

REACHING OUT IN LOVE, TOGETHER!



In the last issue of "Vivere!", we were able to report on some of the great work that we (*Reynold Rutledge and Onofrio Miccolis*) accomplished on your behalf during our last trip in India. We told you about the dedication and opening of the new addition of our Centre for Blind Children. Yes, it was another miracle! We also shared with you about the special day we had with the 175 lepers who responded to the invitation to come and be part of the special Day of Dignity with distribution of food, clothes, and with singing and proclaiming of God's love. This was to be, in the words of Onofrio Miccolis, "not a day of charity, but an opportunity to come to know Jesus, the Friend of the lepers, the Saviour of all."

We also told you that the distribution of 2500 pair of shoes for shoeless feet was once again made possible because of the generous giving of many friends and churches. We are now ready to start planning for the next large distribution and every gift of love will be appreciated to once again witness the overwhelming expression of joy on the faces of children. Some of them never had shoes before.

Our Child Sponsorship Program is very important and we are very thankful for the great help of families and churches who support this part of our mission. Every time we visit India, we have a full day with these children, some of them are in an orphanage, others in a large leprosarium and

cont'd on page 4

From my heart to yours...

by *Onofrio Miccolis*



Dear Friends and Supporters,

May the blessing of God's abiding peace dwell in your heart and home!

As I write, I am sitting on a veranda in the Dominican Republic. It is very early and all is still. The sun is starting to appear in the distant horizon, projecting its rays on the tall palm trees, and promising that it is going to be a beautiful day. This is a new day full of possibilities for us to do God's will!

I am truly amazed by the beauty of God's creation. Indeed, the Bible expresses it well, where it states: *He (GOD) has made everything beautiful in His time.* (Ecclesiastes 3:11) Oh, that from deep within the heart of man, with every new sunrise, there would also arise that old song of the people of Israel: *This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.* (Psalms 118:24.) Nevertheless, the reality is that many people do not find the time to consider the beauty and the glory of God's creation. The cares of life often blind us and we fail to see the hand of God still dishing out *manna* to support us in our daily needs.

We need to experience God's abiding peace in our heart before we can experience it in our home. Because of sin, the world is under enemy control. Fear fills the air. I have just received a note from a friend in Israel. It states: *"Our spirits in Israel are very very low. Last night 6 young soldiers were gunned down by terrorists near Ramallah. What more can I say? Everyday people are dying on both side, there is no end to it. They kill us, we go and bomb them and it is a waste of ammunition and effort. It is a losing battle and so very very sad. This is the spirit of Israel today, people are mourning for their friends, family and country."* What a sad note from the land of Israel! However the same cry comes from every corner of the earth. We need God's peace more then ever before.

One day the disciples said to Jesus: *"Lord, teach us to pray."* This gave Jesus an opportunity to teach them and us how to communicate with God and learn to cast our cares upon Him, knowing that He cares for us. Jesus told His friends that they should learn to trust God as their father, submit to His majesty and affirm, *"Your will be done."* If we know the nature of God, we will have no hesitation to say, *"Your will be done"*. God is a good God and His will for us is also a good will.

One day, the same Jesus who had taught His disciples to pray that God's will be done in their life, found Himself in deep distress and He cried out: *"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."* (Matt 26:38) Later, in verse 42, He prayed, *"O My Father...Your will be done! Yes, we need to learn to cast our cares on Him and trust Him. The world is dominated by sin, but God is still in control and today He gives us a new glorious sunrise full of promises of His Divine love and assistance.*

Today we need to seek to know God's will and seek to do it. As God is taking care of us, let us learn to bring the message of His loving care to the world around us. May God bless us with His peace dwelling in your heart and home and may He make us all messengers of His good will.

A Safe Future

by Daniele Costanza



A short while ago I was reading an interesting email regarding an increasing social phenomenon. Obviously such trend is not only expanding in Italy but all over the world, including Canada.

According to a survey conducted in 2001, one in four Italians will not start their day without first consulting their horoscope. Sixty percent of these people say that they have never believed in God or have stopped doing so. Therefore, to satisfy the demand of this twenty-five percent of Italians, there are one hundred and fifty thousand astrologists. And of course, all this means big business!

By exploiting the fear about tomorrow and the effect occult powers can have over us, thousands of people speculate about the life and finances of scared and gullible individuals. This is a phenomenon that has become so much part of our society that at least once a day people listen to the radio, or watch television or read in the newspapers to know what the horoscope has to say about the immediate future. Strangely enough, no seer in the world was able to foresee the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in the U.S.A., nor the subsequent repercussions in Afghanistan! And yet people continue to pay attention to what human and limited beings are predicting...

