

## PRACTICAL MISSIONS cohort

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - ministry update from the Schreck family in Italy!

















Above Photos: Schreck family | PMc Instagram feed | Kids Bibles in Italian that we are giving out | Schreck Kids | PMc Media Content from Missions Incorporated podcast | The new podcast for Italians called Verità & Vita featuring short clips



Hello dear friends and partners. Greetings from Italy. These past 3 months have sure gone by quickly, yet again. These are truly unusual times that we are all living. There is just so much change happening around the world, and much of it is alarming. Since our last letter, we began enjoying the fact that it was finally no longer necessary to wear a mask when outside the home here in Italy. This was a big relief, but sadly the restrictions have again increased in Italy since August when the entire nation started mandating vaccine passports... As you know, if you follow our updates, we believe we already have natural immunity from contracting the virus in February 2020. The data reveals that our defense is just as good, if not better, than those with the vaccine, yet this nation, like many, is not yet permitting folks like us to have the "green pass". In addition, the pharmaceuticals that we cannot mention... have proven to be rather effective against the virus. We pray that good sense will prevail so things can return to normal.

On a personal note, we are grateful to have had a ministry sabbatical during the month of August this year when pretty much everything in Italy shuts down anyway. It was a huge blessing to refocus and refresh before we kicked off the evangelism and church planting ministry in September. We also had our annual missionary retreat and as a topic we discussed Biblical parenting based on Ted Tripp's lessons from *Shepherding A Child's Heart*. Amazingly, we had a family next to us at the retreat spot that clearly demonstrated the negative effects of having no idea what God's word teaches us regarding parenting. It was hard to watch, but we prayed for them and captured also a clear object lesson as to why learning Biblical parenting is so important. Lord willing, we will soon do a teaching series on this to share with the Italian families in our sphere of influence.

The kids are both doing well, apart from some regular seasonal colds this past week. Cornelius is glad to be back with the kids at the nursery school

## **Partnering**

To partner with us please send your donations (tax-deductible) to PRACTICAL MISSIONS COHORT, and mail to:

Practical Missions Cohort 500 Westover Dr. #10079 Sanford, NC 27330

Simply write "Schreck" or "general fund" in the *memo section*, depending on how you would like to support us and the PM<sup>c</sup> ministry. Note: we are currently praying for more monthly ministry partners.

\*Donations can also be made online at: <u>practicalmissions.org/</u>donate

# **Prayer Requests**

- <u>Long-term missionaries</u> to apply and get accepted - this is our biggest need
- Vera Vita gospel content creation, tract distributions, evangelism leading to New Contacts & Sound Conversions
- God-given ability to form a new group for Bible study and fellowship in the home
- God-given strength to persevere and boldness to keep preaching
- Increased and ongoing monthly <u>Financial Support</u> - we lost a monthly partner due to covid
- Wisdom regarding how to navigate the pandemic restrictions
- Participants at the **Via Missions Webinar** on Nov. 13, 2021



They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. - 2 Peter 2: 19

and the teachers reported that he is doing great. We are befriending numerous other families, and giving out some solid kids Bibles which, thankfully, have been well received. Beatrice is now standing up and beginning to take her first steps. We have to keep a close watch on her as she is still in that phase when falls happen quickly and suddenly. Our apartment, like most in Italy, has tile floors, not carpet. Baby falls result in bumps, bruises, and tears. Jeryvee is doing well, though she does have a jaw alignment problem since they pulled her bad tooth a few months ago. We're grateful to have medical coverage, but since it is a social system it also means she won't get the scans done until April 2022...

VERA

### CHURCH PLANTING - Vera Vita Outreach Ministry

People are hearing the gospel and reading the Bible for the first time. Italian Christians have been encouraged by our witness and perseverance. We praise God for this. Sadly, many Christians seem to almost give up on evangelism entirely, because they don't see the results they want. Imagine if the apostles gave up the first time they were persecuted or ignored... None of us would be here today! We totally understand the temptation to give it up, yet it's our conviction that what Italy needs most is more evangelism, not less; more evangelism that leads to more Biblical churches planted.

As we look across the landscape of Italy today, we're reminded of the long history that has resulted in large church structures in every single town and village. There is a certain decency to the Italian people, a sense of morality, because of, as I see it, a certain influence from God's word. In a real sense, the Italian people can be related to the elder brother in the story of the Prodigal Son. Decent, yet far from God. At the same time, 99% of the people today in Italy have not heard the true gospel, Biblical illiteracy is very high, and the church structures are mostly empty and inactive, some are even museums.

We believe the day is coming when the towns of Italy will be filled with Biblical churches, true churches, made up of true believers born of the Spirit. In our estimation, what Italy has experienced regarding gospel influence from the early centuries of church history, has only been a taste of what will one day be. At PMc, we are glad to be pioneering and laying a foundation for a ministry of evangelism, disciple making, and apostolic church planting that will go on, Lord willing, long after we are gone. The sacrifices we make now glorify God, and will live on for others to continue building upon as the true church of Christ continues to multiply.

To follow up the *With Hope* campaign, we are now creating a *New Beginning* campaign that gets right to the heart of the matter. We are creating a tract, video tract, podcast episodes, and a dedicated webpage on the Vera Vita site to connect the reality of everyone's desire for a new start to the reality of the new birth that Jesus taught as necessary to see the Kingdom of God.

#### PRACTICAL MISSIONS COHORT

PMc will be hosting its first **Missions Webinar** called **Via** on Nov. 13, 2021 from 10 am to Noon EST. You, your church, and/or your small group are invited to join us live! We believe that in a time like this of constant change, it is of utmost importance to stay focused on the mission we have as the body of Christ in our world. We believe you will be greatly encouraged by attending this live event. So go, sign up, gather some friends, make some espresso, and join us at Via! Learn more at practicalmissions.org.



To God alone the glory, Jesse & Jeryvee and all at PMc