

Per La Gloria di Cristo Gesù

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Dear friends,

The temperature dropped 20 degrees in two days, tens of thousands of students arrived and beautiful shops full of cheese and hams have opened after the summer shutdown. Bologna is alive! But in many senses it still remains a city that is lost and dead.

JP began to preach in September – hoorah! through 2 Timothy. Our impression of ministry here so far, is that the church has been bereft of the close weekly exposition of the Scriptures. The I.F.E.D. conference 'Giornate Teologiche' at the beginning of September was about this very issue – Biblical Theology and Preaching. Even though JP lectured full of sickness, we were acutely aware that the Lord seems to have placed him in the right place at the right time. JP faces the prospect of complementing, and by God's grace strengthening, I.F.E.D.'s current ministry to train preachers to correctly handle God's word. Biblical Theology is needed so much in Italy, not least to unite and strengthen the hearts and minds of believers, as they meet Christ in the Scriptures. We've continued to invest in individuals from our fellowship this month, convinced that Jesus' instrument for this city is through His Church. We look a very weak bunch BUT we have started to read the Bible one to one with a few folks. We would love you to pray particularly for these individuals (under the 'Build' section below), governed by the passion that Christ Jesus will be honoured in this city and country, through us and THEM. Much love

WIN for Christ Jesus

- G our builder continues to be introduce us to all our neighbours.... even last Saturday we were invited to enjoy a 'hogroast' with his family and friends. He would make a fantastic evangelist, as he talks to everyone!
- **M** [M's husband], who's not yet professed faith in Christ but who regularly attends church.
- **F**, A's husband to be won over, by the godly behaviour of his wife.
- Pray for contacts this month, within 'Cultura Italiana' Institute, where Sue is on an intense language course

BUILD for Christ Jesus

- **C**, Italian mechanic, professed faith last year. Give thanks for his obvious hunger and willingness to take seriously the spiritual responsibilities within his young family at home.
- **D**, Ukraine brother, working as a labourer with his wife N in one of the rich palazzos. Slavery is happening before our eyes even in Europe! Pray that they can continue to entrust to Him who judges justly as they face harsh and excessive hours. Pray for E, their housemistress, that she would be challenged by the grace and godliness of their lives.
- **DB** and **PB**, both students at the university. GBU (the Christian fellowship for students) now has a grand total of 5 members in a university of 100,000. Pray times in the word with JP would give them boldness, creativity and faithfulness in their witness in the university.
- **A** remains a joy, a gift, a friend for Sue. Pray that as we read the 'signs' in John's gospel, she would go on believing that Jesus is the Christ. Pray that she will not to be surprised of the suspicion and opposition of her unbelieving husband F (above), and for courage and gentleness in expressing her renewed desire to know Christ and to be part of His people
- **J** (married to D B above, primary school teacher) that as we study Isaiah, would stand firm in her faith, trusting Him who is unseen rather than living by what is seen.

SEND for Christ Jesus

- Pray a midweek series in church on seeking to win others for Christ would be clear and well-received, and be a great stimulus to evangelism.
- JP will be lecturing on Genesis this year, with the 1st teaching day on 11th October. Pray for a good number of new students, and ongoing prayer for his Italian, as work is slow with a limited vocabulary.

For every promise that God has made is 'yes' in Christ ~ 2Corinthians 1:20