

# NEWS FROM ITALY: MARIO & NORMA PORTILLO

## REACHING THE ITALIANS

Praise' the LORD!

"I will give thanks to the LORD with all *my* heart,  
in the company of the upright and in the assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD;  
*they are* studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Splendid and majestic is His work,  
And His righteousness endures forever." Psalm 111:1-3

Dear Faithful Prayer Partners and Supporters,

What a Joy it is to have this opportunity to share with you what the Lord is doing in our beloved Italy. We are going forth with the Lord's work. We have faced many obstacles and challenges but the Lord and His promises were right beside us.

The Lord has lead us to be in contact with some people that were really hurt for many situations and as a result their lives are full of bitterness and lack of forgiveness, as a result they have no fellowship with God and the church family. We are working with these people to encourage them and to point them to Biblical ways to resolve their problems. We ask you to pray for the following people: Vincenzo, Mauro, Mirko, Gisella and Mara. These people need to have peace and happiness again with the Lord and his Church.

A couple of weeks ago we had a problem with one of the pipes in our home and the plumber that generally comes to work on these things for us was not able to come, so another plumber came. I had the opportunity to witness to him. His name is Ricardo. As I shared with him he was really surprised and tears came out of his eyes, he has suffered so much in his life. A few years ago he faced a divorce and he took care of his three children because their mother left. He now has a new wife and they have a child almost three years old. His oldest daughter from his first marriage started to have very serious problems and went to the physiatrist and there was no solution for her. The daughter is demon possessed. She doesn't want to accept the Lord as her Savior and be saved. So she has not been able to resolve her problems. His second wife is a believer who was walking far from God and she decided to go to a church. Now Ricardo came to know the Lord as his personal Savior and his wife is walking with the Lord again! I was able to spend a long time counseling and helping them how to face their situation with the Word of God.

I was able to preach and visit people for counseling in the following places: Fano, Conegliano, Treviso and Serracapriola. It's wonderful to see through all these things that the Word of God is the solution for any circumstance that we are going through. At the end of the conference in Treviso a couple came to me and said: - You know what? Next week we are getting married and this morning we realized that there were many things that we need to fix in our relationship with God and between each other, through your message this morning we see the answer to our problems. As far as I know the wedding was great and they are doing very well in their Christian life.

In another place I was preaching a lady came to me after the message and said: I was really struggling with the leadership of the church, my husband and I are leaders for the couples ministry. We were deciding to give up with the ministry since there were problems with the leadership. Today after your message we understood the purpose that God has in all these circumstances. What a blessing it was to hear the voice of God. The information that we now have we see how we can resolve issues. They are now planning the ministry for the next year with much enthusiasm.

We had a conference for men from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. We had 29 men. It is wonderful to see the results from this time together in the Word of God. Many of the men are leaders in their local churches. We praise God for those men who take the responsibility of being leaders. They left the conference making the decision to be more effective leaders in their homes and local churches.

From the 27<sup>th</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July we were able to serve in a children's camp. It was such a blessing to have the opportunity to be working with a very small staff but with the great desire to glorify God together. Norma was in

charge of the kitchen with Jonas and I was the helper in the kitchen. It was great to wash plates, peel potatoes and many other things. I had a Bible study every morning for the staff and the last message for the whole camp. We had 41 campers and reached a total of 50 people including the guests. In the closing meeting I had the privilege of preaching the Gospel. As a result 16 kids made professions of faith and accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. During the time of counseling with these 16 children Norma gave them a gift of remembering. It is a bracelet called the wordless book you can see it in the picture. This gives the new believers a way of showing and sharing the gospel with others.



#### Our Family Update:

Rebecca is back in Italy for the USA. Please pray for her as she is continuously looking for a Job. She has been able to do some small things for a short time. In Italy is very difficult to find a Job so please pray for her. Gabriel has finished the second year of College and now is getting ready to face his junior year, He spent part of his summer break staying at the University doing physical work and working in basketball camps. He is now at home with us for a short amount of time, He also is taking some on-line courses. It is a joy to have the family all together again.