While I was considering this quite saddening situation, God's words, through the prophet Jeremiah, strongly resounded in my heart. After years of being exiled, God's people received the promise of a new plan, a safe future God had in mind for them:

"...I know the plans I have for you... Plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11).

Though such words were initially given to the exiles in

Babylon, in a historic context far removed from us and much different than ours, they still express a permanent and extraordinary truth: **God the Creator has plans of peace for His creatures! He wants to give them a future and a hope!**

The "shortcut of horoscopes" is no solution. God Himself, in the above-mentioned verse, shows us the remedy to put an end to our fear as we face the uncertain future:

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found of you..." (29:13-14).

What a firm and comforting promise! And this is also the pressing invitation we share with our TV viewers in each program.

It is our distinct privilege, dear friends, to direct millions of souls, through our TV program, to God's Word, which still is a *"lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my feet"* (Ps. 119:105).

Please read the testimonies on page 3, as a confirmation that, **VIVERE AL CENTO PER CENTO, thanks to your ongoing support, is still making a difference in the lives of many precious people wandering in the darkness of sin.**

Would you please continue to pray for us as we proclaim the "good plans" God has for this generation? **With unreserved commitment, let's tell everybody that only God has a future and a hope, and that they are available through faith in Jesus Christ. LET'S DO IT TOGETHER BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

(1) Article by D. Bognandi

RELIGION OR THE GOSPEL?

There are many religions, but only **one Gospel**.

Religion is man's work; **the Gospel is a gift from God**.

Religion is what man does for God; **the Gospel is what God does for man**.

Religion is man seeking God; **the Gospel is God seeking man**.

Religion aims at attaining self-righteousness; **the Gospel is God Himself reaching down to sinful men through Jesus Christ**.

Religion is good will; **the Gospel is good news**.

Religion is good advice; **the Gospel is a glorious proclamation**.

Religion takes man as he is and leaves him in the same condition; **the Gospel takes man as he is and makes him a new creature**.

Religion reforms the outward life; **the Gospel transforms the inner life**.

Sometimes religion is just performance; **the Gospel is life**.

"The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16).

While the doors are open, through VIVERE AL CENTO PER

CENTO, let's continue to spread the message of the Gospel among the millions of Italians who are bound by religious tradition.

Please pray that the glorious Gospel we present in every single program will get into their homes and hearts, bringing eternal salvation! Your support is precious as we carry on mission God has given us.

CITIES AND AREAS PRESENTLY COVERED BY OUR TV PROGRAM IN ITALY:

Acquaviva (BA), Civitavecchia, Crotona, Gela, Marche e Abruzzo, Agrigento, Palermo, Trapani, Caltanissetta, Reggio Calabria, Messina, Salerno, Piemonte, Vibo Valentia.

THROUGHOUT CANADA - (on TELETATINO Channel).

A short note from AUSTRALIA: "The TV program, "Vivere al Cento per Cento" is still doing well. Every week we are receiving phone calls and we are visiting those who so desire. Keep up the good work!"

Elio Marrocco (Adelaide)

In this edition, we have the pleasure of presenting the written testimonies of individuals saved by the Grace of God by means of our television program. We invite those who have heard the message of God's love through VIVERE AL CENTO PER CENTO to share their story with us (address on page 4).

Romans 8:28 comes to mind: "All things work together for the good of those who love God."

For about a year, first as a result of the distance and then because of a grave car accident, I could not attend the local Christian gatherings in my area. During that long period, three times a week, the Lord used the TV program "Vivere Al Cento Per Cento" to provide the spiritual support I needed. In the first part of the programs, I was encouraged by testimonies from people that had been transformed by their "encounter" with Jesus. Then the time dedicated to the message of the Word of God was bread of life for my spirit, which didn't desire anything else. At the end of every program I would join the time of prayer to God the Father. Every time I strongly felt the presence of God around me. Such a loving manner of speaking and at the same time authoritative and resolute, brought healing in my heart. Finally I had found the Lord, after having searched for Him in so many wrong places. I knew I was irreparably lost, but God, in His infinite grace found me, saved me and, thanks to those messages on TV, He healed my wounds completely.

I want to encourage you to carry on your mission through television. Maybe you don't realize fully how many people you are reaching and helping to find Jesus. In my case, I forget even the pain of the fractures... I know that in the solitude of my room, Jesus was there with me... I cherish those unforgettable moments...

