

*Buon Giorno di Italia*

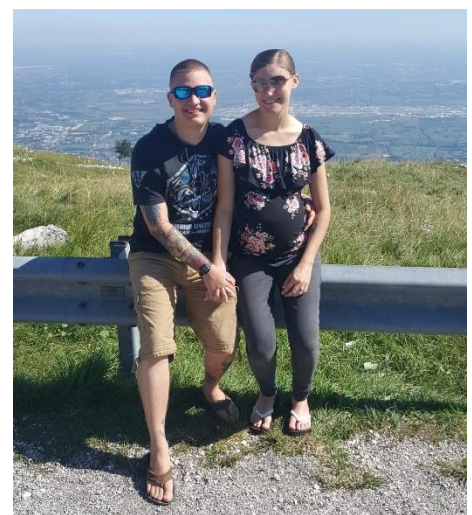
*Life is a precious gift from God whether physical or spiritual*

This summer was a time to celebrate new life in the lives of many of those to whom we minister. From births, to baptism, to marriage new beginnings abound.



The birth of a baby is one of the sweetest blessings in life. The Psalmist declares in 127:3 that “*children are a gift of the Lord.*” Such is the sentiment of Judah and Lina Emory at the birth of their baby girl, Hayes Nicolina. Judah is a civil servant “environmental engineer” from Cherry Point, NC. He grew up in a Christian home but began questioning the church and his faith as he saw the impact the culture is having on the church. As a result, his faith waivered. A little more than a year ago he saw an advertisement for my men’s bible study and began his quest for answers. His questions concerning the impact of the culture on the Church led us to study the pastoral epistles of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy and Titus as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, a church plagued with problems and disorder. Lina was raised in a religious home and followed the traditions of the church without fully understanding the gospel or the Bible. Being exposed to our expository teaching has helped her understand the Bible as never before. Judah and Lina have learned to diligently apply and trust God’s truth in every area of their life so that they can stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture’s nonbiblical ideas. In addition, their marriage has been strengthened and they say they now have purpose and direction. The birth of their newborn daughter has brought to life the Psalmists words— “*I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful; I know that full well*” (Psalm 139:14). Judah and Lina are committed to raise Hayes in the admonition of the Lord and teach her and their future children the precepts of the Lord.

Terrance and Chelsea Trammel are also expecting a baby girl; her due date was August 31. What this young couple lacks in experience they make up for in trust in the Lord. From the time Terrance arrived in Aviano from Korea he attended our bible studies and weekly fellowship. Terrance did not grow up in a Christian home. He became a Christian as a teenager but did not grow in his faith. While in Korea he had some exposure to bible, however he did not begin to grow spiritually until three years ago when we began discipleship. The new life he found in Christ had such an impact on him that he shared what he was learning with his fiancée Chelsea who was in Louisiana. Right before they married, Terrance led Chelsea to Christ. Upon Chelsea’s arrival in Aviano she joined Terrance in attending bible study and became part of our fellowship group. In addition, Anna and I meet regularly with the two of them to teach them biblical principles related to marriage and family. It was with great joy for all of us in fellowship when we learned they were expecting a baby. Little Elizabeth (Lizzy) is expected any day. Like the Emory’s, Terrance and Chelsea are committed to raising their



children to know and love Jesus. They want to pass on a Christian heritage to their children and future grandchildren.

Angela Mauro, a young Italian woman, has found new life in Christ. New life in Christ is described by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17—*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come*” (NASB). Angela grew up in a religious home and participated in the many church traditions of her heritage. Yet, she did not understand what it meant to be in a personal relationship with Jesus or the road to salvation. After meeting Peter, a young airman whom I was disciplining, her spiritual interest was stirred. Peter shared with the Angela the gospel and the spiritual truths he learned in our discipleship time. Angela



embraced what she was hearing and became a Christian. From that point her desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of God began. She read through the Bible in a few months. Recognizing her need for discipleship she contacted Anna and asked her to teach her the Word of God. Her concern was her lack of fluency in English, however that has not been a problem. Last month Angela followed through with believer’s baptism. Her passion is that all the world will know the love of Jesus and the power of His Word that has changed her life. Angela regularly shares Jesus with her Italian co-workers on base and her family and friends.



New life also comes when two believers unite with Christ in a covenant marriage relationship. On August 9<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege of uniting Matthew Colosky and Miranda Klow in holy matrimony at Lake Barcis. Miranda has been part of our fellowship group for some time. Like many young people in our Christian community she grew up in a religious home, but never grew in her faith and understanding of the Bible. After joining our bible studies and fellowship group her knowledge of God and His Word grew. Thus, she made a new commitment to live out her Christian faith. As part of her commitment to die to her former life and walk in newness of life in Christ I baptized her at Lake Barcis in August 2017. Matthew grew up in a Christian home and was part of the same Church community most of his life. When he arrived in Aviano for his first assignment he was

overwhelmed with the challenges of military life and the absence of his family and home church. A short while later he met Miranda and started attending our fellowship group. Lake Barcis was a fitting place for their wedding ceremony as it is their favorite spot. In fact, they married on the spot Matthew proposed. Matthew and Miranda desire a Christian marriage where they live out God’s biblical principles for marriage and family. They also want their marriage to provide a clear picture of Christ’s love through their love for one another and their obedience to God.

Please pray for these young Christians as they continue to walk in love and obedience to God and His Word. Thank you for making it possible for us to build into their lives and walk with them in their new beginnings.

Serving Together in Christ,

*John & Anna*