

Love in Action

December 19, 2025

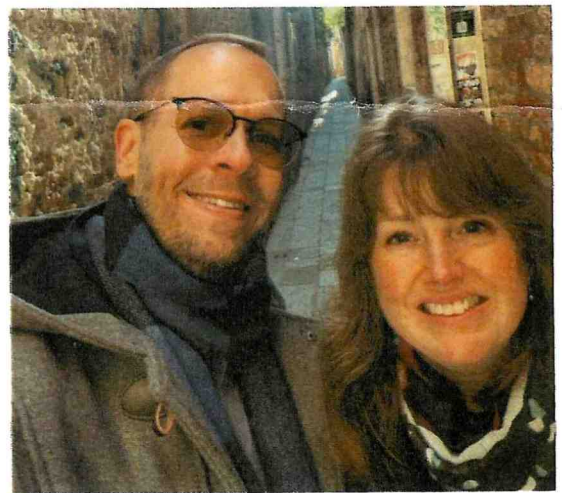
On this fourth Sunday of Advent, our church will celebrate by lighting a candle that symbolizes the love of Christ. While this is a special Sunday celebration, we are privileged to see love in action throughout our community. One example is Sam.

Sam arrived in Italy as an immigrant who survived nine years of civil war in his Middle Eastern home country. When we first met him in Italian class, our shared vocabulary was limited and conversation was difficult. We quickly learned that love does not always need fluent language. Sam kept showing up, and he kept wanting to spend time together.

About a year later, Sam joined us for church for the first time in his life. He was met with smiles and hugs, warm coffee, and food prepared with care. He sat beside us, sang along with the music, and during the prayers whispered his own prayers in Arabic. After worship, he stayed for lunch and said, "If I had known church was like this, I would have come a year ago. I feel like I'm with my family."

Sam now makes coming to church a priority! We are thankful that Jesus is at work in his life through a community that continues to love him, walk with him, and support him as he looks for work, a new home, and the hope of being reunited with his wife and parents.

This is the love we celebrate during Advent: God's love made flesh through shared tables, patient presence, and a community that says, "You are not alone." We are deeply thankful for you, our ministry partners, who make this ministry possible.



Christmas Greetings from Global Servants
Jon and Amanda Good.



Italians celebrate Christmas with a special cake called "Pandoro".



The Advent wreath at the Evangelical Baptist Church of Florence.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your encouragement, support, and prayer. We believe that this ministry is only possible through God's grace and through our partners in the gospel. Enclosed are printable versions our latest four email journals. If you don't receive these by email, please contact us at good@internationalministries.org.

Love in Jesus, Jon and Amanda

On earth as it is in heaven

Matthew 6:10

International Ministries works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation.



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God's Special Possession

January 20, 2026

One of the surprising aspects of life in Italy has been the number of official documents required to live here. On any given day, we may need our codice fiscale (tax code), our permesso di soggiorno (residence permit), our carta d'identità (identity card), and our patente di guida (drivers' license). Each of these documents requires a special application process and a lot of waiting. These documents tell something about who we are in the eyes of the Italian state: where we belong, what we are permitted to do, and how long we are allowed to stay.

In many ways, these forms of identification have become a visual reminder of a deeper spiritual truth. The world around us is constantly trying to tell us who we are and to whom we belong through our nationality, our resident status, or our accomplishments. Yet as followers of Jesus, our identity does not come from any document we carry in our wallet.

The apostle Paul reminds us of this in Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Our true identity is not rooted in legal status or official recognition, but in belonging to Christ. We are His before we are anything else.

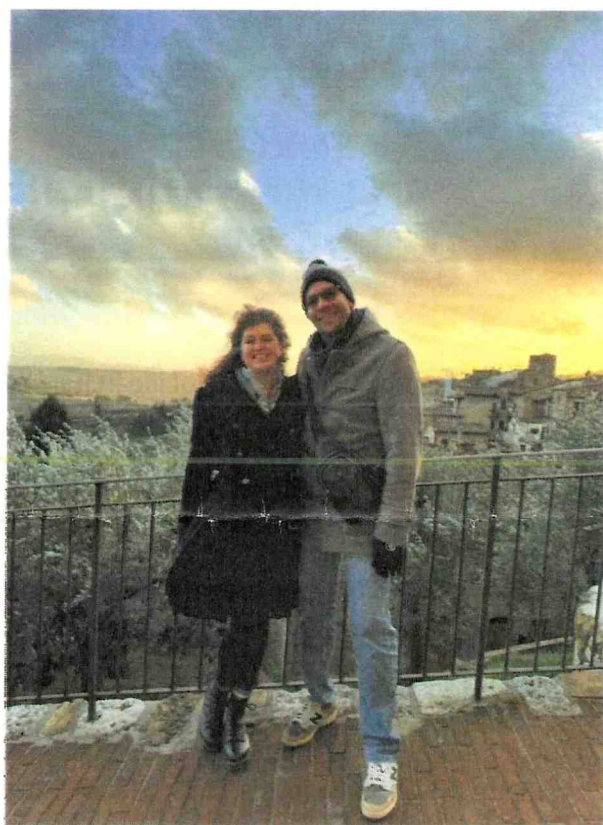
1 Peter 2:9 gives us an additional picture of who we are. Peter writes, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession." This means that before we are Americans, residents of Italy, or holders of any official documents, we are first and foremost God's people. We are chosen, set apart, and called to proclaim His light in the world.



