

Prayer for Church Planters - February 2009

Luigi and Saybre Zuccarelli, with Gianluca, Andrea, Alessia, Silvano, Milena, Dimitra Milan, Italy

The Zuccarelli family (or the Zuccs as they are affectionately known as) are good friends of ours and Luigi served full time in the church on the eldership team with Simon at NCCB for a few years. They have 6 kids, and relocated to Milan, Italy in February 2008 to plant a church. It is incredibly hard ground, and they are focusing on settling in to the country and getting established there. Luigi is working a day job, and the kids are at school and university. They spent the first few months in Tuscany to learn the language, and then moved to Milan.

It hasn't been easy, and they are aware of the long term implications of what they are doing. Although it has been tough, they have been aware of God's provision and grace upon them. When we asked them what we could particularly pray for, they mentioned the following two scriptures, followed by some other practical points:

Colossians 4: 3 – 6: “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Eph 6 v 19 – 20: “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Other Prayer Requests:

1) In order to proclaim the gospel fearlessly and clearly (in both the above texts) we need to be able to speak Italian. Please pray for our family to keep on with learning the language. In fact may I be as bold as to ask that you pray for our family (all 8 of us) to have a passion and a love for Italian because in this way, learning will never be a problem. I myself adore the language and even though I suck, God has given me a boldness to speak without fear. I know it is God because before I came it was a huge issue for me. It is now a huge issue for some of the kids and they need to fall in love with the language and the people because they are all key to the church plant. So many words over our family have included all the kids. Both Lu and I feel that we will have a “young” church because people our age are far too suspicious and they hate anything to do with religion and church. They have been burnt by Catholicism but the good news is that their kids have not been brought up in the church and they are so interested and open!

2) Pray for all of our kids, they are the true heroes of our church plant. They have sacrificed so much and given it all up for the sake of the gospel. It is incredibly important that they find joy and purpose here. Not all of them are happy and I don't want to expose their vulnerability but it is huge that they find Jesus for themselves in this time.

3) Finally, we are so aware all of the time, that there is a fight in the heavenlies over Italy. Pray for our protection and safety and for the gates of the city to be opened up to us!

Thanks so much for your prayers guys, you have no idea what it means to us.

Love

Luigi, Saybre and family

(There is a lot more info, pictures etc on their Facebook group 'The Zuccs in Italy').

