



**A message from the Biscarini's:**

*"It was the costly sacrifice of Christ"*

**1 Peter 1:19**

**From the heart:**

Have you ever asked the Lord not to have something happen and found yourself in the midst of the situation you dreaded? I do not quite understand the logic behind it except the fact that **logic cannot be fully applied to principles of faith** and spiritual growth. Right before we left the States a month ago, I asked the Lord –specifically- to please not put us in a small apartment, in the midst of town, with kids above our heads. Well, you already guessed it. After looking at 6 apartments (no single home available) that looked very homely to put it kindly, we settled for the least of all evils. The first night we had the lady above us **pace the floor on high heels**, then the **father yelling at his small daughter**, topped off by her loud cries. Shortly after the dog **scratching the floor and moaning** in a weird way preceding the **barks of the dog** on our same floor. Dogs were an added bonus to the scenario I envisioned!

That was only night 1...Lord have mercy on us! Why have you forsaken me? By no means am I trying to compare our situation to the Lord's cry, but why in the world would He dish out the very thing I asked Him to spare us from? **Obedience** is something the Lord requires of us as a demonstration of our love and commitment towards Him. **Sacrifice that is not costly** is not sacrifice at all. This is our current cross; this is our **immediate, costly, obedience**. Are you aware of any sacrifice He is asking you to offer Him?



**Rome fellowship**

**Latest:**

What we have to give up pales with the excitement of seeing the local saints thirst for fellowship and sound teachings! We hit the ground running and gathered the next night with the Rome group. A few days later we arrived in Manfredonia at night where the faithful core group, that for the last 3 years followed me via Skype, was waiting for us for dinner (ending time



**Manfredonia "Skype" core**

11:50 pm...typical). The following eve we got together with the youth group eager to meet immediately as well. They are all excited we are back in town and look



**Some of the youth group**

forward to our direct involvement in their lives. On our first Sunday we packed 2 cars and went to a church 100 minutes away which resembles a Calvary Chapel. This to give the group a shot in the arm and to **help them visualize what we would like to create in**

**Manfredonia.** It is refreshing to our hearts to see how easy it is for us to gather with old and new friends. The large majority of the youth here is either **unemployed, a school dropout, involved in crime or prostitution.** Thus the already very precarious social fabric is quickly deteriorating. We desire to pick up the pieces and start to make a difference in the lives of those who want an alternative, who want to dream again and make a difference. We do covet your prayers for a core group of 30 people before we launch an actual church plan. We entertained the idea of **starting an American café** with internet, couches, typical American desserts, English books and Christian music playing in the background as a form of evangelism. We then heard a lot of stories of people that **are recycling mafia monies** via the bar and restaurant scene, thus making it very difficult for others to succeed. Pray we will gain wisdom in regards to this.

**Jane's corner:**

A typical scene around a truck of fresh fish to see the catch. It is great to have fresh fish again! Our neighborhood is in the center where the farmers markets take place daily and corner stores all around. Laundry hangs out on sidewalks and balconies. It feels like I've gone back in time as I watch ladies washing sidewalks and shutters outside their apartments and elderly men with their beret hats chatting-it up. I walk everywhere. We have connected with our old dear



friends and meeting new ones. Cheese man (our friend Pasquale and wife Anna) call us daily and really seem to crave friendship. They've had us over for many meals and are so available to help. We can see their balcony from ours. I love reconnecting with



**Anna and Silvana helping Jane settling in**

Concetta, Angela, Egidia, Ida Silvana, and Anna and Phoebe (our American English sister in Christ) who was here with us 4 years ago and came back here recently. She teaches English all over the world, but prefers it here. I can still speak Italian yeah, but it is tiring so it is nice to have Phoebe to talk walk and pray with. The first gathering at Silvana's was encouraging to have 4 men in the group which we've been praying for! Please pray for a committed dedicated group of 30 people to be raised in the next 2 months. Also petition for a car. Insurance costs are exorbitant here.



**Breakfast of champions? Not! Silvana's home**

*We love you all very much.  
Peppo and Jane*

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