



Can you believe it is July Already!

Let me clear the air now and apologize for the grammatical errors in our last update! I learned a few things about our newsletter service and one of them is each time you change something you have to save it ;)

So, here we are middle of July. GLACE Community Church went 16 long weeks with it's doors closed, but praise the Lord, we are open again! Italy is slowly but surely emerging from a long covid lockdown and our prayers are that the light we see, is the end of the tunnel! Our Church building finally opened up three weeks ago with restrictions. We rejoice with every step forward and look with hopeful eyes to gathering again at full capacity sooner than later.

Although covid has created many challenges for us here in Italy, it also gave our family much needed rest, reflection and regrouping time. As a family we are emerging changed and with a few more healthy set boundaries. Prior to Covid-19 we had a plan ;) Covid brought disorientation and wrestling for what lies ahead. We are thankful for a loving heavenly Father that allows us to wrestle so that we may grow in our understanding of who He is and our dependence on Him alone.

Our family recently returned from a leadership/planning retreat with co-pastor Chris and his family. It was a wonderful time of both fellowship and planning. We traveled three hours north of where we live and although we were still in Italy, it looked more like the neighboring countries of Austria and Germany. On the way home we stopped at Lake Braises, one of the most beautiful lakes I've seen! It was a great time had by all and a great way to kick off summer!



As summer is upon us, so is PCS season. The next few months will bring many good byes. One goodbye in particular will be extremely difficult for Kyleigh and Nataleigh... Their best friend left this week. The Amis family has been a staple in our community and part of the reason our family is even here in Vicenza today. I know all of us will feel the hole they leave, but our hearts as parents break for the sadness and tears we know will come. Please take a moment to lift our sweet girls up in prayer. One of the hardest parts of living in a military community is the constant goodbyes. I have learned over the many years of doing this that each person God puts in our path, whether it be for a moment, a week, a month, a year or a life time, is a gift meant to be treasured, and I am thankful for them all!



What lies ahead? Good question! Remember the disorientation I talked about? What a journey! If you have been following us from the beginning of this wonderful adventure God has called us to, you know that God has done things in a way that can only be called His! I am so thankful for this, although our flesh often rails against the waiting and we sometimes find ourselves in front of God instead of behind Him. We serve a gracious God who allows us the lessons and gentle reminders of who is in control. About a month ago all the doors to the UK seemed closed and we were wrestling with leaving GLACE amid such a disorienting time... so we made the decision to stay put here in Vicenza and continue the work along side our co-paster Chris and his family. That surrendering seems to be what God was waiting for.

*⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*

As we surrendered our desires and timing, God began to show us the work He has been doing here in Vicenza to prepare the way forward. Chris (co-pastor) and his family are settled and thriving in the community. They love Vicenza and hope to call it home for a very long time. Chris has been taking on more and more of Leland's responsibilities and is excited to run as lead Pastor over GLACE Community Church.....Two weeks ago Leland received a phone call with an offer that could put us in the UK by October, an offer that only two months ago was not possible. That means...Leland myself and the girls will be headed to Rome NEXT WEEK for our Visa appointment into the UK!!! Like when we came to Italy this is just an appointment to turn in all the paperwork they need and we will again be waiting to see if they are approved. PLEASE

JOIN US IN PRAYING OVER THIS! The opportunity offered to us in the last two weeks at RAF Lakenheath looks different than we imagined (naturally). In the beginning we will be working closely with the Chapel on base, helping to fill a huge hole left where Chaplains have left and no replacements are slotted for a few years. We are excited for the opportunity to bridge a gap between the Chapel and off post ministries. Leland is looking forward to being a support to the Chaplains who, during our time here in Vicenza we discovered, are so often left broken themselves from supporting everyone else. The agreement was made with the full understanding that we desire to establish a GLACE Community Church Lakenheath in the future. We know that God's ways are the only way and we are content resting in His timing and direction. If the door closes again for the UK, the need here in Vicenza is still great and we will continue to labor here with peace and joy!



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