

THE BOEHMS IN ITALY



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Dear Praying Friends,

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” (Romans 13:1-2) Those verses may seem like a strange way to start a prayer letter, but submitting to government regulations has been one of our constant struggles as we live and serve in a foreign country. Whether it be getting a visa, renting an apartment, buying a car, or obtaining a driver’s license, there are always laws that are “unreasonable,” “unkeepable,” or just plain “ridiculous.” We continue to come across more of these laws. **We praise the Lord that Tom obtained his Italian driver’s license** (it seems so strange that he had to start over after having a license for almost twenty years.). This process was long, expensive, and often very inconvenient as Tom was unable to drive for the past 6 months. Though there were many times we wanted to “resist the authorities,” by God’s grace we refrained, knowing that this period would end soon enough. Little did we know that the opportunities to “be subject to the governing authorities” was only just beginning. This past week, we learned that the car that we bought when we moved to Italy (and used legally on an international license for 1 year) is not legal for a new driver (someone who has had an Italian driver’s license for less than 1 year). While Stephanie’s “new license” status ends March 3, Tom is just starting out. Without knowing it, Stephanie has been illegally driving our car for the last year (could have lost her license!). Again we are faced with the decision to ignore this “ridiculous” law and drive our car or face Tom not being able to drive for another year. Neither are real options for us. So, once again, we were forced to make an expensive decision in order to obey the authorities, and thus God. We praise the Lord for a much unwanted and, in our minds, unnecessary little car that is legal for Tom to drive. While this is not the plan we had, we can say without a doubt that it is what God wanted, and we look forward to seeing how He will use this second car to benefit our ministry here in Italy.

Tom had the privilege of preaching to a church about 45 minutes away on Sunday. Stephanie played the piano for them, and we all enjoyed meeting the church and observing the beauty of diversity and unity in another body of believers in Italy.

Stephanie had the opportunity to lead the ladies’ Bible study with our church yesterday, and we are getting organized for Friday night’s teen activity and Sunday night’s teen class.

We continue to spend time talking with and helping our neighbors, and Stephanie was able to go through a tract with her Italian teacher. **Thank you for your prayers for us and for our people.**

For the Sake of His Name,

Tom, Stephanie, Daniela, Nino, & Angelo

○ TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD: BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT TRUSTETH IN HIM. Ps 34:8