

This day is holy unto our Lord... for the joy of the Lord is thy strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)

During the restoration under Nehemiah, the walls of the city of Jerusalem were rebuilt and the people worshipped the Lord, with tears for their sins and joy for the grace of God.

CHRISTMAS 2008 was one of the best ever! All four children and all 13 grandchildren were with us, for the first time in 7 years! Not only was it a great get-together for Maria Teresa and me, but also for them, since they see each other rarely, with one family in the U.S., one in Switzerland and two in Italy.



WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS! This is the title of our evangelistic tract for 2008, which went out in the mail this week to all of our newspaper subscribers. We are trusting for many orders and a wide distribution. Last two years were 80-70,000 copies. There are so many types of scams in Italy that it was easy to find illustrations. But the scam we cited for our evangelistic message was Satan's, "You will be like God!", mankind's greatest falsehood. And God's greatest promise: Mary's son will crush Satan's head. Pray for the thousands who will receive and read this message.

"IF THE LORD IS REALLY SEARCHING FOR ME" wrote a young doctor from Northern Italy, "He will surely show me the way. I am praying for this every day and it may be that our contact is His answer." He had taken two of our correspondence courses more than 10 years ago, and never been heard from since, until his recent e-mail. Pray for Stefano.

Bill is still preaching through Ephesians on Sunday mornings He is enjoying it as much or more than those who listen, although our attendance has picked up and there is a very good spirit in the church. We have started a Bible correspondence school in our church, with more than 50 enrolled, and nine courses have been finished so far.

Maria Teresa is lined up for two ladies' retreats this spring and summer, and Bill will be speaking at a men's retreat in Luxemburg, in April. God's great provision, and the unfathomable riches of His word give us so much to preach, teach and learn. We hope that each of you is studying, meditating, learning and putting into practice His Word.

The box will explain why our support level is no longer level, and we invite you to pray for an increase of \$750 in our monthly income to help us meet constantly rising prices.

May God bless you, provide for every need, fill your hearts as we all serve and wait for His return,

Bill and Maria Teresa Standridge

Bill, please explain why your income is reduced.

OK. Here in Italy, we buy everything paying in the European money, called Euros. For instance, for a quart of milk, we pay 1 Euro and 50 cents. Where do we get our Euros? We buy them at the bank, paying with dollars. Each Euro costs us \$1.50. (A couple of years ago, they were cheaper, and one Euro cost only 85 cents.).

So, a couple of quick calculations. One quart of milk costs 1.50 Euros, and each Euro costs us \$1.50, so one gallon of milk costs us: 4 quarts x 1.50 Euros = 6 euros. Each euro costs us \$1.50, so 6 Euro x \$1.50 = one gallon of milk costs \$9.00.

Or, let's calculate the cost of a gallon of gas for the car. One liter (approx. 1 qt.) costs 2 Euro. So four liters (one gallon) would cost: 4x2 = 8 Euro. How much in dollars? (8 euro x \$1.50 for each Euro = \$12.00 for one gallon of gas). This is why missionaries living in Europe are finding that their support does not cover their expenses.

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