

PRACTICAL MISSIONS cohort

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - ministry update from the Schreck family in Italy!

















WITH MISSIONARY JESSE SCHRECK - IN ITALY





Above Photos: Schreck kids | Family | Jeryvee teaching the Bible to the homeschool kids | PMc Academia courses | Missions Livestreams | Missions Incorporated podcast | The Italian Cohort | latest tract | Vera Vita outreach min.



Hello dear friends and partners! We write today from Italy as we prepare to close out the year 2022. We had a low-key Christmas break and are grateful for the homeschool families that we are now sharing our lives with. We started our homeschool journey in Italy this year alone and now we are four families that collaborate. Potentially a fifth family will be joining us early in the new year as well. Praise God.

It's been an interesting year to look back on with all that is still happening in the world. We started the year in Italy not being permitted to enter stores, businesses, the bank, the post office, coffee bars, restaurants, etc... for several months. It was challenging, but the Lord carried us through it and thankfully the hardhanded restrictions in Italy have now resided. Currently, we are free to move around and do life as normal. The ministry continues unhindered!

The only thing we still cannot do is visit the US as a family. Jeryvee does not have US citizenship so she is not permitted to enter the US again until certain covid restrictions end. We have not been back to visit our home church and family since 2019. Before the pandemic began the PMc ministry board had decided that it would be good for us to come back once per year to visit and promote/recruit for the mission. We were hoping again to be back for this winter, but we are still providentially hindered... God is faithful, however, and He is sustaining us and the ministry and has given us much to do in the meantime. We trust that one day we will again be able to visit. Thank you for praying for us and giving to keep this ministry growing and expanding even in times like these. We thank God for you.

Beatrice is now 2 years old and doing well. She loves playing with her brother and she is a big talker (and singer)! Cornelius is now 6 and enjoying his new friends that are part of the homeschool group. He's learning every day and enjoying playing with the local basketball team here near Venice. Recently, he got to play with the Venice pro team for a Christmas event that

Partnering

To partner with us please send your donations (tax-deductible) to PRACTICAL MISSIONS COHORT, and mail to:

Practical Missions Cohort 500 Westover Dr. #10079 Sanford, NC 27330

Simply write "Schreck" or "general fund" in the *memo section*, depending on how you would like to support us and the PMc ministry. Note: we are currently praying for more monthly ministry partners.

*Donations can also be made online at: <u>practicalmissions.org/</u> donate

Prayer Requests

- Patience regarding our not being able to come to the US
- God's help to start Sunday afternoon gatherings in Mestre
- <u>Long-term missionaries</u> to apply and get accepted
- The **homeschool** co-op to flourish
- Onboarding of Christine as Virtual Assistant
- Vera Vita gospel content creation, tract distributions, evangelism leading to New

Contacts & Sound Conversions

- God-given strength to persevere and boldness to keep preaching and teaching God's word
- Increased and ongoing monthly <u>Financial Support</u>
- Provisions: A larger home that lets us host more people, the ministry van to get fixed, Network Attached Storage



For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. - 1 John 5:4

was organized for the kids in Veneto. It was cool to see him <u>weaving between the giants</u> and score a basket at the final second of the countdown. You can see the video (and much more) at the PMc online community, <u>The Italian Cohort</u> on Discord.

In January, we will be celebrating our 11-year anniversary. Last year, we couldn't go anywhere or do anything, but Lord willing, now that the restrictions are ended we will make a way to celebrate somehow.

VERA CHURCH PLANTING - Vera Vita Outreach Ministry

The outreach in our local community (Mestre city and Venezia province) continues by the grace of God. We are limited in our labor because of the small size of our team at the moment. We are greatly comforted, however, that God is never limited! We recall the way our Lord is able to multiply a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish to feed several thousand. We pray for God to do the same with our efforts!

Recently we have seen Him at work to stir numerous hearts. Last week at Cornelius' basketball Christmas party I was sitting on the bench alone and watching and praying in my heart. All of a sudden, a man was looking at me. He received one of our gospel tracts a couple of years ago and called me right away to meet. He climbed the bleachers, embraced me, and kissed me on the cheek. He then sat down next to me and we spoke of the things of God for the rest of the night. He had many questions. He admitted that he too easily gets sidetracked from pursuing the Lord. He wants to now meet purposefully to study the Bible and pray. We pray that this will be the time for his salvation (and for his whole family as well).

We praise God as well that the homeschool families are wanting us to keep on teaching the Bible (and English) to the kids. Yesterday, one of the dads said he would like to come to see the Sunday worship gathering as soon as it starts. His wife was touched when Jeryvee taught the story of Jesus' birth to the kids. We pray for all these families to now be saved and reconciled to God. We pray to begin in 2023 the Sunday afternoon worship gathering for the people of Mestre city. Please join us in prayer for this.

With the generous contribution of a ministry partner, we replaced both our printers so the gospel literature could keep going out across the city. Praise God. The media ministry continues to grow and expand. We surpassed 300 subscribers recently. This is a small number by US standards, but for the Italian context, it's not bad. In 2023, we pray to begin regular 5-10 minute simple devotionals as well; 3 per week in addition to regular topical and exegetical podcast episodes that are longer in nature.

PRACTICAL MISSIONS COHORT

In 2022 the PMc ministry hosted 3 Missions Livestreams. In the new year, we pray to do 1 or 2 per month. At each event, we share a teaching lesson that will also be featured in our PMc Academia courses which are available for free to all, yet designed initially for missionary training. We recently created a new course on the Doctrines of Grace using a teaching series from Caleb Bunch, pastor of Gateway Church and fellow PMc board member. Soon to come will be the following courses: Missions, Apostolic Church Planting, Soul Winning with the Prince of Preachers, and Evangelism - Biblical Man-fishing.

We know these are unstable times for many, but we praise God for how He can keep the PMc mission and the Gospel going forward through us. Dates are set for our <u>short-term</u> cohorts in 2023 so if you or your church are interested in coming to Italy don't hesitate to reach out. If you are a friend of the ministry, we invite you to join PMc's newly forming online community, <u>The Italian Cohort</u>. It's the best way to keep in touch with us and get inside access to all that is happening on the mission field!

PMc is praying for long-term missionaries to join in on the work in Italy. We invite you to pray with us for more laborers. Christine, our social media content creator, will soon be taking on a part-time role with PMc as a Virtual Assistant. We look forward to telling you more about this very soon as this will be critical to help the ministry grow. If you are a PMc ministry partner, we thank you from our hearts. You are the backbone of this ministry and it's only with your ongoing support that all of this is possible. Thank you for playing a valuable part in this ministry and for taking up your role in Jesus' great commission. We are honored to have you with us!