



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May and June 2021

Thank you for your great part in reaching the souls here. Thank you for your sacrifices, prayers, and fellowship. The past weeks have been very eventful and busy, with God's unseen hand helping each step of the way. Many souls have received a gospel witness, probably most for the first time and we pray for the Lord's increase in their hearts. In our last prayer letter, I mentioned a small job opportunity for a vegetable farmer named Thomas. The job by him proved to be a blessing and an open door to witness to him and his family, but after a few months there, I felt redirected from the Lord to give this job up, only to give more time to studying language and sowing the gospel. I have always worked a job since coming to Europe in 2015, and am more than ready to do so, if need be and if the Lord so leads, but at the present, the Lord has given me assurance that that the need at the moment is to sow his word in the little time remaining. In the last week of my job, as I was in a greenhouse working, the Catholic church bells kept ringing and ringing from a nearby church. I found out later, that when a catholic dies, they ring the bell about the space of a half hour to commemorate the person. I do not know why, but as I was hearing the bells, a worldly song title popped into my head, "Hell's Bells". Now, I never really listened to this type of music, but the title seemed to match the catholic chimes I heard and strangely enough, as I was standing there, my boss walked in, and I told him the bells reminded me of a song title. He then replied...." Hell's Bells...?" I said yes. He then asked me, "Do you believe in a Hell, where people go after they die who don't believe, like me?!" I then was able to explain to him how I believe in fiery Hell and that the Lord will putting the Devil and his angels there, but that men can wind up there also, if they reject God's salvation. Thomas then told me how, as a boy he wanted to do more in the catholic church, became an altar boy and even at one time, wanted to become a priest. He sadly saw too much hypocrisy and never really got any answers from the Catholic Church and now he does not believe in any absolute way. Please pray for his salvation, as he has received the gospel, more than once. On the last day of my job, I came to work and stumbled upon a German named Alexander, who on foot has been wandering the Alps and ended up sleeping in the barn at my job. I worked with him my last day and then invited him to my house to eat. He ended up telling me, he is on a quest for truth and is searching. I was able to give him a Bible and witness to him for a good hour. After we were done, I had to take him to a nearby police station so he could receive help to get new important documents such as passport etc. The night before I met him at work, he supposedly was at a gathering with some South Tyrolers, celebrating a yearly day called, "Herz Jesu Fest". I will explain this festival briefly. Every June the locals in South Tyrol and neighboring Tirol in Austria light fires in various shapes, crosses, hearts, on the mountains to dedication the region and land to Jesus, and that he would, in return for their sacred devotion, give them protection and success. In the past it had to do with military victory but nonetheless, it is a religious festival to gain God's favor. If you are interested, you can see pictures on this on the internet. The sad thing is, is that almost every person who celebrates this festival is a lost catholic, who has never heard the gospel or reads the Bible and usually, at the sites of this fires is only alcohol drinking and parties...absolutely nothing to do with God. Well, Alexander was at one of this parties and got so drunk that he ended up being led to a horse barn to see horses, but instead was whipped with a horse whip and then fleeing, fell in a river, losing all his documents from Germany. Please pray for Alexander, I hope to meet him once more this summer. Another man who received a gospel witness was a man named Erhard. I went to his house and witnessed to him and at one point in the conversation, he said, "It bothers me most, that you believe there is only one way...I don't like that." He then started to tell me that his mother started to believe like I do and left the Catholic church and has witnessed to him many times and he even went to church with her on a few occasions. The last time he

went to her evangelical church, he said, “All I remember was a story about a woman and a scarlet thread, and that only this lady got saved and her family and the rest died...” I then retold him the story he mentioned about Rahab the harlot and how she was the only person who feared the true God and his servants and gave heed to how to save her house. Please pray for Erhard to have his eyes opened. Also in June, a nearby brother and I and both our families were able to travel to a village called Segonzano near Trento and tract every house we could find, with a Gospel tract and a John and Romans. A brother in Texas, named Benedetti, sent me a handwritten letter, back at the beginning of the year, asking us to consider tracting Segonzano, where his family ancestors came from. By God’s grace, we were able to do this little village and at the local grocery store in the center of town, we were told that there were many people still living with the name Benedetti there. Hopefully, some get saved and there will be fruit from this house-to-house witnessing.

We want to thank you for your prayers for our travels and protection along the way. We were able to modify our trip to Southern Italy in order to visit more brethren at one time. It is always encouraging and sharpening to spend time with other missionaries, who also are trying to sow the word of God where the Lord placed them. As a Bible Believer we know that God’s word does not return void. In **(Psalm 126:6)**, we read, **“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”** This verse is a reminder that the sower needs that precious seed, God’s word and that the Lord can do the eternal work, if we faithfully give his word out. Something interesting is that our two Philadelphian age, reformation Bibles, from the correct manuscripts, the Old Diodati and the Old Luther match the King James Bible, mentioning the value and preciousness of the word in **Psalm 126:6**. ALMOST EVERY major new and more modern Bible, coming out after our King James 1611, that has attempted to be an improvement in English, German or Italian has changed this verse, to say basically, that the sower went forth with seed to throw or similar, removing any meaning of the value of the seed to sow.... We thank the Lord that we have some precious seed to sow, God’s word, given at a high price and not just something to throw. The results are in the hand of the Lord and we, along with you, are hoping to meet some souls in Glory. Thank you for your help and fellowship. May the Lord reward your sacrifice.

-In Christ Jesus,
Brother Joel, Graziella, Tirzah, Luca

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