

PADOVA, ITALY NEWSLETTER

January 5, 2008

Volume 3

Issue 1



Dear family, supporters, and friends,

Happy New Year!!!! We pray the holidays were a joyful time spent with family and friends.

November and December were busy months for us. Many of you know that we have been involved in teaching teens at the Germany Euro Retreat every year since 2001. We travel with Byron Benitez and Hi Jones who have been teaching the teens at this retreat for over 20 years. We usually travel with a group and this year we were accompanied by Byron's niece and mother, along with Hi's nephew and a close family friend of Byron and Hi's. The retreat always starts the Saturday before Thanksgiving and ends the following Tuesday. We always divide up the classes among the teachers (Byron, Hi, Rebecca and myself). Jeremy taught two of the classes, while Rebecca taught two of the teenage girl classes. We have had the privilege of watching many of these teens grow up and we have grown close to many of them. This is such a great opportunity for us because it gives us a chance to help and strengthen our youth through God's



Teens getting ready for an activity

word! We pray we can be part of this effort for years to come.

Once we returned from Germany we were blessed to be invited to the Webb's (brethren who are stationed in Aviano, Italy) house for a huge traditional Thanksgiving "Texas Style"!!!! If you (y'all) know anything about Texas, you know that nothing is small!!! So you can only imagine how much great food there was prepared by the Webb's along with the other members who attend the church in Aviano. It was a great time, with great food, and great company.



Thanksgiving at the Webb's

In the month of November we drove down to a ladies day in Vicenza with the Brauers. Rebecca and Tia enjoyed fellowshiping with their sisters and listening to the two speakers. Jeremy and Jeff, along with a couple of other men watched the children upstairs. It was an encouraging time for all us to meet other brethren in Italy.

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In December we visited the church in Conelgiano, Italy where two preachers spoke at a gospel meeting. The theme was on the “Last Things” (i.e. resurrection etc). Once again it was encouraging to meet more brethren and fellowship with the Christians in Italy.

We completed our first intensive Italian language course on December 21, 2007.



Our Italian language class

It was a four week course and we felt like we were back at Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver all over again, instead this time it was Italian. Our teacher was an Italian girl from Padova (about 28). Her name was Caterina and she taught us Italian only speaking in Italian although her English was excellent. MAMA MIA - talk about intensive (yes, they really say that). We learned a great amount in a very short time. It is the best way to learn a language quickly and it forced us to work

harder. We are not close to fluent yet, but have learned many of the rules, and can “get by” (barely) so to speak. Now we just have to work on learning more vocabulary. Our class was a very diverse class. There were 4 people from Israel, one from Venezuela, one from Slovakia, and one from Canada. We became very close to these people since we spent 20 hours a week with them. We became good friends with Suzanna from Slovakia, and Jorge from Venezuela. They plan to live in Italy, so we are hoping they will be interested in the gospel someday soon. There was one other lady from India (Madhavi) who started in our class, but was moved to a second class with some other people because of the size. When she found out that we were teachers of the Bible she expressed that she would like to learn more about it. We have become closer with her since, and she has already visited the Padova congregation with her children. Her two boys (ages 8 & 10) told her that they enjoyed the children’s Bible class which Rebecca taught that morning and that they would like to come back. Madhavi has agreed to study the Bible with us when we return. Please keep her in your prayers.

Our next session for school begins again March 31, 2008. Until then we are trying to practice what we have learned and expand our vocabulary.

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Currently we are back in the states to secure our visas. We had to come back to change our visas which was not possible to do in Italy. Originally we were trying to acquire religious visas, but could not until we had a specific document from the church in Padova. The church is currently working to get this document from the Italian government, but due to the bureaucracy in Italy, it looks as if it may take a few years. Our plan now is to acquire student visas through our language school until Rebecca's citizenship is accepted. While we are here we plan to visit our supporters, as well as try to raise the support we are still lacking. We are still quite short on our monthly living expenses (still unable to afford our own place) and with the US dollar dropping we need to secure more funds. Since we arrived in Italy in September, the drop in the dollar has made it more difficult than before. When we arrived, it cost us \$135 to buy €100. When we left it cost us \$147 to buy the same €100.

Our return flight to Italy is scheduled for March 10th, 2008. So this should allow us some time to give presentations to new congregations looking for mission work to support. If you have any contacts (friends or relatives) in the church in Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, or Oklahoma, (or any other states) please let us know as we will be traveling in these areas. 95% of our support has come from contacts, and we would greatly appreciate it.

One morning we woke up to a little surprise in Padova. SNOW!!!! It is very unusual for it to snow in Padova. It happens once every 3-5 years. Although it was weird, at the same time it felt like home where we are from (i.e. the snowy Rocky Mountains of Colorado).



A view from the Brauer's balcony. Being away from home these past 3 months has made us realize that no matter where we live we will always be foreigners in this world until God calls us to our true home...HEAVEN!!!

Again we want to thank all of you for your financial and spiritual support. We appreciate and love all of you. We pray for a healthy and happy 2008 for you and your families!!!! Keep us in your prayers.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Korodaj".

Jeremy and Rebecca Korodaj

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SUPPORT INFORMATION:

Make funds* payable to: MABELVALE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Earmark funds (memo): KORODAJ MISSION FUND

MAIL TO:

Mabelvale church of Christ
P.O. Box 345
Mabelvale, Arkansas 72103

*Please indicate whether your donation is a one-time donation, or a monthly commitment. If it is a monthly commitment, for our budgeting purposes and records please indicate how long (i.e. monthly for one year, for two years, etc.) you are committing to provide monthly support.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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(www.skype.com – free program allows users to talk for free by voice or chat via computer)

Download and add our user names to your contact list. Please keep in mind that we are 8 hours ahead of MST.

