

**Peppo & Jane Biscarini**

**"Bring on whatever you will!"** -Polycarp 156 A.D.-

**UPDATE:**

Our apologies for a long overdue correspondence, especially to those who are not connected with us electronically (please send us your e-mail address). A lot has occurred since our last newsletter: two trips to Italy to identify contacts, churches and locations to start the ministry; theological classes at CSU; brainstorming sessions with the US national leadership for Executive Ministries. The Executive Ministry in Palm Beach has not only given us the best "hands on" training available, it has also blessed us as we observed the individual growth in the people we are ministering to. It always amazes us to see "seeds" fall on good ground and produce fruits. As you know, our original plan was to return to Italy this past June, but regrettably that had to be postponed due to bureaucratic delays at Campus Crusade which were beyond our control. Thus, after much prayer and searching for God's guidance, we have decided not to go back to Italy with CCC and resigned from it. The exciting news is that as of December 1<sup>st</sup> we will be affiliated with a mission agency which focuses exclusively in Europe: Greater Europe Mission and return to Italy June '04. **GEM** is a very good "fit" for us in that we have the same goals and enthusiasm: share Christ effectively with executives, the "neglected minority." Since their inception 55 years ago, they have been highly regarded and respected among missionary organizations. We are looking forward to working with its European leadership to establish a successful ministry in Italy. Our objective remains the same: to create a movement by impacting the lives of the decision makers with the love and teaching of Christ so that in turn they will be able to transform the lives of their peers as well as those under their leadership. The Lord has been faithful since the beginning in providing -to the dollar- for our budget and trust He will continue to do so. We also encourage those of you, whom He is already prompting, to get involved in supporting us financially. Remember we are not salaried and

depend on your support. We send the Lord's blessings to those who have been faithful thus far with donations and prayers. **THANK YOU.** The address for tax deductible donations and account # are on the back. Please use the enclosed envelop and leave the purple card in it. Do not send contributions to CCC in our behalf since they will end up in a general fund and not into our account as of 12/31/03.



Jane giving a lecture to the ladies' group

***Straight talk :***

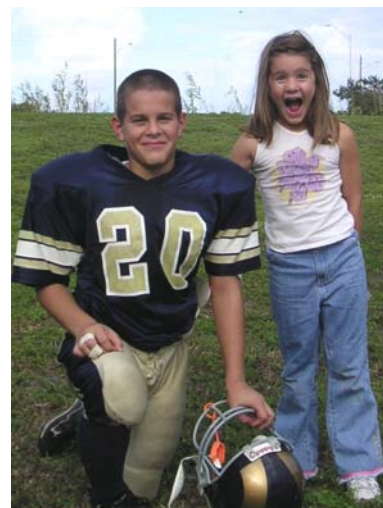
Thank you so much to those who prayed for the healing of my back. The pain has dropped significantly lately. However, there is one thing that did hurt me even more. The other day I read to Marco and Isabella the story of Peter resurrecting Dorcas (Acts 9:36). Marco was excited and prayed immediately for my healing. The next morning he still saw me in pain, and so the next day and the next. Then he asked: "Why isn't God healing you papa'? Does He care?" It is quite a challenge to explain to an 11 year old about the sovereignty of God....kids at this age are very pragmatic; they want to see tangible and immediate results. That is the kind of faith our Lord praised while interacting with children. What do you do when your

darkest hour approaches? Do you pray with anticipation or are you looking for an easy way out? How deep is your trust in Him when critical times, which reveal our true identity, seem to engulf us? Are we like the leper in Matt 7 who cried out: "Lord if you will, please heal me" or are we like the father of the demon possessed child in Mark 9 who finally recognized his inadequacies: "Lord I believe, but help my unbelief!" Allow me a **"private confession"** that trapped me over a week ago. Growing up I always told myself "Die before you quit!" I saw this tenacity displayed by my mom and dad; competitive swimming reinforced this motto even more (that is why at 15 I swam 53 miles in 24 hrs). The other day after the surgeon's assistant told me he wanted to operate on my lower back with a fusion, laminectomy and insertion of rods, I was quite shocked. To top it off she said I would have to be in a body cast for 4 months! My reaction after digesting the news was: "Lord I had a full life, done a lot of things and I am ready to come home..." After a few minutes of basking in the poor me attitude I realized: "what a wimp! I am asking for an easy way out." Not quite the James 1 response: "Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials"; nor was this the perseverance Paul was consumed by despite his physical limitation. Please do not be alarmed: I am not a quitter, my beautiful family needs me now more than ever, and I sincerely think the Lord still has a few things He wants to do with me and through me. I know some of you are enduring challenging times and this confession is addressed to you specifically. I am not writing this to belittle myself in front of everyone, but to encourage you to persevere to the end just like Luke 21:19 and Rom 5:3-5 admonish us to do (perseverance → proven character → hope). The other day as Jane drove me to the hospital for an epidural, I saw a truck with this writing on its door: "if your challenge is too big, your God is too small." What a great reminder! Yes, we can all puff-up our chests and keep the nose high (ladies please make the relevant gender adjustment for this behavior) when things go our way, but where is our strong countenance to be found when we are struck down, afflicted, perplexed (2 Cor 4:8-9)? Nowhere if we rely on self; glowing if we rely on the surpassing greatness of the power of God (verse 7). Let me illustrate it further. While preparing for one of my lectures, a few week ago, I came across some accounts of early Christian martyrs, recorded by Tertullian, which I found fascinating. "Cut by scourges until the anatomy of their bodies was visible, even to the veins and arteries, they endured everything. Even the spectators pitied and bewailed them. The noble martyrs of Christ attained such towering strength of soul that not one of them uttered a cry or groan. They proved to all of us that in the hour of their torture they were free of the body, or rather that the Lord himself stood by them and talked with them." Even Polycarp, the first Christian bishop martyred at the age of 86 in Smyrna, stood in the middle of the arena and responded this way under the proconsul pres-

ures to deny Christ: "I am a Christian, how can I blaspheme my King and Savior? If you are willing to learn what Christianity is, set a time at which you can hear me" The proconsul replied, "I have wild beasts; I shall have you thrown before them if you do not change your mind." "Let them come" he replied. The proconsul continued "If you belittle the beasts and do not change your mind, I shall have you thrown into the fire." Polycarp answered, "You threaten me with a fire that burns but for an hour and goes out after a short time, for you do not know the fire of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment for the godless. Why do you wait? Bring on whatever you will." **This is perseverance** to the end! It is recorded that many spectators viewing these atrocities came to faith while watching the execution of these Spirit filled martyrs. "Their faces were radiating a light not of this world" they exclaimed... Remember Stephen and the one who watched his death? Let us strive for the same witness.

***We Love you dearly,***

*Peppo and Jane*



A proud player with his personal cheerleader!

Peppo & Jane Biscarini  
185 Woodbridge Rd  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
(561) 802-6292  
[biscarini@msn.com](mailto:biscarini@msn.com)

**Contributions:**  
**Greater Europe Mission**  
18950 Base Camp Rd  
Monument, CO 80132  
**Acct. # 004410**