

Missionary Volunteer Program



May 2024

Dear Church Family,

Our blessed time in Italy continued as we spent a week with Missionary Chris Yetzer and his family in Pavia. We rented a room near their home which is about 40 minutes away from the church location in Milan.

We were able to minister and/or fellowship together each day since we were so close to their home. Joanie was able to make two meals for the family, but unfortunately, Mrs. Amy was not feeling well a few of those days, so she stayed home to rest. We had a nice Italian meal at the Yetzer's home the day we arrived in town.

The family has three very nice kids ages 9 – 16. We enjoyed getting to know them and picking on them a little, too! We played some table games with all of them, and they taught us a new game while we were together. We had a grand time together with lots of laughter and friendly competition.

They were very thankful for the Bibles, and a heavy suitcase filled with things they requested that we brought for them.

Getting around was eventful, since the family does not own a vehicle! Sometimes we took the train or the Metro, also, we did a good deal of walking while he showed us some sites and while out soulwinning. Each week Bro. Yetzer rents a car on the weekend so they can properly setup and transport to and from church on Sundays.

We enjoyed our Sunday with them very much! Their church rents and meets in a basement-level multi-purpose room in an apartment complex. They're very thankful for this place, considering how difficult it is to find a space to be used for church in the city of Milan, and then the cost for building rental is super-expensive as well.

Their church family was just that—a family. We loved getting to meet and know the folks there; it was a multi-national crowd. They had sweet fellowship and a great spirit. Both Joanie and I gave our salvation testimony, and I enjoyed bringing a message and having pastor's son come up and help me with an illustration.

We look forward to spending time again, someday, with these sweet folks.

Our last week in Italy allowed us to visit a close family friend and her family. We stayed in their home, so for one week we actually lived like Italians! They are in a beautiful farming

community with lots of fields and birds all around. One fun discovery was that the cuckoo bird is a local indigenous bird there. And, yes, every day, we'd hear cuckoo announce "the time" to us, usually in the morning hours. Amazingly, several times a day it was "15 o'clock"!!

On Sunday, our friend, Deborah, was more than willing to drive us nearly an hour to visit Calvary Baptist Church, near Aviano (US) Air Base. It was an adventure for her, because she's Italian and has never been to a Baptist Church.

The Missionary Pastor there is Bro Daniel Norton. The church, and especially Christina, the pastor's wife, was very warm, welcoming and kind. They gave a brand-new Bible to Deborah, being a visitor, and she was very touched by that gesture.

Pastor brought a good message, and he allowed me to introduce us, our ministry, and give a brief word on what MVP Missions does. We surprised them with our visit since our emails and texts were not going through when we tried to contact them ahead of time.

The folks were so nice, and each week after the morning service they serve a hot lunch. That provides an excellent time for everyone to visit, and then about an hour and a half later, their afternoon service begins.

There were some African and Italian members, and several military families. Sadly, several of the active-duty folks were deployed at the time, so the attendance was a little down.

The pastor is a former Marine and has been serving in other areas in Europe before being called to Aviano. They are looking forward to having us come by again, and to bring them more Bibles.

Sadly, with all our different modes of travel and our need to have several bags of luggage with us, Joanie hurt her back a couple of times on this trip. We'd love to have you pray for her to heal quickly as we settle back in at home (US).

Our trip was fruitful and blessed. We are so thankful for your prayers and support.

We will be home in Florida for about a week, and for the next several weeks we'll be helping our son, Darrell Jay, and his wife Heather, by watching their home and the grandkids as they finish their school year. Darrell Jay and Heather are in Philadelphia finishing her Lymphoma therapy treatments and getting final appointments and PET scans accomplished. Thank you for upholding her in prayer.



Missionary Chris Yetzer and family, and pictures from our Sunday with them.



Missionaries Daniel and Christina Norton, and Calvary Baptist Church, Marsure, Italy

For a Greater Harvest,
Darrell Bolton