

# Vitalone's Newsletter - Spring 2020

Sponsored by  
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“..you will not fear the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
not the plague that destroys at midday” Ps 91:5

Dear Brethren,

greetings from Rome, Italy during “lockdown” time. We are living in a country under a virus attack, as I know many of you are as well during these challenging times.

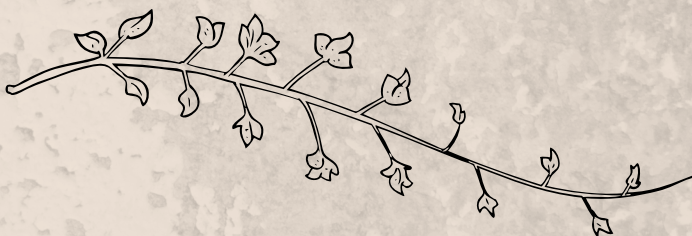
Our days have changed, all of our activities have been canceled, the doors of our congregations are shut and we have to rely to social media for keeping in touch.

We know that this will be just for a short time! In God we trust, we keep our faith and we do not fear, because we know everything is in His lovely hands.

I hope this letter finds you healthy and in good spirit.

The new year began, before the Corona time, with lots of activities. Since we had to stop them all, I am now trying to encourage my brothers and sisters across Italy by releasing short Bible messages using Facebook videos at least once a week, and by remaining in contact with them over the phone on a regular basis.

Before telling you of our activities in this new season of social distancing, let me share with you all a couple of activities we did in January and February.



## January in Anzio

We had a very good time visiting the church in Anzio (1,5 hours by car from Rome) where we have worked for the last 17 years. This is a small but strong congregation (10-12 members). They are keeping their faith and, as always, I preached for them and encouraged them to keep strong and continue in their path with the Lord.



Please pray the Lord that this small congregation might have the strength and the faith to preach the Gospel with His power.

*Left - Preaching in Anzio / Below - The congregation in Anzio*



## February in Matelica



*The congregation in Matelica*

Once a strong congregation with a beautiful Church building, a full-time preacher, and many active members, the small and neat city of Matelica (about a 3 hour drive from Rome) has been slowly recovering from a terrible misfortune.

A few years ago an earthquake destroyed their church building, leaving the preacher and his wife, who were already challenged by age and health problems, no other choice but to return to the States, which led many members to also leave the church.





*Gathering in a garage*

Despite these bad moments a small group of faithful brethren resisted, stuck together and kept the light on.

We have been in contact with them during the years, and in February my wife Tonia and I were finally able to visit the congregation in Matelica.

The congregation has only 15 members, and as the church in Philadelphia in Revelation, I can say about them: "I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name" (Rev 3:8.)



*Preaching in Matelica*



*The women of Matelica*

We spent an entire weekend in Matelica leading a Bible study on Saturday afternoon and preaching on Sunday morning. My wife Tonia also held a special meeting with the women on Saturday evening.

The Church in Matelica is currently hosting their Church meetings in a garage, and they hope to collect enough funds to re-open their original church building after restoring it.

We have offered them our help for the future, and my hope is that with God's help and their faith, they may be able to have a fresh start after this dark moment.



## The church in Rome during Coronavirus

The lockdown in Rome started on March 10th. While this measure has drastically changed our daily life, we started feeling the crippling effect of COVID-19 well before we had to confine in our homes.

In January, our christian sisters from China started getting discriminated and verbally abused in the streets of Rome. A few of them also lost their jobs as Romans started boycotting Chinese restaurants for fear of being exposed to the virus.

This broke our heart. As our sisters decided to confine themselves at home to avoid being harassed, the church stepped up by offering to bring them food and escorting them to church by car.

My wife Tonia, as always strongly committed to the women in the congregation, has since been meeting remotely with these Chinese sisters to give them strength in the Lord and encouraging them through these difficult times. I'm very thankful for her.

### One-meter apart

Before we went in complete lockdown, the government recommended for those gathering to keep at a safety distance of one meter (around 3 feet).

That Sunday, there we were!

Since then, we have met remotely, sharing the Lord Supper through Google Hangout.

The Christian newspaper Christian Chronicle detailed all of this in one of their articles.

You can find it here:

<https://christianchronicle.org/pandemic-pandemonium-and-peace/>

### Personal note

Please pray for my work as a physician. Even though I am not in direct contact with positive cases, I am losing several colleagues as they quarantine themselves to keep our patients safe. Everyone is working really hard. That's all for now.

Pray for the church in Rome and in Italy.

Stay safe, stay holy!



PLEASE CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH US IN HIS WORK IN ITALY.

SHOULD YOU CONSIDER BECOMING OUR SUPPORTER, PLEASE GET IN CONTACT WITH  
JENNIFER WILLIAMS AT:

Lake Cities Church of Christ Mission committee:

email [jennibwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jennibwilliams@gmail.com) - Cell 817 9809740. *Every penny counts.*

*Till next time, Tonia e Vittorio Vitalone, Spring 2020*