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Dearest family and friends,

We write to you with much joy concerning the abundant ministry the Lord has allowed us to experience over the course of this past summer 2007. We also write to update you on recent decisions and ministry plans for the future based on this past summer's experience. Finally, we write with additional news concerning our own family!

Summer 2007: I had the wonderful privilege this summer of serving at the Italian Theological Academy in Sicily during the first week of August. Some of you may recall my participation there last year in the role of translator for an Old Testament survey course taught by Dr. M. Grisanti from the Master's Seminary in Los Angeles, California. This summer Dr. Grisanti taught the second half of the survey course at the Academy in Sicily. I had the role of translator once again. The experience was profound! It was an exceptional week of intense learning from the Word of God, a time of great fellowship with the students (themselves both excited and very thankful for the knowledge received), and it was simply incredible to witness the depth of seminary level instruction impacting current Italian church leaders, their spouses, and other committed members of the Italian church. I also was given the great opportunity to preach at the Academy for the students!



Highlight: One of the week's highlights happened on the midweek Wednesday night worship service at the local church in Acireale, Sicily, a short distance from the Academy. The church is currently composed of a few faithful families committed to be a light for the Lord in the midst of a population still very bound to the idolatry of Mary worship, perhaps of a worse kind than that evidenced in Rome. The entire class went to church and it was my privilege to preach during the service. An additional highlight was having my wife, Alexandra, join me this time for the week of ministry.

Future Direction: Some of you have been receiving our news for some time now and have been following our progress, praying along with us, and supporting us whenever the opportunity arose. We thank you tremendously for your prayers and help. We firmly believe that the Lord has, in His sovereignty, used the fruit of your labors to sustain and direct our paths and provide the ministry opportunities He has allowed us to experience. **After seminary...** Alexandra and I have for some time been praying about our future involvement with the Italian Theological Academy. This trip confirmed our prayers and desires and has added a concrete vision to what our future ministry will look like once seminary is completed. I will continue my translation work as well as eventually transition into a full-time instructor at the Academy and assist with the future academic

curriculum. I will also have a role in the local church in Acireale. The most significant seal to our future in Sicily came when the elders from our home church in Rome confirmed their approval of our full-time involvement with the Academy upon our return to Italy. This, of course, with the exception that our first year upon our return to Italy (2009) after seminary be spent serving in whatever capacity they see fit at our church in Rome before being sent out by the church at the close of the year to Sicily. We rejoice praising God for His direction. **Help...** As we come to our final year of study and before our future ministry objective, we ask for your continued prayers. This year will be one spent, along with studying to complete seminary, seeking the Lord's wisdom and continued guidance in our search for financial support prayer partners now willing to financially assist us regularly to serve the Lord full-time at the Italian Theological Academy.

We also ask that you pray for our monthly financial needs. We are coming to the end of a certain amount of savings that the Lord allowed us to live off during these past three years of seminary. With one final year of seminary left we are once again trusting in the Lord to provide for our most significant financial needs which right now average about \$ 1000.00 a month.

Family News: We have the joy of announcing to all of you the arrival of a new family member!!! Alexandra is now five months pregnant and we are rejoicing in another of God's wonderful blessings. The baby is due at the end of January. Although we may have some guesses... we don't know who he or she is ... but wait with anticipation the surprise!!! Samuel will perhaps be the most surprised (not fully understanding at this time what is about to come!)

FOCUS Conference 2007 I also want to remind you of my participation at the annual FOCUS conference that took place at the beginning of October in Chianciano, Italy. The MacArthur Italian Study Bible was the highlight of the conference as this significant theological work will now be available for Italian believers. The speakers this year were John MacArthur, Dr. Steve Lawson, Dr. Lance Quinn and Bill Standridge. Please pray for aftermath of the conference and the Italian pastors who attended. The generous gift received from one of our prayer partners allowed me to purchase the flight ticket.

We finally want to thank you once again for your faithful support and continued commitment to our ministry and most of all to seeing God's glory and purposes come to pass among the country and people of Italy.

Yours in Christ,

*Johnny & Alexandra
with Samuele*

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