



Greetings, and Happy New Year!

We hope your holiday season was wonderful, and you were able to see Jesus in a new and glorious way. **We're very aware that this letter is long, and you are very busy. We just ask you to set aside 10 minutes to read this letter and pray for us concerning its content. We value your prayer, and want to ensure you are intimately involved in what is happening in our lives and ministry.**

It's a new year, and we wanted to take the opportunity to write a bit lengthier letter to bring you up to speed on our lives in greater detail. As we've mentioned in previous newsletters, it has been a very unique and challenging 18 months for us. For 3 years now we've been adjusting to having a newborn in the family, always to find out that we are expecting another. Each time, it requires trust in God's timing because we certainly weren't trying or planning for it to happen this way. Well its happened again! Abbey found out this past month that we are expecting our fourth child in early July. The news was certainly challenging. On one hand, children are a blessing and a gift. On the other, we were pretty certain our plate was full and had been trying all we could to prevent it. In the end, we truly are trusting God and excited about welcoming our fourth to the Valiquette clan. However, our reality as a family will present some unique challenges.

That is one of the main reasons we are writing this letter. A lot of people have expressed concern about our ability to sustain a growing family while adjusting to a new culture and leading a new ministry. Certainly, there is value in this concern and it is something that we have discussed with each other and with others at length. Questions like, "can we really handle all these young kids in a foreign country?" Or, "will our home life be a hinderance to our ability to lead a team and reach Italians? If so, why are we here?" Not very fun questions to be asking just over a year after we picked up everything and moved! We want you to know that we are aware of these concerns, and we want to take time to address them.

There are two things we are very certain of. First, that **God has affirmed his calling on our lives to serve in Southern Italy and there is no place we would rather be.** Second, that He is in control of Abbey's womb and how many children we have (he's made this abundantly clear). Being certain of these two things, it enables us to move forward in faith, trusting that God will meet our needs and enable us to serve fully and effectively in Salerno. Despite a difficult transition, and the unique challenges our reality as a family has presented, God has continued to affirm our calling through a very strong desire to remain and a clear sense of purpose in our being there. In addition to this, He has continued to bless us in remarkable ways that will enable us to remain there without fear or difficulty. We've already seen God provide a number of practical solutions that will help. I'd like to highlight a few.

We have been praying for 2 years that God would raise up other families to live and serve with us in Salerno. This will provide a community of moms and children to be together and share the load day to day. This means that Abbey will not be home alone with four children all week. We are so thrilled to say that God has already raised up three families that have left their jobs to serve with us in Salerno! And not only that, each of these families were good friends of ours from Orlando that know us intimately.

Also, as you know, we have been praying for someone to move to Salerno and serve us in our home full time. Not only this, but we have been praying for this person to volunteer their services. A lofty pursuit, right? Not too lofty for God! He desires to meet our needs, and cares more about our family that we do. **He's called us there, he will provide!** We are currently thanking God for raising up Evin, who will be flying back with us on January 20th to serve us in the home. She is even raising any necessary funding to provide for her living expenses (she'll be living with the other single girls).

These two things alone are incredible. But, we are also blessed to have a team of people who are very eager to serve us and ensure our well being. In addition to that, there was a pre-school built 200 feet from our front door that is very inexpensive. We intend to bring the kids there three mornings each week so they can be around Italian kids, and to enable Abbey to focus on language and other important tasks.

All that to say, please know that we take our family, and our jobs very seriously. We will never let ministry hinder our family, and will always work hard to ensure our family isn't a hindrance to our job. Please pray with us that we would not believe we are unable to serve Jesus fully because HE has given us children. Please trust God with us that his desire for us to be overseas is not going to harm our unity and growth as a family. God has called us here, God has blessed us with children, and we firmly believe that God will meet all our needs according to his mercy. Please take time to pray for each of these things without ceasing on our behalf, while remembering that...

"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." Matthew 19:29

and

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

It has also been brought to our attention that our communication with each of you could certainly be improved. We are aware of the financial sacrifices you are making to support our ministry and family. We also know that it is not just about giving money, but you have a special interest in our lives and more importantly in God's global mission we are investing in. We want to be sure that you are all very well informed not only in our well being as a family, but also in the details of the ministry.

We commit to thinking creatively over the coming weeks on how we can be sure that each of you have the opportunity to be as informed as you would like. Our hope is that, in addition to our monthly printed newsletter, we can utilize technology (emails, blogging, and videos) to update you weekly with the intricacies of our lives and ministry. We hope that by our next newsletter to have finalized these plans and we will be sure to give you details on how you can stay more informed.

With that said, I need to be sure you understand something. **You are important to us.** We would not be able to invest in lives the way we do if it weren't for you. Your prayers, and your ongoing financial support is no joke, and we don't take it lightly. Please understand how much we need you. God is using **you** to reach the world for Christ. Thank you for your investment in eternity.

With love in Christ and a continued burden for the nations,

Justin + Abbey

