prayer companions, we are glad that the ministry God gave to us, both in the Academy and in the church, has this very purpose.

The Academy

In February nine new students kicked off the course on Basic Expository Preaching! In a few days we will start the next class on Advanced Expository Preaching. This year, as we mentioned in our previous letter, the Academy will offer three new classes in April, June and August. In August we will be working for three weeks in a row with different classes, and it will be interesting to find out how the Center will be able to house all the students.

Pray for the logistics and management of it all, since Simona will be attending one of the courses and she will need help.

The Church

We are very encouraged because three months after our last letter, we can still ask you to pray for the same people. This means a lot! They have been exposed to the Word of God during all this time; so keep on praying for **Christian, Tatiana and Francesco; Nicolò and Palmina; Massimo and Marlenes.**

Taking the opportunity to celebrate Christmas time we organized



a special dinner and invited some friends. There were 30 unbelievers listening to the Gospel that night, and it is encouraging that some of them are still attending the church. One couple, **Francesco and Sara**, are thinking about studying the Bible with us. Pray also for **Roberto and Cettina**. She is the daughter of a believer in our church and we often spend time with them.

In July, God pleasing, Johnny and Alexandra Gravino, with their children, will move to Acireale. It will be a great blessing for us to have their collaboration. Some of you maybe already know them. Johnny completed the Master's Seminary, where for four years he was preparing for the ministry, both in the church and at the Academy. You can also pray for their move, the search for a new house and for the new life they will begin here.

The Family

We're so thankful because our son in law, Marco, is working and he has now a one-year employment contract! Chiara, after the publication of the Christian magazine "La Voce del Vangelo" ended, is working on translating books.

Marta is starting a new job. She has found out that having an employment contract, in Italy, does not mean having a regular paycheck! She's also continuing with the university studies and we thank the Lord for that.

Cesare, who is sleeping less and less, and getting his strength from the Lord, continues working – at a very demanding job - and studying in order to be prepared for a future full time ministry.

A Special Request

We really need a new car. Our Volvo is 15 years old and the last time we went to Rome we were a little concerned about our safety and journey! A brother in Christ, who is moving, offered us his car for a good price. We do not have anything set in stone yet, but the price will probably be between €10,000 and €15,000. This car, a 2003 Audi, is really a bargain and it should allow us to safely travel for many years. We have already received from a generous donor € 4,000 toward this cost! We are grateful to God and we ask you to pray for this car "fund raising".

We thank the Lord for the love you always show us. We are encouraged knowing you pray for us, because our responsibility is, first of all, to be "faithful men".

Yours in Christ,

Marco and Simona



PO Box 1549 - Bradenton, FL 34206