

Easter is a great time to remember the countless ways Jesus freed us to show His love.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Galatians 5:1a

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6b

Happy Easter!

3rd Easter in Italy

On March 28th I will begin my *third* year of living in Italy. I want to update you on the *numerous* things that I see God doing here. In the past *two* years your support and prayers have helped me adjust to Italian life, build relationships, support and encourage the local church and find areas for personal ministry. **Thank you for the countless ways in which you support the ministry work here.**

1st Generation Christians

Last month, at *one* of the weekly prayer meetings, several women were talking about discipline of young children. There was genuine confusion and concern about how to handle situations in a Godly way. Suddenly, the whole group turned to me and asked, "How did your parents deal with you?" These women have all met my parents and know that they love the Lord. They also know that I was blessed by years of nurture and instruction in a multi-generational church family. None of these women had the blessing of growing up in a Christian family or church. **In fact, ALL adult members of the Montefiascone Church are 1st generation Christians.** So, the task here is not only to win souls for Jesus, but to also build Christ-centered homes and community. I am frequently reminded (and very thankful for) childhood experiences that equipped me with the practical tools that I am now using to help believers here. This has led me to encourage the church to memorize scripture verses. For the past *two* months children and adults have been memorizing *numerous* scriptures. At last week's prayer meeting Katia remarked, "I am really enjoying learning new Bible verses and my daughter is as well!"



Katia, Dori and I enjoy prayer group with a little Valentine surprise

2nd year in local High School

I was initially very disappointed when the High School English Conversation program that I worked in last year was suspended. Now I see that God had something better planned! This school year I am helping *two* different English teachers at the local high school. *One* is the woman that I worked with last year in *one* class. This year I have been able to work in *six* of her classes. The schedule varies-- some weeks I am a guest teacher in *one* class, some weeks I am in *four* classes. I am meeting and working with many more students than I did last year. The other English teacher has invited me into her classroom on alternate Wednesdays, where I lead an English discussion in *one* of her classes. Thank you for praying for this continuing and unusual opportunity to work in the public high school. It is great to see how God used my work in *one* class last year to open *seven* classroom doors this year!



Last year we followed the Good Friday Service with tea and sweets

2nd Good Friday Service

Last year I was able to introduce a simple Good Friday Service. This was the *first* time that church members met together for worship on this significant day. Work schedules and family obligations make it very difficult to plan extra services, even on Good Friday (a regular work day). There is no paid staff; all teaching, preaching, organizing of events and even cleaning of the church is done by a rotation of volunteers. Those that participated last year felt that the service was encouraging and worth the extra effort, so we plan to have a service *again* this year.

1st Italian GEM Missionary Field retreat

Every year that I worked in Romania at least *one* team retreat was scheduled for all missionaries working in the country with Greater Europe Mission. I always enjoyed the fellowship and time to hear how God was working in everyone's ministry and praying together for God's direction for the future. The GEM workers in Italy have not held a team retreat for a *number* of years, so I volunteered to organize a retreat, following the Romanian format. GEM missionaries in Italy live fairly far apart, so we don't have a lot of regular interaction. I am hoping that our retreat will *increase* our friendships and help us develop ways to enhance and encourage each other's efforts in Italy. The retreat is scheduled for **April 11-13th**. Please pray for wisdom for me as I finalize the plans for this event. Please pray that God will help us build team unity as we work to build His kingdom.

1st Montefiascone Church retreat

June 2nd is an Italian holiday. As Italians celebrate the day, I am hoping that the Montefiascone Church members will be enjoying their *1st* church retreat! This was an idea that I shared with some of the church leaders almost *two* years ago. Please pray for me as I organize this *one-day* church retreat! God has given me success in planning many events over the years, but this is the *first one* that will be completely in the Italian language! I am in the process of developing a program for the adults and children and contacting Italians that can help facilitate the event. Church members are enthusiastic about this opportunity. Please pray that plans come together well and that church members will be able to find the time and funds necessary to attend.

Please Pray for...

2nd Good Friday Service
 1st Italian Greater Europe Mission Missionary Field retreat, **April 11-13th**
 1st Montefiascone Church retreat, **June 2nd**
 Renewal (again) of my Visa "Permesso di Soggiorno"

Praise God for...

2nd year living in Italy, celebrating my 3rd Easter in Italy
 2nd year as guest teacher in local High School
 Growing **number** of relationships that I am building with students and adults
 My Internet connection is working more reliably
 Weekly prayer group has been meeting for almost 1 year
Countless verses that children and adults are memorizing

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Amy Williams