



June 21, 2026

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

Everyone is searching for peace. Some seek it in success, others in relationships, religion, possessions, entertainment, or simply the hope that tomorrow will be better than today. Yet the peace people long for remains elusive because of the sin problem within the human heart. The Bible teaches that true peace begins with being reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ: peace with God, peace in the conscience, and a new foundation for peace with others. As we labor here in Italy, our prayer is that men and women would come to see that peace is not found in religion, tradition, or ritual, but in a Person: the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Visitor from Iran. For some time now, we have asked prayer for a young Persian man whom I will simply call "S." We first met him several years ago when he was renting an apartment in the same building where our church meets. Though he has since moved to another part of Verona, he has remained a friend of Isaiah, who has invited him to church on several occasions. Recently, to our delight, he accepted Isaiah's invitation and attended a service. It was his first time ever attending a church. Before the service, he texted Isaiah to ask what would be expected of him because he was extremely nervous. When he arrived, he entered the room slowly and very respectfully. As he made his way toward a seat, he paused, bowed slightly at the waist, and thanked us. Then he took another step and did the same thing again. This was repeated until he reached his seat. It was touching to watch. Here was a young man who knew virtually nothing about Christianity or church, yet wanted to show reverence and respect. We could only imagine how unfamiliar and intimidating the whole experience must have felt to him.

After the service, "S" opened up about his life. He spoke of the loneliness and hopelessness he often feels. He worries constantly about his family in Iran. He talked about friends whose lives have been devastated and about a former gym teacher who was killed. As he reflected on his homeland, he expressed deep sadness and concern for its future. At one point, speaking about his family and how much he misses his mother, whom I will call "M," he broke down in tears.

What stood out most, however, was how often he spoke about peace. Before visiting church, he said he felt strongly compelled that he needed to come. After the service, he repeatedly told us about the peace he had felt during his time with us. In his own words, he described our family as a "light in the darkness," though it was evident that he was responding to something much deeper than us. Several times he told us, "I needed to be here." He said he plans to return because he feels drawn back, though he does not yet understand why.

Of course, we know that peace is not found in a place, a sermon, or a family. It is found in a Person: the Lord Jesus Christ. And while "S" does not yet have the biblical vocabulary to describe what he is experiencing, we are praying that the Holy Spirit is at work in his heart, drawing him to the Saviour and bringing him to genuine faith in Christ. Last week, to our surprise, "S" returned to Iran to visit his family. Please pray for his safety, and even more importantly, for his salvation.

Visitors. Over the last six weeks, we have been encouraged to see several visitors attend our services. As is often the case, many expressed a desire to return, but so far only one, **Marta**, has been faithful in attending. Please pray for the spiritual condition of **Imma, Mirco, Davide, Gabriella, Tamara** and **Eszter**, that the Lord would continue to work in their hearts and draw them to Himself.

Please also pray for **Martino**, a man I met through a mutual acquaintance. He has expressed a desire to begin attending church, but severe back problems have kept him from doing so thus far. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with him and hear his testimony. He was searching for truth and, in a rather unusual turn of events, a priest encouraged him to read the Scriptures for himself. Through reading and studying God's Word, he came to place his faith in Christ. I was greatly encouraged by our conversation and look forward to seeing how the Lord continues to work in his life.

Spiritual Growth. Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of the following people that attend our church: **Eugenio, Eva, Andrea, Kristian, Mirco, Antonio, Emilia** and **Irene**.

Please pray for the **3,648 homes that have received gospel tracts** since our last prayer letter. Also, please continue to pray for the salvation of the following: **Milena, Caterina, Maria, Marco, Susanna, Silvia, Rafaele, Sandra, Francesco, Fabio, Lucy, Beatrice, Dario, Daniella, Piero, Graziella, Massimo, Francesca, Sara, Giorgio, Roberta, Anna, Fulvio, Filippo, Ilaria, Angelica, Diego, Gabriele** and **Juan**.

Housing Situation. In several recent letters, I have shared some of the serious concerns surrounding our current apartment, including some health issues that seem to be related to it. We are grateful to report that the Lord provided for the independent testing through the generosity of His people. I am currently working to coordinate that testing, which will help determine whether the conditions in the apartment meet acceptable standards and, more importantly, whether the underlying issues can be adequately resolved. Please pray that the testing will be conducted thoroughly and honestly, and that the results will provide clear direction. If the problems can be addressed, we would be grateful. If not, we are trusting the Lord to provide the means and guidance necessary for us to relocate within Verona.

Family. The Lord continues to sustain and encourage us in ways both great and small. We are grateful for His daily faithfulness and for the privilege of serving Him here in Italy. Thank you for your faithful prayers, kind notes, and generous support. Your partnership and encouragement mean more than you know, and we are thankful to have you standing with us as we seek to reach Italian souls for Christ.



Yours in Christ,
Stetson, Sandy, Isaiah, and Pearl Planck

P.S. Please do not post this prayer letter on-line nor mention any of these people on our Facebook page. Thank you!



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