



November 2021

“But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

October was about to run me over like a semi truck - I knew four major events were about to happen, on top of normal work and life. I am so thankful that on our Day of Prayer on October 4 God sent me a lifeline in the 2 Corinthians verses above. I didn't know how I was going to do it all, but I was reassured that I COULDN'T do it all! It was a passage I've read many times, but it was exactly what I needed on that morning, and to start the crazy month of October.



(Annunciation by Fra' Angelico, Museum of San Marco)

Authentic Italy Tour: In the first week of October our ministry hosted the Authentic Italy Tour for friends of the ministry. The group sees each city and each ministry team and gets to meet the staff, experience our work, and understand the spiritual reality of Italy. My role was to be their tour guide for the Museum of San Marco (famous for its frescoes) and Academia Museum (famous for Michelangelo's David).

I have a major in Fine Art and minor in Art History, so this was right up my alley! I love helping people appreciate art! I was stressed about preparing the museum talks, but they went REALLY well, praise God. His strength not mine.



Operations Retreat: Our Office Team had a 4-day retreat during the next week. Our theme was How to find rest for your soul in a season of change. Really relevant to our lives as we continue to live with COVID-19. Our devotions were lead by Gema, a staff woman from Spain. She organized a lot of interactive activities.

Italy Family Gathering: Oct 21-23 all of the staff in Italy gathered for our first in-person conference in 20 months. We studied Luke 10:41-42 about sisters Martha and Mary, and were encouraged to “choose the better portion” in life and ministry.



GDPR Training: My crazy-busy October finished with a seminar that I led for the Florence Team on the European General Data Protection Regulation. It is a European Union law that regulates how personal data is stored and used by companies and organizations. (All of the cookie notifications you see on websites and more unsubscribe options are a result of this GDPR law.)

It can be a dry topic, but very important for our staff to understand and follow. So my job was to make a boring topic a little more interesting and interactive. I used funny videos, small group talks and made sure there was a coffee break! According to my teammates it was, "much less boring than we expected." Next my boss Martin and I will take the same training to the Bologna and Rome teams in the coming months. Pray that we can work out the kinks and do a good job making the presentations in Italian.

For a short and sweet video that explains more about the GDPR, check out "[GDPR in 4 Minutes](#)" on YouTube.



The Operations Team on retreat in beautiful Poppi, Tuscany.

Beth Ann Nelson

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for His strength that got me through October!
- Praise that the Workbook for the Family Life weekends has been published. Now on to the workbook on Parenting.