This is our driving school. We are required to pass the exam in Italian.



Jon and Andrew are waiting for Elizabeth and Sarah to come through arrivals at the Florence airport.



Amanda and Jon are enjoying a beautiful sunset.

Prayers and Praises:

Thank you for your partnership. Together, we are sharing the light of Christ here in Italy. Many people come to Italy seeking new identity and a new way of life. It is our privilege to introduce them to the way and hope of Jesus. Please pray that people will be open to the invitation to become part of the family of God. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission and for reminding us, through your prayers and support, that we belong to Christ.

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Matthew 6:10



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The Circle of Mission



March 17, 2026

This past Sunday we experienced a beautiful reminder that the church truly reaches around the world. Our church family in Florence is made up of people from many different countries and cultures. About half come from Italy, and the other half from different parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Central, North, and South America. When we gather for worship, we are reminded that the gospel brings together people from every background into one family in Christ.

Last Sunday one of our regular attenders hosted a fundraising event for vulnerable children in her home country of Togo. Members of our congregation helped sponsor the event by preparing the meal, raising funds, and offering encouragement. It was a joyful afternoon making new friends, and no one went away hungry!

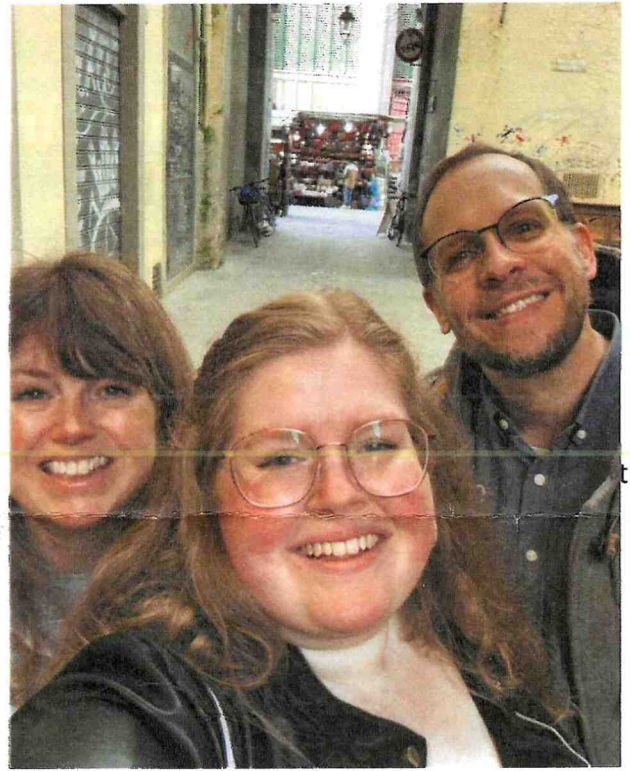
Moments like this remind us that mission does not move in one direction. It is a multidirectional circle that goes around the world. The global church supports one another, encourages one another, and shares in Christ's work together. From Florence, we are able to stand alongside brothers and sisters in Africa, helping them serve children with compassion and the hope of Jesus. At the same time, their faith and witness strengthen the church here in Italy.

The apostle Paul encourages churches to be part of this circle of mission when he writes in 2 Corinthians 8:14, "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need..."

We are grateful to be part of this great mission circle. Thank you for partnering with us. Your prayers and support allow us to continue connecting believers across cultures and continents as we share the hope of Christ together.



