

Marco & Sherrie deFelice

Monthly Prayer Letter

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if you don't get this letter within the first few days of a given month, please advise me by email, as my program sometimes loses addresses without me knowing it.

send support to:
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--- NEW BIRTH!! During April, after months of Bible study with Adriano, God granted Mustafa repentance and faith in Jesus Christ! Rejoice with us, and pray that he be well grounded, that he might be a light for others in darkness. Mustafa is one of the first people we evangelized when we started active public evangelism last year. This is an encouragement.

1. What joy to see **Mustafa** getting established in his new faith in Jesus Christ. After some initial struggles in the first weeks, he has gotten his eyes back on Christ and is showing signs of clear growth. Thank God with us for his salvation, and pray that he would be well grounded and bold in his testimony. He is working part time, which provides for his legal status here, but needs full-time work to meet his financial needs. Pray.

2. Through our sermon website, God has opened the door for us to minister to several men and their wives who are involved in ministry in different parts of Italy. Pray as we seek to teach, train, encourage, edify, encourage and admonish, according to the need. We call this Mimmo Ministry.

3. We are seeking to grow in our worship as a church, striving to avoid doing things mechanically, seeking to see more of God's attributes and works and praise Him for them. We are seeking to pray more for kingdom work. Pray we continue to grow.

4. **Ashley** is taking a free Italian course which is provided by our local town government, which is proving very useful. Thank God with us for how He is using Ashley both in evangelism and in the lives of the believers, as well as for the many ministry projects she is working on. Pray that she would continue to abide in Christ and bear much fruit.

5. **Denada** and **Dorina** are both

growing spiritually in spite of various struggles. Ashley has been staying with them and this additional fellowship has proved very helpful. How we all need to seek out Christ centered fellowship. Pray that they would continue to grow and have joy in Jesus Christ. Both have heavy schedules, especially Denada, who works over two hours away. Pray for strength.

6. We recently drove three hours to minister to **Pierluigi** and **Anna**. We thank God that our 26 hour visit with them was greatly used of God, far more than our weak faith had asked. They recognized and repented of something which will greatly free them up to come up for longer periods of time. They are due to come up today through Sunday. Jesus Christ truly cares for his sheep. Pray that P.&A. would continue to grow. On that save trip, we also visited another family, in another city, and God also worked very mightily in that case.

7. **Daniele** and **Petra** have had many guests in past weeks, and this has made their efforts to break Manuel, 2, of his rebellious spirit more difficult. Pray that they would know God's power working in them, that they would persevere and have God's peace. Daniele's chemotherapy continues to make him very, very tired.

8. **Diego** and **Alessandra** continue to grow in various ways. Diego has been evangelizing more. They are very diligent in training up Alice, 1½. Pray for even more boldness for both of

them in evangelism, and as they shepherd others. Alessandra's pregnancy continues to go well.

9. **Adriano** and **Roberta** continue to mature (=reflect Christ more) and to minister in so many ways. They are united in investing in people for the glory of God, and have seen much fruit. Pray that they would know continued grace, strength and wisdom. They continue to be used greatly by God, and He strengthens them.

10. When we walk by faith, it is incredible how God multiplies the time and our strength. Pray that as a church we would grow in learning to trust God for the strength and time to serve Him. We thank Him for the growth we are seeing in this!

11. What a joy for me to see God use Sherrie in so many ways. She runs her home so effectively, and yet in a relaxed, peaceful way. She has a real gift of coming alongside women to both encourage and teach in love. She is a wonderful helpmate for me, a great sounding board, and a spiritual stimulus. Thank God with me, and pray that she would continue to increasingly reflect Christ day by day and have much joy in Him!

12. God's Word continues to impact us in our own reading and as we read and meditate together at meals as a family. Pray that we'll always make it a priority to allow it to dwell in us richly. Oh that our hearts would be satisfied with nothing less than intim-

ate fellowship with God through Christ, and that we would earnestly seek HIM, day by day!

13. Piera is in Rome, working, and is not well spiritually. Pray with us.

14. I am beginning once again to meet with Adriano and Diego both to discuss shepherding issues and help them learn to better prepare sermons. Pray for continued good progress, and thank God with us for these fellow-laborers. D.v., I plan to also once again start meeting regularly with all of the men of the church. Pray that we would grow as Christ-focused, humble, godly men.

