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The STANDRIDGES



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A New Page . . .

Dear Friends,

In our last letter we shared strong reasons to pray hard and ask God the meaning of events and developments in our work in Bolzano. Several of you called us for more details. We were excited to be able to hear your loving voices and give you a "live" report.

As we shared these developments with the elders from our sending church in Rome, Aurora Mission, and many of you, our concerns kept growing. The men God has appointed as leaders in our lives have all come to the agreement that it is best for us to move on to a new assignment and place of service. The wonderful news is that the Bible study group we started in Bolzano is continuing strong. One of the elders of the German speaking church is now

doing the teaching. One of the unsaved men attending called me recently, still excited and happy to know more about God's Word. We strongly believe God's work will continue. Those precious lives we had the privilege of seeing start their walk into God's light back in October of 2007, are in His hands. We know we have had the privilege of being a part of God's plan. We praise Him for this!

Nevertheless, it's time for us now to turn a new page. The elders of our sending church as well as our Mission have pointed us in the direction of the city of Rome. My home church in Rome has been praying for years for a new facility. The need for more space and the desire to impact a new section of this immense city have been a great burden for years. This is great potential to break new grounds for the advancement of the Gospel in a city of about six million people.

Another ministry of this church has been an outreach to the city of L'Aquila. Recently, as many of you heard, about 50% of all homes have been evacuated because of damage from a massive earthquake. All of this is only one hour away from Rome! We know many people from this area. We recently visited and encouraged the believers there with God's Word. Great opportunities lie ahead in helping to share the Gospel with the thousands who are now having to consider the true meaning of life. Being in Rome would allow us to be very involved in taking on this massive outreach opportunity. So, beloved prayer and support team, we are not out of work yet!

We apologize for the long wait for news on your part. The great fog that has characterized our lives and plans is finally opening up, and the road is now wide open for new exciting opportunities in the city the apostle Paul so much cared for, prayed for and longed to reach with the saving news of the Gospel.

We know we cannot do all this without God's leading and without you. From Bolzano to Rome our goal remains the same: helping Italians reach their country for Christ. Our hope and prayer is that you will continue to see God's will done in and through us, confirming your desire to see disciples made in Italy.

We will continue to keep you informed. We promise we will not make you wait so long for our next letter! Thank you again for your essential partnership in our lives and ministry. Thank you!!

Lots of love from all four of us,

Elisa, Simeon, Stephanie and Steve Standridge

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