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Dearest family and friends,

We truly thank the Lord for the joy and privilege to share with you just some of the latest work that our great and awesome God is doing in our lives...

Christmas in Canada: You will recall from our last prayer letter (just prior to Christmas) that we (myself, Alexandra & Samuele) were on our way to Montreal to spend the Christmas holidays with my mother, sister, brother-in-law, and two nephews. After almost two and a half years away, the long awaited family reunion (*everyone there anxiously anticipating the sight of the newest family member; Samuele!*) was a most blessed time of catching up! Samuele even had his first ever sight of snow, lots of it!!!

During this time the Lord also provided several ministry opportunities for me. I was able to preach once and both Alexandra and I had some wonderful time of fellowship with several Canadian church leaders and their families.

Samuele Turns One: In early February, the Lord gave Alexandra and I the joy of celebrating Samuele's first birthday. A dear family from church (the Chung's) graciously offered their home as the birthday setting. Several friends from both church and seminary turned out with their own children to partake of the joyous festivities!



Shepherd's Conference: The yearly Shepherd's Conference at Grace Community Church (an incredible time of Bible teaching and fellowship) had some very, very special guests this year; *the four elders of our home church in Rome! Six men* from Italy came out to the conference, including our dear pastor, Bill Standridge and his wife, Maria Teresa, who have been ministering in Italy for close to *sixty years!* The week of the conference with such beloved brothers (*all of whom are dear spiritual fathers in the faith having watched me grow in the Lord*) is one of the most significant highlights of my seminary career. Important discussions were also held with our elders during this time that concern our future return and ministry in Italy.



Future Ministry Plans: I covet your prayers as I share with you the upcoming ministry projects the Lord has placed on my heart.

- 1) **August 07 in Sicily:** I have graciously been invited back to the **Italian Theological Academy** in south, Italy, to assist in the translation of the second half of the Old Testament Studies course taught by Dr. Grisanti, of the Master's Seminary. The first half of the course was taught last summer and I assisted in the translation during that time. *I am required to cover my own costs for this trip; namely the airfare (approx. \$1000.00).*
- 2) **October 07 in Chianciano:** You may recall my participation last fall at the Focus Conference (a large conference for Italian church leaders) held in Chianciano, Italy. I have also been invited back for this year's conference in October in the same location. Of profound impact on the Italian Evangelical scene, this year's conference will include the presentation of the **MacArthur Study Bible** in the Italian language! *I am also in this regard required to provide for my own costs for the trip; namely the airfare (approx. \$800.00).*

Concluding, on behalf of the Gravino family, I wish to personally thank you for your continued prayers and faithful support. I also ask you to please be in prayer for our personal support. We are asking the Lord for faithful partners whose hearts are burdened for the Gospel in Italy and for the desire to see Italian pastors and elders properly trained in order to accurately preach God's truth. The Lord is through my current seminary studies continually confirming and developing the already deep passion in my heart to preach and teach His glorious truth in Italy and train faithful men to do the same.

Serving Him,

Johnny & Alexandra
and Samuele

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