15. We thank God for the great progress we have made as a church in the area of evangelism in the past year, yet we also recognize that we are far from where we need to be. Pray as we seek ways to become a much more visible testimony in our area, because God has left us as lights in the world.

16. **Giovanni** and **Stefania** continue to have various struggles, but we rejoice to see growth. **Martina**, 16, shared that she has cooled down spiritually and has no joy. She recognizes the problem, and seems to desire change. Pray that she would see more of Jesus Christ, and the dangers of sin. Pray that G.&S. would recognize more than ever how their own walk affects that of others. May we all keep our eyes upon Jesus Christ.

17. As we get older, we are seeing more of the consequences of past choices, both ours and others, good and bad. What a stark reminder that we truly do reap what we sow, and thus, how vital to sow well. (Gal 6:7,8) Pray that we'll keep this ever in mind, and tirelessly urge others to do so too. (2Pet 1:12-15)

18. **Fabio** and **Laura** just purchased the other, smaller part of the duplex in which they live, which has given them more room for their family of seven. With homeschooling and two in diapers, life is full. Pray that they would have discipline in managing their time and would recognize the

value of Christ-focused fellowship.

19. Sherrie ministers to the women in many ways, as a Titus 2 older woman, teaching and encouraging the women how to live out their role as wives practically. She is an encouragement and a practical help, and helps them to keep their focus on Christ. Pray that God would use her to continue to edify these precious sisters in Christ, and as various of the ladies are growing in ministering in this way to others.

20. Our marriage is a source of deep joy and immense blessing for us. What a privilege to minister together for the kingdom of God both here locally and in various places throughout Italy. Pray that we would continue growing to become more and more the husband and wife which reflect Christ and the Church.

21. Because we are still finalizing the setup of Vera Vita Ministries, we don't know yet our support for March. But we do know that God fully provides for our needs according to his wisdom and kindness, using all circumstances for our eternal good. Pray that our time, our abilities, indeed, our hearts and lives would be spent for the glory of God and the good of his people.

22. Our Italian sermon website continues to receive more than 6,000 visits per month, and we rejoice at how hungry people are to grow in the knowledge of God. Pray as we seek to make more teaching available. We have about 380 sermons thus far.

23. Pray for the parents in our church: for diligence, that each parent would reflect Christ, that couples be of one mind, that parents be examples of what they teach, for consistency, and a clear understanding of the importance and the immensity of the job of raising children in the training and instruction of our Lord.

24. May we see more of the glory of Christ today, and find our heart satisfaction in Him alone!

25. We are at the point of Vera Vita Ministries being fully operational. Pray that it would be an effective tool to assist those whom God has called into serving to fulfill the Great Commission.

26. Many believers are facing uncertainties (humanly speaking) regarding their jobs. Pray for God's peace and his provision. Most of all, pray that we believers would learn to not seek satisfaction in things, but rather that we would be content if we have enough to feed ourselves and to be covered (even if that means living with others). May we learn to live frugally, so as to be able to help one another in need, and thus be a light to the world.

27. You can now listen to some sermons in English at our website www.marcodefelice.org. Pray as we seek to provide more ministry materials there.

28. Pray for us and for your own church leaders, for humble hearts, strong marriages, for humility to recognize blind spots, that Christ be our treasure.

29. Pray that I would be diligent and Spirit led in my many hours of sermon preparation. God is honoring his Word to edify the saints.

30. I spend many hours each week giving pastoral counsel, in person, by telephone, and through letters, often dealing with very crucial issues. Who is sufficient? How I recognize my need for wisdom, a pure heart, and God's power. Continue to pray for me in this aspect of ministry. Pray that God's Word would free people from wrong thinking, and produce joy.

31. As we spend so much time ministering to others, pray frequently that our own hearts be tender, quick to repent, and in love with Christ.

If you have sent support since January, the checks have been held, and we should now have the Vera Vita Ministries bank account functioning, so they'll now be cashed. Thank you for your patience.