

Dear Friends,

"I waited patiently for the LORD: And He inclined to me and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1



June 2010

Well ... let us be honest, sometimes we do not use this patience in waiting for a response from the Lord ... "all at once" has become almost a law in our lives as if everything was due to us and not because of the goodness of God. My cry ... It is not always of supplication, but sometimes I would say of irritation, refusing to accept the reality, and other times of demand.

That said, what can I deserve from God? Not a thing ... what a despair! But ... Here is the wonder: that God in His glory and greatness and power, has a look full of love for me, and how does He prove it? He bows over me, like a Father full of love, understanding and patience towards his little disobedient child, who is nonetheless grateful for His prompt intervention.

This life is not easy for those who want to follow and serve the Lord, but we cannot forget the support that God gives us in every circumstance. What can we say about the desperation of those who are not believers? There is no peace in their hearts because they have no Christ!

We must pause a moment and remember that our relationship with God is the fulcrum of our lives and the rest is important, yes, but only works on the basis of this relationship.

Dear friends,

This letter comes to you not only as letter of information but also for mutual encouragement in our personal time with God in order to better work in the service in which the Lord has placed us. This is a time when as missionaries we are often put to the test here in Acireale. I think when the fruits of a ministry are starting to show, the attacks become more severe. We want to linger, however, not on the rubble, but on the walls that are raised to the glory of God!

THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY –The work taking place at the Academy is constantly growing. The courses are well attended and the results are encouraging. To know the Word of God more deeply is the lifeblood of our lives. Unfortunately today in the churches we realize there is a certain devastating superficiality. Professing "believers" are filling the halls convinced that just a regular presence at meetings is enough to be right with God, but there is no evidence of a change in their lives. Of course, attending the Academy not save people's hearts either, but is certainly a good starting point for sound reflection.

We are very busy with various projects, but this is something we like. One of our favorite things is the privilege we have to spend time with so many believers who come from different parts of Italy. Now we begin the most intense period of work with regard both to assignments to be completed at the center and courses of study.

CHURCH - The church of Acireale is a beautiful family that the Lord has given us! We are now four missionary couples and the relationship between us and other members of the church continues to grow. Even here, work and service are not lacking. Every week we are studying with a couple that we have been reaching out to for a year now. It does not seem at time to see great results, or perhaps even smaller ones, and this is daunting, but in return the Lord continues to put in our path people eager to learn and grow.

Through the church we organize various evangelistic activities: dinners, English classes, football games and other events that are quite popular. For Easter, we had a gathering of 50 people, and over 20 were non-believers. At the end

of the day, while saying goodbye, a lady told us: "I have had a very pleasant time, you all show a peace and a love among you and others that is contagious." It was a beautiful testimony!

PENNISI – Between primary school and kindergarten, we have made many acquaintances! Peppe is also quite busy as a representative for three groups in Sarah's school. This has made it possible, besides being more deeply involved with the school, to have the opportunity to propose activities. The first objective achieved was to offer free English courses that are held one afternoon a week at the school. There are 30 children enrolled, and much enthusiasm from teachers and parents who have also requested a course specifically for them. Obviously this is an open door to grow the confidence of many families and to obtain their availability for other upcoming evangelistic events.

Another important event happened in March. The parish priest accepted Peppe's invitation to visit the Academy during a course in Systematic Theology. It was a nice surprise to see him among us and the most surprising thing was to see him go away with a school program. He attended the class with the students and was surprised to see that everyone had their Bible and that they knew where to look for each verse. If the English course is an open door, this is a great gate opened onto a small Catholic village like Pennisi!

FORTUNA'S FAMILY - *Our family ...* What a joy to see our children grow! It is no longer the time for small stories but serious questions and moments of reflection on sin, hell and the importance of choosing Christ in their lives. They are great evangelists!

Healthwise, Sarah was not been very well lately. She was often ill and consequently she weakened a lot. We were a bit worried because it lasted about a year, so we took her to a few visits to specialists. The results: respiratory allergies and food intolerances; normal growth factors that all mixed in have caused her fragility and susceptibility to

disease. However, with the right treatment and the right devices, she is now much better! Marco is growing well and we are pretty good, also counting our ups and downs too!

It is not always easy to find the right balance between ministry and family. Time is always short for everything and sometimes you have to sacrifice something. Often the decision is to take time from the family. It is not the right choice, though sometimes it is almost forced into, but the family deserves the right priority. A harmonious family relationship is reflected in work and church.

PRAY - We have given you enough ideas to be able to remember us in your prayers.

- The Academy: Season of intense work.
- Witness in Pennisi: the priest and all the families that we met.
- The Church of Acireale.
- The health and personal needs of our family.

We thank God for all that He provides. Economically, we are fine with the routine living expenses, thanks to the help of many of you. The only difficulty we have still is dealing with the extra expenses (insurance, road tax, tire and car repairs, and medical visits). Monthly we put something aside, but we are not yet able to cover everything. Now there is the need for dental care for Vivian, Sarah (who needs braces now), and a number of specialist doctor's visits.

We embrace you, one by one ... and thank you for your affection and interest!

Until next time!

*Giuseppe and Viviana
Fortuna
with Marco & Sarah*

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The logo for Aurora Mission features the word "aurora" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by the word "mission" in a similar font. A stylized orange arc is positioned above the text, and a larger, more prominent orange arc is positioned below it, creating a sense of a rising sun or a horizon line.

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