Norma is doing very well, much involved with many of the people that need encouragement and counseling, she is also visiting a lady whose name is Romina that has so many questions about the Gospel, she is not interested about salvation yet but Norma is trying to plant seeds and couple a days ago she had the chance to share with the two daughters that Romina has, one is 19 years old and the other is 18 years old.

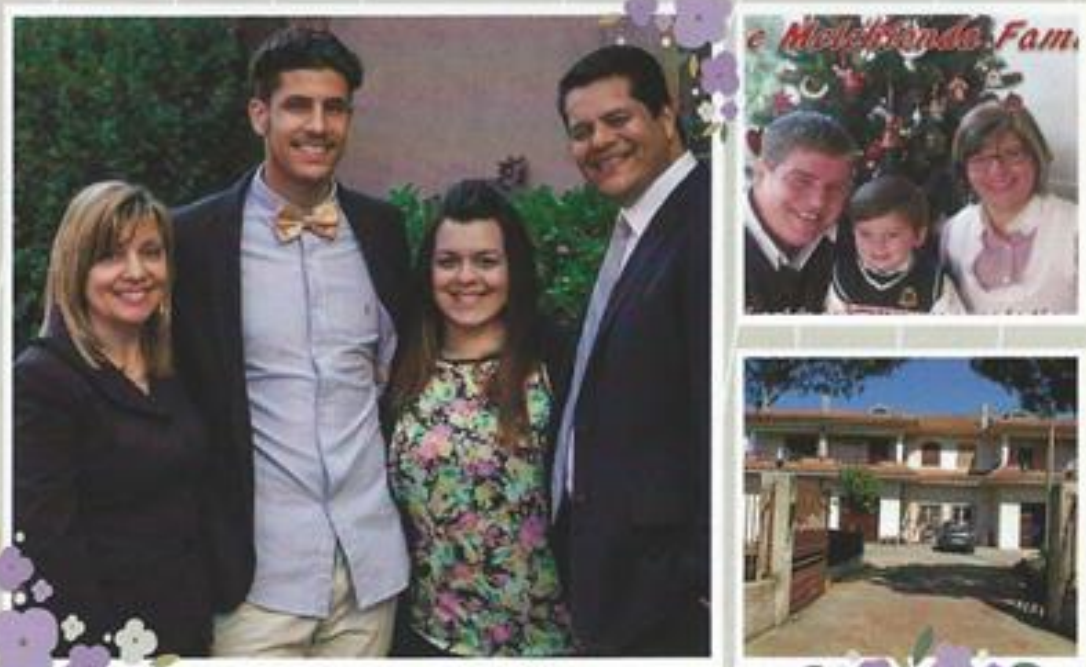
My health has some ups and downs. I am trusting in the Grace of God.

We praise and thank the Lord for the people and churches that are faithfully helping us every month to go forth in the service for Lord, God is the owner of the gold and silver until now God has provided for us the things that we need day by day, so because of that we are so thankful to God and for you and that God uses you to supply our needs. Please pray that God will provide people that want to help us in our ministry here and also that He will give us wisdom and holiness for all the decisions and challenges that we are facing.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and great help, May the Lord prosper you and reward you according to his riches in Glory.

Your servants in Christ,  
Mario and Norma Portillo

**If you are interested on helping our ministry, please send your donations to CMC  
(Centra! Missionary Clearinghouse) Mario Portillo-- PO Box 219228 Houston, TX  
77281-9228. individual Donor**



The collage features three photographs. The largest photo on the left shows four people: a woman in a black top, a man in a light blue shirt and dark jacket with a yellow bow tie, a woman in a floral dress, and a man in a dark suit. To the right are two smaller photos: the top one shows a family of three (a man, a child, and a woman) with the text "e Mielelinda Fam." above them, and the bottom one shows a two-story house with a driveway.

Portillo Family

**"... The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build..." Nehemiah 2:20**