

Peppo and Jane Biscarini serving in Italy

... "I can no longer deny His existence" Massimiliano

We just

finished another season of Bible studies, the third to be exact, in our Roman "challenge" and the two groups (vecchiotti and men) are still going strong. We recently lost 2 members, Countess Vera Tham and Giugliana. You heard us talking about Vera as she was our first female convert in Rome. Giuliana, an accomplished business woman with Italian and American citizenships came to the Lord a year and a half ago during our first retreat. Both were taken suddenly without any warnings...they will be missed. The Lord, however, provided 3 new additions with the 2 losses: Daniela, Laura and Anne.



Countess Tham now watching from above



The last banquet before summer break

This year the "direct" persecution seemed to subside though our attendees experienced first hand criticism and stood up for what they believe! Most of them replied to the accusation of cultic involvement: "have you ever attended one of the meetings? Saw any of the materials we study? Then how can you formulate any opinion or criticize without having tasted any of the things that we are doing? You should come and see; then you may make up your mind!" How about that for modern day *woman at the well* experience (come and see)....

I am somewhat surprised we lasted 3 years (3 times the average life of a missionary in Italy) in Roma.

Missing the ministry in Palm Beach, giving up Marco to school in Germany and seeing Isabella struggle in the Italian school system have been **big blows**. Yet, our Lord reminds us to pick up the cross daily, and I have to say that He has provided a "blessed environment" for us despite the challenges. As I look around at believing friends that are afflicted by sickness, separations, emotional distress, I ponder what difference do we make -or- how do we differ from those "in the world" that are afflicted by the same ailments? Do we walk in misery feeling the crushing weight of the burden on our shoulders? Do we feel empty having been devoid of the joy of the Lord? Do we lament the agony that seems to accompany our dark days? Yes, we heard about the footstep in the sand....cute, but the wounds do not get healed with fairy tales imagery; we know all the scriptures about overcoming, doing everything through His power, not being alone in the midst of the trials and so on, but how do we ACT? Do we really KNOW and trust His leading? Do we truly believe that ultimately He has the best in mind for our lives? I am afraid most of us still have a long ways to go on the "behavioral" side which is a reflection of our true creed and not just a confession of what we believe.

Currently we are guests of one of our disciples in

the beautiful island of Sardegna. I thank God every morning for the fantastic creation that seems to abound in this place. It is not by chance that I feel this way having one of the most spectacular seas in the world at 300 yards from the house! But why do I tell you this. Well, it is fine for me to get up at 4:50 in the morning so that I can be in the water spearfishing before sun up; I can do this day after day, but what about emulating my Lord in prayer at the same early hours of the morning...? Nope. I resort to a quick Bible reading of 10/15 minutes before I leave the house and off I am to 5 hours of hunting. Am I the only one that seems to go on vacation from the Lord when I am on holidays? Now most of you will drop support seeing that I am still stuck on fishing fish instead of men while on vacation....! I just wanted to make a point with what I was describing earlier. How much are we in love with the One that gave everything for us? 15 minutes versus 5 hours of personal pleasure? Do not want to be legalistic, just confessing my shortcomings here and spurring myself and those of you that relate, to "invest" our time wisely where the returns will be best maximized!



making friends in... foreign camps... for the

first time in my life....it was awesome and I can no longer deny His existence" (he prayed to receive Christ during a meeting I delegated to one of my leaders). While here in Sardegna the men's group

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met twice without me and had a rich time. This too makes me rejoice as we are trying to multiply and not monopolize any gatherings.

We are now off to Hungary for our yearly GEM conference meeting. There will be new changes as a new president for the organization will be introduced. Like me, Henry Deneen comes from a business background and has a more global view on how ministry should be run with a cooperation among different organizations. It should be an interesting and refreshing time as we are starved from good sound fellowship with mature Christian brothers and sisters.

A "milanese" casualty of the Roman legion....



Prayer requests

? Continue to pray for complete healing of Peppo's knees as tendonitis complicated the recovery and he is still limping

? Pray that I sabella's school year would be a more pleasant one and not a very stressful experience like this year's.

We love you! **Peppo & Jane**

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