



NEWS FROM ITALY – Joel & Jessica Rinn

February 8, 2014

Dear Friends and Praying partners,
We need prayer — we always need prayer, but we need prayer for 2014. There is the potential for a lot of changes this year and as we consider these things we would ask for prayer.

New Leadership

Trinity Church is doing well right now. We have just ordained two deacons in the church. One of our elders has been moved to Washington DC, but the other elder has just returned from a deployment in Kuwait and should be back at Trinity soon. He is currently waiting in Germany for the US military to finish processing his paperwork and it is taking them a long time, but he did get to spend Christmas with his family. He came in Christmas Eve and he and his family came over to our place for dinner. It was great having him here, but we want him back for real.

New Members

This is something we need and we ask you to pray for new growth at Trinity. We have several people who will be leaving in the next year and we need to grow in order to stay the same size. Of course we want to grow beyond the size we are now, so please pray that there would be a lot of new people who would begin coming. We are currently meeting in a restaurant which stopped doing business in 2012. The location is great for those with a car, but for people without a car it is a bit outside the city center. We are beginning to look for a new location. Please pray that we would find a good location for the church.

New Collaboration

One of the things that we have prayed for a long time is for partners in the work here. There is a good possibility that a family will come in the next year to work with Trinity. Their names are Tom and Caramel Gray. They desire to work in Italy and it seems like Trinity would be a good fit for them. They will come in early March to visit Trinity and they are already beginning to raise support. They will be bringing 8 of their 10 children, so it will be an adventure. Please pray for them.

Another goal for the next year is to work to build a team for Verona. In order to do this, we need to partner with another mission. Because of the way PMI is structured, they can't really help us to build a team. So I have contacted another mission to see if they would be able to help us with that. We've just had some informal talks, but if this goes forward, we will need to get some training and assessment with that other mission. We will also need to raise some more funds for this. As we consider these things, please pray with us.

New Car

A need we have is for a new car. Our car has been an excellent vehicle for us, but it's getting old and showing signs of wear. It has over 410,000km (about 250,000 miles) on it and it's older than Etienne. I doubt it will make it through the year, so it looks like we will need a new car before the year's out.

New Apartment

Our lease is up soon and our landlady would like to sell the place. By the end of summer we'll need to be in a new place. Soon I'll begin the process of house hunting.

Interactions with people around us

The Lord has opened several doors for evangelism in the past few months. Both Jessica and I have had opportunities to speak to others about Christ. Hopefully the Lord will use the things we've said and open her heart to further discussion.

We have had other opportunities to speak about Christ. Please pray that we would be bold. Pray too that God would give us the words to say. And pray that God would open the hearts of those we speak to that they may be given eyes to see that their hope is found only in Jesus.

We have also had a very sad experience recently. A little girl in the local school, a friend of Etienne's, died unexpectedly. Her name was Kainat and she was adopted by an Italian couple. She was a little ball of energy and she had an easy smile. Her whole family was suffering from a bad virus and somehow she contracted meningitis as well. By the time her parents realized there was something wrong besides the flu, it was too late and her body had already started shutting down. It's very sad. One of the outcomes is that people who know them are asking the question "why?" and some are asking Jessica and I our opinion about this tragedy. We have to opportunity to offer comfort and to speak about the grace and compassion of God. Please pray that God would give us the words to say to the people around us.

We thank you all for your prayers and your support.

In Christ,

Joel and Jessica Rinn