

**Peppo and Jane Biscarini** ..... serving in Italy**CARPE DIEM...OR NOT?**

We are heading towards the end of another year, a time of celebration, festivities, travel and for some, a time of reflection. *What have we accomplished this year?* A very dear friend and mentor always gathers his family at the end of the year to evaluate the goals previously established. As Jane and I look back at what was achieved this year, we are excited to say: "Thank you Lord for the fruits, acceptance, and favor you allowed us to have in this city despite the adversities". "Thank you supporters for your patience, endurance, and generosity in fueling the fire that keeps us going". Two years ago we were contemplating this city, a graveyard for missionaries, and I wondered (Jane

with the people that joined us to make this possible! Praise God for His grace in using Jane and me as conduits to ignite the lives of these dear new brothers and sisters in the faith.



**...another birthplace  
the magnificent 7....**

**which are still  
growing today...**

**Persevering:**

We have been saddened lately by bad news from some of you: separations, divorces, terminal illnesses and deaths. This made me more conscious of our fragility as human beings and spurred me to be appreciative and *thankful* for the **NOW**. How many of us are disregarding, or not fully savoring those fleeting moments that are before us; too busy chasing our tails we postpone conversations and special moments to a later date which may never arrive....**Horace** use to say *Carpe Diem*; **Luke** wrote: *And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself, but is not rich toward God."*

Where do we find the balance? Do we "conquer" today as if there was no tomorrow, or do we kick back eat, drink and be merry?



**Rome's birthplace...the Palatine hill ± 750BC**

was more optimistic) if we would become part of that grim statistic (90% of the missionaries that come here, leave within 2 years not to return). Praise God, we are beating the statistic... Just over a year ago, we started our first Bible study with the "magnificent 7"; today we are running 3 different ones with 42 to 45 people attending and are still praying for the timing to launch a new church (since we have a critical size of potential attendees). As mentioned in a previous email, at times I feel guilty sharing with you stories of new converts as if I were hunting for big game and those souls are displayed as "trophies on a wall". Having said that, if the angels rejoice in heaven for new additions to the kingdom, why not rejoice on earth

Ask a New Yorker and he will say the first; ask a Roman and he will vote for the second affirmation! I think identifying what is truly important in life (*richness toward God*) will eliminate what *we may consider urgent* that robs us of precious moments. Focusing on the eternal, with our gaze upwards, will also strengthen us during those more difficult times. I once heard that "it's not circumstances that steal our joy, but the wrong attitude in those circumstances".

**James 1** urges us to stand firm in such trials giving proof that **our faith is sound** because it is not predicated on circumstantial occurrences (it is happiness that depends on happenings). I am the first one that needs to have this reality imbedded in my core and pray the same for you.



Un commesso di oggetti sacri trasporta una statua di Padre Pio nel centro di Roma

### ***A statue of Padre Pio being transported***

#### ***Latest happenings:***

- Some of you saw this shocking statistic: In Italy 70% of the population prays to saints; 31% prays to Padre Pio (a friar that received the stigmata in 1918 and kept them to his death in 1968), Christ comes in 7<sup>th</sup> place with a meager 2%. I found some comfort last week as I traveled to Ferrara with a monsignor, a judge that served next to Cardinal Ratzinger for 15 years. We had a chance to talk for more than 6 hrs (our train ride) about different theological arguments including this

shocking statistic. I was very encouraged to find out that he agrees this statistic reveals what the institutional church is transmitting to its people! By the way the reason we are talking is because a home (a 500 yrs old 20,000 sq ft mansion) was put at his disposal for a "Christian cause". He would like to turn it into a recovering center for alcoholics, but does not have the know-how on putting it together. Since I know an evangelical Spanish businessman that has recuperated over 150,000 alcohol/drug dependants and prostitutes in over 60 countries, I put them together. One of the fundamental "musts" for the people he has rehabbed, is regular Bible study and on site work. This would be a creative way to have an evangelical influence with the Catholic church.

### ***A "curly" Marco in Kandern, Germany***



- On November 10th, we were able to visit Marco for the first time since we dropped him off to school in August. What a treat to spend the weekend together... Besides longer hair and a bit of a shrinking chest (there are no swimming pools in the area), we found him in great spirit. He has grown a lot inwardly and we are very proud of his demeanor and spiritual maturity.
- We appreciate your contribution via the enclosed envelope. Please specify Biscarini or account #4410 in order to be credited the donation.

*Con amore... Peppo and Jane*

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