



“And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.”

Mark 13:10

Dearest,

a great kiss in the Lord to all the saints.

In our 2008 ministry report we have always underlined the “**NEED**” (therefore, *not optional*) to preach the **Gospel** to all the nations.

Since the beginning of 2008 our ministry has been in taking care of the Ribera church and the small growing groups of **Sciaccia (AG), Pietraperzia (EN)**, of conducting evangelistic outreach in the Ribera and Sciaccia markets; in the meetings of my wife *Lina* with the sisters in Christ and the “Joyful Hour Classes” for children cared by our daughter *Shanizee*.



WITH THE PIETRAPERZIA (CL) GROUP

Together with the church, this year we have reached with the Gospel the neighbouring towns of **Burgio, Villafranca and Lucca (AG)**. Also, this year we have distributed evangelistic literature on the coastline beaches and it was a pleasure to see so many reading our literature under the beach-umbrella. Please pray to the Lord for a great harvest.

With the radio and Internet websites, we are reaching out to many souls in various parts of this world, we have had more than **1000 contacts!** Please pray for these people who write to us, searching to fill the emptiness of their heart, and for us to have answers for their needs.

During the summer we have proclaimed the Gospel to many foreign tourists, and have given out many copies of the book by *Eros & Carla Bacoccina* “**Uomini sulle vie**” (“Men on the way”), thus reaching with the Gospel people of various nations. Some of these books have also reached inmates of various Italian jails. We have also begun working on a new book by Eros Bacoccina, titled “**Visita col Pastore**” (“Meeting with the Pastor”). In this book, based on his fifty years pastoral care experience, many will be able to read various human situations, which we hope will become a source of encouragement, salvation and comfort in the Lord. These situations will be useful for the ones who will identify with them.



In our church together with Valerio and son

Last August we have received the much appreciated visit of **Valerio** from far away **Tuscany**. Conversation with him began at our evangelistic book-table, which we set up weekly at the market. In our church he shared with us his moving testimony. With a tired and searching heart, he consulted with nine different Catholic priests who – being in a situation worse than his – could not be of any help to him. At last, after having asked us various questions on the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ and being supplied with much literature, he found all the answers in the Lord, who among other things immediately freed him of the bad habit of smoking and of blasphemous talk. As a matter of fact, when he stopped cussing, his parents thought he was not feeling well! He made the whole church rejoice with a heart full of thanksgiving, spurring us on to praise the Lord.

On Saturday, October 4th we have enjoyed a nice day of Christian fellowship during the “**Agape Regionale Siciliana**” (the Sicilian regional love feast). Our brother *Gaetano Casà* preached on the subject of “*sanctification*”. At the end, to get to the heart of the matter I interviewed the elders present with significant questions such as “*How would you rate the degree of sanctification of our churches?*” or “*In your opinion, do unbelievers notice we are holy?*”. Given the ups and downs of the graph representing the various answers, we trust the Lord that each person will be corrected, in order to desire a life at the highest possible level for the **Highest**.

A particular joy we would like to share with you is having received with much emotion on August 8 the certificate of the academic program of “*Panorama Biblico*” (“*Bible Survey*”) from the **Accademia Teologica Italiana** (Italian Theological Academy) of the *Aurora Mission* in Pennisi (CT), together with other students.

On August 31st, our dear **Franco & Santina Vitabile** and **Luigi Casà** were baptized in our beautiful Mediterranean Sea, with a moving testimony before the Ribera church, the believers of nearby towns and the many relatives and various tourists. *Luigi*, like the prodigal son, was born in the large family of our dear brother *Domenico Casà* (already with the Lord) and, having returned from his pilgrimage of perdition, with great joy testified of this miraculous return to salvation of his. In a previous letter we have talked to you about the touching testimony of *Franco & Santina*.



One last nice experience we would like to share with you happened to our daughter **Shanizee** who, besides gladdening us by playing the piano during the various meetings, takes also care of the “**Ore Felici**” (“Joyful Hours Class”) for some children.



Being in **Valledolmo (PA)** with a family of believers, she organized an outdoor “Joyful Hours Class” for all the children of the neighborhood.

Since she does not yet have much experience in this kind of work, she has later told us that when she was facing so many children she became concerned she was not going to make it, but in the end the Lord wanted to encourage her with a warm applause from all those present. Please pray she will grow and be encouraged more and more in her vision of wanting to serve the Lord working among children.

For next Easter we suggest the tract “**La Pasqua del Ladron**” (“The Thief’s Easter”). For those interested we can send the file in a pdf format. In that case, all you have to do is to add your church address, the times of your meetings, etc...

THE THIEF'S EASTER

(FROM THE BIBLE, LUKE 23:33-43)

“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactor, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, and saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself! And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew. This is the King of the Jews. And one of the malefactors which was hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly: for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but thou hast done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom!”

“If Jesus had believed any of the religions of this world, He might have said, ‘Do you want to go to heaven? During your life, your behavior was very bad. However, if you change and persevere in doing good until the end, (this is what all religions teach), if you don’t commit mortal sins, etc., and if when you die, someone will light candles for you and again after a month, a year, and each following year, MAYBE, someday you can go to heaven.’”

“If He had been from still another religion, He might have said, ‘You may not eat pork, and you have to pray,’ I make a day. You have to observe the Ramadan (during 1 month a year). You have to make a pilgrimage to Mecca... MAYBE you can to heaven.’”

“All of the religions of this world are the same. You may not do this; you may not say that... If Jesus had been from any of the religions of this world, ‘maybe’ would still express the uncertain hope of heaven. Jesus is not like the religions of this world and He answers right away, with **CERTAINTY**.

“Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

At the **Focus Training Intensivo** (Focus Intensive Training) in Chianciano Terme (SI) we have enjoyed a blessed brief, but intense time of holy fellowship, rest and encouragement. We have enjoyed the holy message of the Word of God and seen again all the dear saints from abroad and from various parts of Italy. Among the many blessings we have enjoyed at the conference, we still vividly remember the beautiful song we learned: “*In Cristo solo è saldo il cuor*” (“**Only in Christ the heart is firm**”). **In Christ**, who else?

During these last few months we have been busy moving into a new house and, frankly, it is still quite a challenge! Please pray with us that we will be able to finish this task in order to be free to serve efficiently in the harvest.

We seize this opportunity to request your **brotherly help**, since the euro is up and the dollar is down and we find ourselves more and more in serious economic difficulties, serving in the harvest with much sacrifice. The global crisis is really the worst in history. We cannot avoid shouting:

“Come, Lord Jesus!”

Kindly requesting you for your precious intercession, perhaps you can also present our evangelistic service and our needs to some churches for a steady help.

BEST WISHES for a **NEW YEAR** happy with **JESUS**

May the Lord bless you!
The Lord comes!

Our site

www.maranatha-soon.it

Nicola & Lina + Shanizee and Raf
ciao

For those that the Lord has placed on your heart to help us in our ministry, you can do so through
“**AURORA MISSION.**” Thank you!



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Ribera, December 2008

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