



Reaching Men and Women for Christ in Italy

Military and International Community



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October 14, 2020

Buon Giorno di Italia

If there is any true measure of a man it is not in what he accomplishes, but in how he serves others. So often, we measure the worth of someone by their material wealth, status, fame or power. Whether in the Christian or secular world, we introduce a person by their list of accomplishments, position, education or title. Yet, those who are noteworthy, who stand tall in the Bible are introduced simply as a “servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Disciples like Paul, Peter, James, Jude, Timothy, Barnabas, Epaphras, Tychicus, Onesimus. The title “servant of the Lord Jesus Christ” says it all—the person is committed to serving the Lord Jesus and people.

Let me introduce you to three faithful servants. First, Jim Rowell (left). Jim is a DoD schoolteacher on base at Aviano High School. He teaches career educational technology classes and leads the school’s Robotics team which competes throughout Europe. Jim arrived in Italy in August 2015 from Yokuska Naval Base Japan. From the start, Jim and I began weekly one-to-one discipleship at a local coffee shop. Over the past five years Jim’s understanding of the Scriptures has abounded. Not only does he love to study the Scriptures, he also has a sincere desire to serve others. Whether it is setting up or tearing down for worship service or washing dishes after our fellowship meal, Jim serves with a joyful heart. We are very blessed to have him as part of our team, and we are excited to see his spiritual growth as a Christian leader and devoted follower of Jesus Christ.



Caleb Calhoun (right) is another faithful servant of the Lord. Caleb arrived in Aviano 15 months ago from Missouri and is new to the Air Force. He works as a fuel’s specialist; refueling aircraft and other equipment that needs special assistance. Like Jim, Caleb has a heart to study the Bible. From the first time we met for one-to-one discipleship, I was struck by his teachability and his transparency. He is humble and sincere, and readily accepts guidance and correction; something many people have a hard time doing. He also has a newfound desire to share the gospel; please pray for boldness and opportunities for him. We are grateful for his love for music which led him to step up to help with music ministry in our Christian fellowship.



As we said in previously newsletters, saying good-bye to those in our Christian fellowship is difficult. This month we bid farewell to another faithful servant, Tyler Dickens who PCSed to Ramstein AB, Germany. During his time at Aviano, Tyler faced many challenges as a first-time supervisor of a large section. He recently shared that at times he felt discouraged and questioned why the successes and victories that other airmen received were not happening to him. Yet, he attests that the spiritual teaching and fellowship he experienced through our ministry helped him enormously. In fact, he noted teachings on faith and contentedness really set the tone for him this past year. It helped him deal with trials and showed him the areas he needed to improve. Please pray for Tyler in his new position at Ramstein.

We marvel at the Lord’s mercies and goodness as we continue to minister to the military and international community in Aviano. Despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, we continue to minister as before through one-to-one discipleship, Sunday worship services, and mid-week fellowship meal and bible study. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support which makes it possible for us to minister in Italy.

Serving Together in Christ,

John & Anna