

FEBRUARY 2020



Dear friends

We are very grateful to the Lord for your faithful gospel partnership in our ministry out here in Naples. Here are some points to guide you in your prayers for us over the forthcoming months.



Please give thanks...

For a series of Christmas evangelistic initiatives.

- Our biggest evangelistic meal yet with 54 adults and children eating, playing tombola (a Neapolitan Christmas tradition) and listening to an evangelistic talk.
- An evangelistic youth graffiti workshop (*left*) - Mark way out of his depth here!
- An evangelistic concert in partnership with a local Pentecostal church who supplied the choir.
- An evangelistic video - we used it both to communicate the gospel as it was shared through our social media platforms, but we also sent it to church leaders across Italy with a final frame that could be personalised to include their church's name and details of their Christmas events.

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For F as he was baptised in January (*right*). For the many friends, family members and colleagues present to hear of the Lord's work in his life. Sadly L was ill and so not able to be baptised.

For M, a young student who joined us in November through links with an AA meeting that takes place near us at the same time as church. He had never been to an evangelical church before and he had never heard the Bible taught. Both the community and the teaching have struck him and it appears that the Lord is at work in him. He meets weekly with Francesco (the assistant pastor) to study the Bible.



For an ongoing good working relationship with Christ Church Naples during their interregnum. We meet as a church in their church buildings.

Napoli dov'è il caffè è culto (Naples, where coffee is a religion)

People worship all sorts of things in Naples, but perhaps one of the cultural artefacts that Neapolitans are most proud of is their coffee. Neapolitans' favorite blend is Passalacqua. No self-respecting Neapolitan would even dream of buying Lavazza which is from the north. The only real way to drink coffee is standing up at the bar of a local cafe. In Naples, coffee is almost always served with a glass of water, drink it first to cleanse the palate and never after the coffee which could be taken as an offence drinking to remove an awful taste.



Want to endear yourself to a Neapolitan? Ask him to explain how to make a real cup of coffee and watch him wax lyrical for the next 30 minutes! Having been in Naples for six and a half years, Mark has *almost* learnt how to make it like a local. He makes it pre-church every Sunday and enjoys the inevitable banter that follows - burnt coffee anyone? English coffee - any takers? In a few bars it is still traditional to buy coffee for oneself and a *caffè sospeso*, a 'suspended coffee' kept for an unfortunate soul, fallen on hard times who might come later with no money but with a desire of a simple cup of coffee.

The longer we live here, the more we are struck by just how many unfortunate, thirsty souls there are. Please pray that we'd be given many opportunities to offer them not of a *caffè sospeso* but a *salvezza sospesa*, a thirst quenching salvation paid for by someone else that is there waiting for them to taste. Pray that many would drink with us and be satisfied!

Please pray for...

The church study day (29 Feb) on evangelism. Pray that this day would equip us as a church to see our friends and neighbours as the Lord does. That it would remind us of the gospel and motivate us to reach out with this life-saving message to Neapolitans. Please pray that as individuals and as a community we would grow a culture of natural evangelism within the Chiesa Evangelica Neapolis.

Easter Mission - Evangelistic Easter dinner (10 Apr), open air evangelistic preaching / graffiti workshop (afternoon 11 Apr), Evangelistic Easter lunch (12 Apr). Please pray for thirsty souls to come and drink from the water of life! Pray for a sense of ownership and excitement for us as a church as we get behind these events and intentionally invite our friends to them.

Our family's health - we absolutely don't take for granted the health we enjoy and would appreciate prayer for low-level ongoing tummy (Luisa) and headaches (Inez), as well as managing allergies (Sofia). We are doing well as a family and marvel at how quickly the winter seems to have passed! Archie delighted us as he sang in his school choir concert last Wednesday, especially during his solo part in 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'. It's quite easy to get solo parts when you're the only one who can pronounce the words in the song! Luisa is busy compiling cool Spotify playlists and (when she practices) also delights us all with her guitar arpeggios. Inez is tik tokking and baking her way through the third and final year of middle school whilst trying to plan her 'tesina' (end of year exam). She has to choose a theme which enables her to display knowledge of all her subjects and the favourite at the moment is 'Nostalgia'. Sofia is generally to be found crying over her Greek or Latin 'versione' (translation) or polishing her new phone. Mark is either staying low and running fast or watering and pruning his plants on the balcony. Jane is enjoying friendships with other mums (thanks for answered prayers for this) and the seafront after school drop off.

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