



**“Oh, I must find rest in God only, because my hope comes from him! Only God is my rock and my salvation — my stronghold! — I will not be shaken.” — Psalm 62:5–6**

I've been "shaken" quite a lot in the last year! And disappointed, and anxious, and confused. Thank goodness that God is our Rock and Stronghold, because nothing else has felt stable lately.

But it seems like things are turning the corner, at least for the Covid situation in Italy. Most of my Italian colleagues have at least had their first vaccine shot, and friends my age and younger can now make reservations for their shots during the summer. I have been working from home, but also going to the office to work 2 days a week, although all of our meetings are still done over video calls. Public transportation is still considered the biggest transmitter of the virus, and since many of us have to use buses or trains to get to the Agape office we've been slow to go back to "normal." The plan is that we will all be back in the office working in September.

With more sunshine, less rain, and a smattering of tourists showing up around the big attractions, things are just starting to get back to normal, and feeling less mentally and emotionally heavy in Italy. It's as if we've been holding our breath for a year, and can finally exhale and move forward.

Thank you for your prayers for me and for Italy during this stressful season. Continue to pray that the hearts of Italians would be more open as a result of the Covid situation.

## **Back to the USA**

I'll be back to visit the US soon-- June 10 to August 16. It has been 2.5 years since I was there and I'm looking forward to seeing friends and family. I'll have a week of quarantine when I arrive, then a Nelson Family reunion. Most of the time I'll be with my parents in the Geneseo/Quad Cities area. I look forward to seeing many of you face-to-face over the summer.



Restaurants with outdoor seating have been open for several weeks. Last Sunday after church several friends took advantage of the sunshine and had lunch together, followed by a walk in the park. It's the simple things that I've missed!



Being outdoors was the best way to see friends over the last 6 months. We visited the Iris Garden of Florence in May, which was stunning!



May and June in international ministry are often when we have to say Good-bye to friends and colleagues as the school year ends. Emily and I had breakfast with our Hungarian intern Szandi (middle) for a last hangout before she leaves Italy. Szandi and our other intern Chloe' really persevered in student ministry this year, as it was mostly online!

### Prayer Requests

- pray for the next 6 days before I leave for the US.  
My to-do list is long and stressful!
- pray for my time in the US, that I would have quality time with friends and family.  
Also that I would have FUN!
- pray that when I return to Florence in August/September the covid rate will have significantly dropped, and that I can get together with friends in person.

Thank You! Beth Ann Nelson