

ARCO'S NEWS

February- May 2021



“let steadfastness have its full effect”

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.. (James 1:2-4).

Dear ones, some time has passed since you last heard from us, but we are now pleased to send you our news with many updates regarding exciting developments, and infinite reasons for praise to our God, as well as prayer requests which concern the various trials that we are passing through.

If you follow us on Facebook, you may know that the first months of the year were still hard for us because of the lockdown, especially for establishing the new church in the Piedmont region in the rural area of Tortona; but in Genova almost all the activities of our “Incontro con Gesù” (Meeting with Jesus) church continued.

Recently we have moved to a new place in which we can meet as a church and in which we can carry out the activities of practical help. Thanks to the “New Place” project, which was presented at the beginning of the year, we have been able to purchase this new place and we have been able to renovate it. Thank you for your prayers and gifts! We are pleased because the church is growing: Claudia leads a discipleship group of 10-12 women while Francesco leads ten men. He is also training three men for leadership, who help him lead the Sunday worship service, but also in the weekly Bible studies and meetings. They are also starting to help and disciple others. Various new people are attending and would like to become



After many months of lockdown, we were able to get away



Christian, while leading part of the Sunday worship

The founding of the new ICG church in the area around Tortona.

church members, while some non believers are expressing their interest to better know Christ and participate in brotherly fellowship. Along with the blessings and joys, there are also trials: a couple of believers have retreated themselves from the brotherly fellowship, while members with childlike faith have issues which need pastoral care.

We are pleased that our worship team is growing, fortifying themselves in the Lord, and besides improving musically, we are becoming a point of reference for others.

We are seeing that some disciples are discipling others; we are thankful for this and glorify God because we start seeing our goal of being able to nominate elders who can lead the church. Claudia and I will be soon participating in the second year of the three-year biblical counseling training: this will help us in better serving the church. We are also happy that this year we will be able to visit the USA and meet some of you. Unfortunately, we were not able to do this in July due to visa issues, but we plan to be coming in mid September.

When things started opening back up at the end of April, we were able to meet once again as a group in the rural area of Tortona: we are encouraged by the impact the Gospel is having in this area.

Prayer requests:

- 1) We are immensely grateful to God because we have reached 80% of the “New Place” Project. Thank you for your prayers, your financial support and for your love for missions and for Italy.
- 2) We thank God and pray for the new contacts who are drawing near to the Lord; we also pray for those who attend but have not yet surrendered their lives to God: Stefania, Klever, Giuseppe, Billy , Cristina, Luca, Guillermo, Isabella, Simone, Suelem, Esther, Anna.
- 3) Please pray for our trip to the USA in September, that there would not be obstacles, and that we could have a profitable time seeing as many brothers and sisters who are our partners of the work in Genova, and now in the province of Alessandria.
- 4) Please pray that the new place we have can be a jumping board for reaching more people for the Gospel and a stimulus for church members to take on evangelism as a style of living.
- 5) Please pray for Claudia’s health, as with her thyroid and fibromyalgia issues, she often has muscle contractures, pains and much tiredness; for Francesco’s health: after having an accident with a



truck who rear-ended the ministry van, he has a tendinitis in his shoulder and a geode in his funny bone. By God's grace, he does not have any fractures or injuries; please pray that the pain will lessen and that the therapy will work.

- 6) Please pray for the counseling courses for Francesco and Claudia: these will cost about 1000\$ for each of us. Please pray that we will be able to attend, that God will provide the money, especially because our salary in this moment is below what our needs are. We are grateful to God for how He shows His faithfulness to us, providing for our needs.

Mani del maestro



As mentioned, in these months, we have launched “The New Place” project: the goal was to gather funds to buy and renovate a bigger place so that we could safely use it for the activities of the association and of the “Incontro con Gesù” church; up to today we have reached 80% of our goal. The target has been completely reached in the USA while it has not been reached in Italy and in the UK .

The negotiations that took place for the purchase of the “new place” were draining especially because the former owners behaved inappropriately, but God worked so that the negotiations were closed without having to go over the budget: we praise Him for that. Now we have started renovating so that soon we can fully use the spaces for the activities of the church and the association. In this moment we have suspended the deliveries of the food for the needy people due to issues with our van. But as soon as it is repaired we will start back up serving the poor neighborhoods of Genova.



group of prayer before starting the worship service - church meeting



weekly discipleship studies

Soon we will be present as an association and as a church in the town plaza. Yes, we want to provide practical help, but we always want to accompany it with the only hope of the Gospel. In these months we are also working with a group which salvages food which is near the expiry date, and which otherwise would be thrown away.

We have received lots of excess food from firms and cruise ship companies, and thanks to God we have been able to provide for many people who have lost jobs and are in difficult financial circumstances. Please pray for the activities that we would like to carry out with the new place: a music recording studio which could be used to train leaders who can bear fruit spiritually through their musical talent, a music school, and rent out this studio for amateur musicians who do not have a place where they can play. We would like to also offer counseling services for everyone with its specific office, as well as a Christian book store to serve the various churches in Genova.

All this is to create movement around the church so that we have more ways to arrive to the heart of the people with the Gospel, besides having a small income so that the ministry is self sustainable.

How can you help?

<https://avantministries.org/give>

Thank you so much!

We thank God for having reached 65 % of the support we need to live, \$1400 in additional support. We still have a long ways to go but thank God for His mercy and that He has always provided for us. If you are interested in supporting us on a monthly basis, send us an e-mail or donate directly on-line at To give by regular mail: Make the check payable to Avant Ministries, include a separate note designating the gift for Francesco and Claudia Arco, Act #12087 and mail to: **Avant Ministries, 10000 N Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64155.**

Mani del Maestro: we still need!

We are pleased to communicate that the project that we started four years ago in order to allow mani del maestro to manage its own activities has been completed. Glory to God and thanks to you partners who have prayed and donated for our service to the community and the advancing of God's kingdom in Genova:

Mani del Maestro “new ministry space project” , We still need!

Gloria to God! Also this project presented in the USA has been completed; only 20% of the project total remains and this should be reached through the projects presented in Italy and the UK. Once again we want to Thank God and you for your faithfulness in partnering in the work that God is doing here in Italy.