Giovanna (Italy)

I want to tell you how I came to know Jesus or better, how Jesus searched and found me, even me. All of my adolescence was difficult, full of fear deriving from a negative relationship with my father, who had the habit of drinking with all of the consequences. I got married hoping to improve but the marriage revealed disastrous, with a difficult man full of habits, friend of all except his family. In 1987 my mother died and therefore I had to take care of my father. It was the most difficult thing that they could have asked me.

In the beginning he was stubborn, but as time passed he was expecting my forgiveness and implored me to give him love; but there was only indifference in me, if not hate. In 1997 my father died, without my forgiveness, which made me fall in a deep crisis. I didn't sleep at night anymore, or I would awaken screaming. There were nights of nightmares. The morning, in the kitchen, while I reorganized the house, I would turn the TV on to private channels where they told fortunes, which seemed to have the solution for me. Instead nothing, I was always worse. Therefore I thought that the only effective solution was suicide and this thought was always more pressing.

But one day, flipping through the various television channels, there was a program entitled *Vivere al Cento per Cento*. A man was speaking of Jesus, a Jesus that forgives, that loves us as we are, a living Jesus with whom one can have direct communication, a Jesus who saves and heals. But I didn't bother very much, even if those words ministered to my soul so much that in the morning, at

around 9 o'clock, I was faithfully watching the program. One morning, while I felt hopeless, I heard these words of Jesus:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and oppressed, and I will give you rest". Immediately I wrote down the phone number on the screen and decided to phone and vent. A man answered and I don't remember whether I introduced myself, but I quickly shouted "It is you who are from the program *Vivere al Cento per*

Cento? Well, I am tired of hearing this stupidity. Why doesn't God pass here where I live? I don't know Him!" Then I let out all that came to my mind against God. The man at the other end listened to me in silence, but at the end he offered to give me the address of a local Christian group.

After much hesitation I went, and for the first time I began to read the Bible. The more I read it and listened to it, the more the Lord entered my heart removing all of my fears and those nightmares. For the first time in my life I had found peace, joy and I no longer had suicidal thoughts. The Lord, in His grace, had freed and forgiven me.

I want to thank the Lord for all of His blessings and above all for salvation and eternal life. Of course I cannot but thank you who are part of *Vivere al Cento per Cento*.

Gabriella (Civitanova) Italy



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others in our Centre for Blind Children. We spend time with them and take pictures for the dear sponsors. We love to help more children and we ask for the help

of our readers. Please, help us to continue to lend assistance and change the future of another child in need. For information write to us (*see address on page 4*) or visit our website and fill your application on line: www.clti.net

The needs are always overwhelming and with God's help we try to respond. On every trip, a new step of faith is taken. While we were in Purulia, the school Principal spoke with us on behalf of a very poor young lady who is the only one of her large family receiving an education. Her father is paralysed. She has enrolled in a Nursing School, but due to lack funds she had no other choice but cut short her studies. The Lord burdened our hearts and we took the step to help her. She is back at the Nursing School working hard to reach her dream and become a professional nurse. We are confident that God will supply this need.

In one of the worst districts of Calcutta, we opened a new Centre to assist some of the poorest children. Here, the children are receiving spiritual and social help. We have opened a clinic and we are happy to let you know that the Executive Committee of the Hospital of the Assemblies of God in Calcutta, has agreed to look after this clinic by sending a team of Doctor, Nurses and Medical Aides as well as supplying some furniture. The Hospital will be supplying and dispensing medicines from their Hospital stock and we will make some financial contribution for their help. We have also started an

immunisation program for these children. We need help to feed these children and give them an education. Would you help us to help them?



VIVERE!

is a free newsletter.

If you have friends wishing to receive it, please let us know!

Some of you will recall that years ago we were presented with a request to assist a bright young lady to fulfill her dream of becoming a psychologist. We struggled with this decision because we intend to help the poorest of the poor. The Lord spoke to our hearts and we presented this need. The response was immediate and we thank God for the family that is providing the financial assistance for Jessica's education. We are glad to let you read a portion of the letter she sent us:

"A big hello to you from me out here. I'm doing fine. This April I have my second year final exams. I have more to go before graduation and I hope that by God's many blessings I will accomplish it with sincerity and dedication.



Thanking you for all that you have done for me and for the many more lives you have touched in so many ways. God bless you. Yours sincerely, JESSICA"

The challenges set before us are many. As I write this article, we have two school buildings under construction in India. We need help for all the projects. Right now, I am in the Dominican Republic and we are faced with an incredible situation of misery. I will write about this in our next edition. We have promised \$500.00 per month to help feed the poorest people living in Sosua as refugees from Haiti. Read about this tragedy in our next issue.

May our hearts stay moved with compassion and hear the voice of Jesus: *Give you them to eat.* God bless you for your help!

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