

# Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**L**et Him down from the cross, Jesus is not dead....With these simple words my son Marco, who is barely three years old opened up an opportunity to witness about our Lord Jesus Christ, while we were at an ice cream shop that had the typical crucifix hanging on the wall. This was a great lesson for us.

*Dear Brother and Sisters,*

We thank you for the affection you continue to demonstrate toward us, encouraging us with your prayers and especially your interest in our ministry.

I have just returned from the Focus Intensive Training conference, where I had the opportunity to spend time with some of you. Surely, we are all returning home with greater knowledge and blessings, especially because we had the joy to be partakers of this time of fellowship together.

This summer too went...laboriously...but pleasantly! In June we started the new Church History course, and in August the courses were held of the New Testament Survey Biblical Counseling II. I attended all courses, while Viviana attended the Biblical Counseling one. During this last course, there was a lot of teaching about couples and the role of parenting. When you attend these courses you realize, very soon, how much you are lacking in many ways. You feel like a failure, but there is no time for discouragement because you recognize quickly the hope that is in our Lord Jesus Christ. In His Word, you find the encouragement to grow and continue to persevere.

On the practical side, we did not lack any work!! There is always so much to do here at the center in Acireale...and the summer season makes the days plenty long! Now, after a little pause from work while at Focus, we are going to start full force with the courses in November. We love the work here. Often it is difficult, especially with the little ones, to best manage the entire day. However, they are growing fast and we are noticing already the difference in our days, from last year, when they were smaller. Of course, we love to be with all our coworkers at the center; there is harmony and this helps us work better.

At Church, work is not lacking either. We are a small group, but we have visits from various contacts that come to see us. Some visit us occasionally, others more frequently. Last May we had started a Bible study with a couple we knew. They were peculiar people, but their desire to know Jesus helped us to see thru them and their idiosyncrasies. There was a difficult situation brewing among them and their respective families, and in some ways, we even found ourselves being involved in order to be able to help them. After a few months, they decided to attend a Pentecostal Church, "because there the Holy Spirit was present and it was more exciting to participate in their Church services." They told us that they would pray for us, so



The afflicted will eat and be satisfied;  
Those who seek Him will praise the Lord;  
Let your heart live forever. Psalm 22:26

that we too "could receive what was missing (the Holy Spirit!)." This ending really saddened us. We live in very difficult times. When it seems that someone is close to understanding the Gospel Truth, and to repentance and conversion, they run away looking for new emotions. In any case, we do not despair. We continue to be instruments in the hand of God and to remember always that He is the one that knows all things and is sovereign.

Recently, another study has started with Peppe and Roberto. Roberto is very young and his heart seems to be open to listen. With our neighbors, our relationships continue to improve. They esteem us and know that they can count on us. They keep telling themselves "we are all the same because we all love the Lord" and that the "differences are minor details". For various reasons, we have not yet been able to conduct regular Bible studies with them. Nevertheless, we see each other often and our conversations always end up with talking about the Lord. We truly believe they are noticing that there are substantial differences, otherwise why would they continue asking questions...even when we meet them while walking on the streets?

We also have a neighbor, Giovanni, who has serious health problems. This could be also an opportunity for us to be able to clarify spiritual truths with him. He is convinced he is already a believer.

In the family, we are kicking off with the winter routine. School started, and this gives us a new opportunity to see friends again, Sarah and Marco's schoolmates' moms. By the Lord's mercy, it is a great contact for us to speak not only to other moms, but also to the teachers. Continue to pray for them, and for us to be an effective witness. Health wise, Viviana was not very well recently, nothing serious, but long and tiresome. Now it seems that her health has improved. Please remember her in your prayers always!

Financially we have not yet reached the support needed to either be able to cover monthly expenses, or be able to cover any special expenses that occur occasionally, like the car insurance. It has expired and we have not had yet the funds available to be able to pay. Nonetheless, we are always grateful to the Lord for what He has given us and we continue to trust Him and His providence for all that we still need.

What could we say further? Continue praying for us, for our kids Sarah and Marco, for our ministry, and for all the work we are responsible for at Acireale. If anyone has in his or her heart to support us financially with a gift (even \$30, \$50 or \$75) or to support us with any amount, below you will find the Aurora Mission information.

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**aurora mission**

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