Delicious African food was served at the benefit dinner



Sarah visits Amanda and Jon in Florence

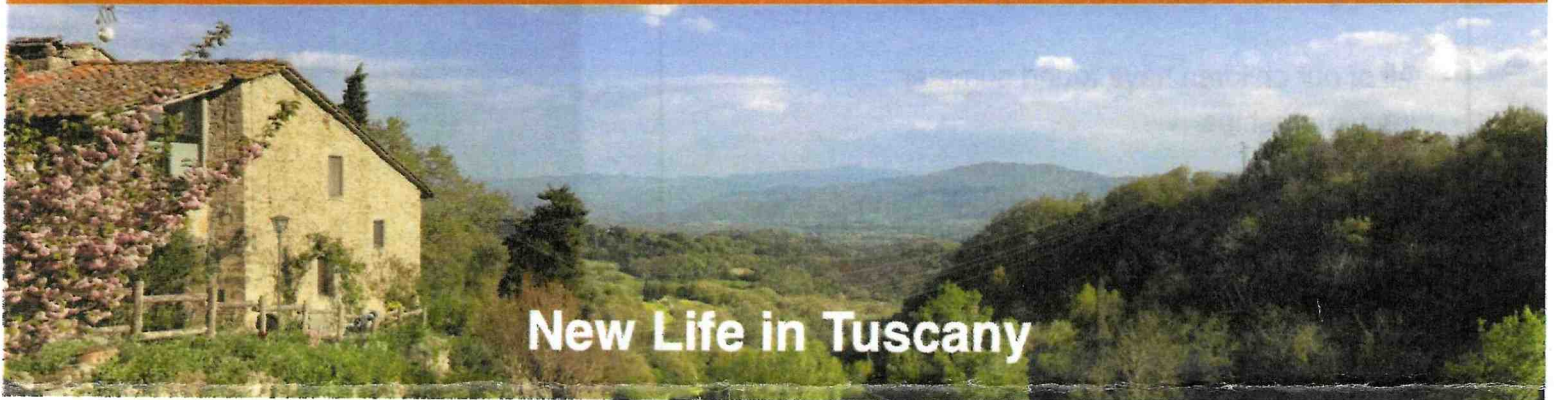
Prayers and Praises:

- If you are not yet a financial ministry partner, would you prayerfully consider making a pledge for monthly, quarterly, or annual support? Please email good@internationalministries.org or call 610-768-2323 for more information.
- This summer, our daughter Sarah will be serving in Wisconsin at Green Lake Conference Center. She needs a vehicle for the summer. Do you have one she could use? If so, please let us know.
- Please pray for our family, and especially for Andrew and his health. Also, pray for the work of Christ in Florence. May our community be a place where many people can come to know living hope in Jesus.

Email good@internationalministries.org
to sign up to receive newsletters like this!

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May 2026

One of the joys of ministry in Italy is discovering where God is already at work. In a country filled with beautiful villages and countryside, it can sometimes be difficult to find Christian communities, especially outside of the larger cities.

Recently, however, we have had the privilege of spending time with a house church in the Tuscan countryside. Each hour-long drive from Florence reminds us that we serve a Creator who delights in beauty. Yet even more beautiful than the landscape is what awaits us there. This community gathers to study Scripture and pray together. Around tables filled with food, conversations continue long after Bible study ends.

These gatherings remind us of the picture of the early church found in Acts 2:42–47, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...” Luke describes a community shaped by devotion to Christ and devotion to one another. They learned together, prayed together, shared life together, and experienced joy together. Their faith was not lived in isolation but in community.

As Amanda and I continue our ministry here in Italy, it is a joy to help cultivate communities where people can encounter Jesus and grow together as His disciples. We long to see communities throughout Italy, in Florence and beyond, where believers gather around God’s Word and live out the hope and joy of the Christian life.

God is bringing new life in Tuscany. We are grateful to witness it and excited to see what He will continue to do.

Thank you for praying with us and partnering in this ministry. Please pray that this growing community will continue to deepen in faith, reach others with the hope of Christ, and be a light in the Tuscan countryside.



Jon and Amanda Good, global servants in Italy
good@internationalministries.org

Praise the Lord with us:

- Andrew finally received his residency permit, and is feeling much better after a long illness.
- All of our children have found summer jobs/internships.
- The Lord is blessing the congregation in Florence with new visitors and ministry opportunities to live and share the gospel. We feel and experience the Holy Spirit at work.

Please pray for us:

- This ministry is possible only by God's grace and through your prayer and financial support. Please pray for our full financial support. If the Lord leads you, call 610-768-2168, or visit our webpage at <https://internationalministries.org/author/aj-good/> to set up monthly or annual gifts. Please pray that the Lord will use these gifts so that many people can have the hope of Jesus.
- This summer, we will be in the US for a few weeks visiting our partners. We hope to see many of you, including at the Mountains and Prairies Youth Conference in Colorado! Please pray for our travel and for new partners in the gospel.



Andrew and Vittorio lead worship at
Florence Baptist Church



Bible study in Scarperia

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