

PRACTICAL MISSIONS cohort

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



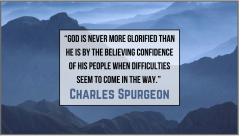




















Above Photos: Schreck kids | Family | homeschool group at museum | CC w/ basketball team | Missions Incorporated podcast | PMc Academia | Easter tract | Vera Vita outreach min.



Hello dear friends and partners! We write today from Italy as the spring weather has finally arrived in the North. The last couple of months have been challenging as we have battled illness almost constantly in our family. We have experienced highs and lows. The covid emergency restrictions in the US seem to finally be ending and we are planning a furlough as a family. Wow! We look forward to spending time with family, friends, and our brothers and sisters in Christ this summer, Lord willing. Long have we desired to return to the US to visit, but we have been providentially hindered.

Thankfully, the winter was rather mild here near Venice. Some people were predicting power outages because of the economic and energy crisis, but thankfully that didn't come into fruition. Our electric bills, however, have been outrageous! Normally we would spend about €100-150 every two months, but our last few bills were over €300 and once over €600... Mamma mia! The Lord has provided for us through a certain generous donor that has been privately giving to carry us through this. Praise be to God.

Recently we celebrated Cornelius' (CC) 7th birthday together with the homeschool families here in our area. CC is growing so fast! His first official school year has been great! By God's grace we are learning the ropes of homeschooling in Italy. Our eyes have truly been opened to the beauty and value of taking initiative to educate our kids with a Christian worldview. CC is also really excelling at basketball and even had the chance to again be among the Venice pro team!

These past few years since the start of the pandemic are kind of a blur now, but the Lord has sustained us through everything. We experienced many setbacks, but also significant advancements. He is faithful. Many people are quite distraught here in Italy as these rapidly changing times are heavy and hard to process. In all our years in Italy, we've never seen more clearly the need for the Gospel! No one likes these complex and disturbing times that we are living, but we believe that Jesus is Lord over it all and He has a good

Partnering

To partner with us please send your donations (taxdeductible) 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^c ministry. Note: we are currently praying for more monthly ministry partners.

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

Prayer Requests

- Coordination of furlough; flights, home & vehicle, family and churches to visit
- Long-term missionaries to apply and get accepted and a new band of missionaries to form
- 1st **homeschool** end-ofyear exam to go well in June
- Vera Vita gospel content creation, tract distributions, evangelism leading to New Contacts & Sound Conversions
- God-given strength to persevere and boldness to keep preaching and teaching God's word
- Increased and ongoing monthly <u>Financial Support</u>
- Provisions: A larger home and/or facility for PMc in Italy that lets us host more people, missionaries, events
- **Souls** hungry for God's Word the body of Christ



I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

- Psalm 121:1-2

purpose in it. Somehow it is necessary to bring more souls to saving faith.

Never before has the world been so able to see the folly of the ways of man and secularism. It leads to total chaos! The Christian worldview alone can help us make sense of the madness. The Gospel alone brings forgiveness, salvation, peace, transformation, renewal, human flourishing, and harmony. The current chaos all around the world is a great opportunity for us all to rise up and help people to understand their need for salvation in Jesus. In particular, we (personally) have found the presuppositional apologetic to be a great weapon in our armory for bringing the Gospel to bear on the hearts of others in this time.

CHURCH PLANTING - Vera Vita Outreach Ministry



With the spring weather upon us we are again ramping up evangelism while also building relationships. The Lord continues to give us open doors to testify of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom. Most people around us are without hope and without God. Little by little, as we engage individuals, the Lord is helping us to knock down the barriers they have raised against the knowledge of the Lord. The light of the Gospel continues to reach into the hearts and minds of more souls every day. The media ministry continues to grow and increase. Distributions of Gospel literature continue. Things are coming into place in God's timing. The only thing we are currently lacking is a band of more missionaries to join in on what God is doing. To this end we keep praying, and we believe God is answering.

Our US military friends in Vicenza are now making plans to return to the US. We are grateful for our time shared with them through this season of life and thankful for our friendship that can continue from a distance. Currently, on the Lord's day mornings we are traveling to visit and worship with different Italian churches. We are particularly grateful for new friendships in Padova and Vicenza. We look forward to ongoing friendship and maybe some form of collaboration. We are happy to have a place where we can comfortably bring new converts until this next church plant officially takes form in Mestre city. This is no small thing.

PRACTICAL MISSIONS COHORT

PMc continues to dig in its roots and fortify its foundation for long-term impact in the country of Italy with the involvement of our brothers and sisters in the US. There are no <u>short-term evangelism cohorts</u> scheduled for this summer, but there is potential for a <u>vision trip</u> or two to still be organized before the end of the year.

We are excited to finally get back to the USA this summer (Lord willing) so we can talk about PMc and the Lord's work in Italy to as many groups and churches as possible. The door is wide open for the Gospel to go forward in Italy. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. There are few missionaries in Italy still today, but not all do church planting. Of those who do church planting, most (it seems) do pastoral church planting rather than apostolic church planting. This is interesting. Missionaries going to the jungles and tribes don't do pastoral planting. Their goal is to train national pastors to oversee the new body of believers and then leave the work of ongoing shepherding to the new plurality of elders that God has given the flock. This topic we will be teaching on more thoroughly in one of our lessons in the Missions Course at the PMc Academia. If you are interested in learning more about Biblical Missions, be sure to check out and take advantage of the free courses at the Academia.

If you are a friend of the ministry, come on over and join PMc's newly forming online Discord community, <u>The Italian Cohort</u>. It's the best way to keep in touch with us personally and get inside access to all things Italian and the ministry! If you are a PMc ministry partner, we thank you from our hearts. You are the backbone of this ministry. Thank you for your love, support, and participation!

