



Rinn News

NEW CALL - PORDENONE

NEW ROLE

NEW MISSION BOARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As you know, over the past several years we have been living in Verona. With Jessica's help and invaluable support, I have been involved in ministry with university students, church planting, evangelism and much more. We have seen people come to faith and I started a small church in Vicenza which is now being pastored by John Orlando. And now, we are excited to tell you about a new chapter in our ministry here in Italy.

New Call – Pordenone, Italy

A short while back, a friend of mine, Samuel Spatola, called me and asked me to meet with him in Pordenone. Samuel was the director of a small school called Saints Bible Institute. I taught a class there last year and was hoping that Samuel had another class for me to teach. We sat down for coffee and what he said came as quite a surprise: he asked me to apply for the job to replace him at the institute as he and his family were going back to the States. To say the least, this was unexpected and it was also a lot to think about. On the one hand the job appealed to me, but on the other, there would be a lot of heartache involved in leaving the Verona area.

Jessica and I prayed and spoke about this for several days. In the end I applied for the job

and was accepted to go to Pordenone as a missionary to work with Saints Bible Institute and to pastor a local church plant.

Having done ministry in the North-East of Italy for several years we have been uniquely prepared for this opportunity. I've been doing a variety of things related to our new ministry in Pordenone, like church planting, Bible studies, and working with university students. Of course, we also understand the dynamics of living and working in the North-East which is essential if we are to hit the ground running.

I have been accepted as a missionary to work with the Saints Bible Institute



Saints Bible Institute

The Bible Institute was started with the goal of supporting Italian church planting. Students come from the US and study for a

semester taking classes on missions and they get hands-on experience as they collaborate with local churches. Saints has a small on-site staff and this staff invests in the lives of these students.

My role with Saints will be the Italian director. My duties will include teaching classes, mostly on the New Testament, and giving spiritual oversight to staff and students. I will also help touch base with the various professors as they come to teach. Another part of my job will be caring for the spiritual lives of the staff and students.

One of our initial goals is to help the students develop a desire for missions and church planting. We hope to see these students cultivate a heart for mission in Italy, maybe even returning to do missions here (and this has happened).



Worship team in Pordenone

Church Plant in Pordenone

There is a small church plant in Pordenone where I will also be taking over duties as pastor. One of the huge upsides of this move is that there's already a team in place. Jessica and I have been praying for co-workers for several years and the Lord, in his wisdom, didn't send team members for the work in Verona. But instead, God is taking us to a place with a solid team already in place, a team which includes both Italians and American missionaries.

The church has gone through some difficulties recently. Samuel, who was one of the church-planting pastors, and his family went back to the States. Another man who had worked with the church recently got remarried (he was widowed) and his wife wasn't well accepted by the church. There were other problems and they also left for the US. Several of the members were upset by this and left the church. There is still a core of believers attending, but this is essentially a re-plant. What we do have is a core-group of people, a nice hall in Pordenone, co-workers, and a desire to see this church restart.

Will you join us in giving toward this move to Pordenone?

Some people may ask why this ministry and why now? It just so happens that I recently turned all of the running of Trinity over to John Orlando and now we have no obligations to that church. I began the work of planting a church in the Verona area, but that has yet to start up, so we are actually free to move. The offer came at the perfect time – **this was the Lord's timing.**

We will stay in the north-east, which is the least evangelized area of Italy. Italy as a nation has a reputation of chewing up missionaries and the north-east is especially hard. We've experienced this firsthand. We believe that the Lord is able to break through barriers and we are excited to see that happen. We are also happy that there are others who have already been working in the area of Pordenone and who will be working alongside us.

We have already been giving to the church and I have been giving time to the Institute. We believe this project is a one worthy of our investment and we're committing to it.

December 14, 2018

Work with Saints Bible Institute

Financial needs

As we move into this new role, we are aware that our ongoing support has recently dipped. This has been caused by some churches giving less than in previous years and the loss of support from Trinity that happened when I turned that work over to others. The travel between Pordenone and Verona for the next few months is also generating expenses. Our hope is to build our support levels back up by raising an additional **\$2,500 monthly**.

For this monthly support we are looking to add 1 donor at \$500 per month, 2 at \$200, 6 at \$100, 12 at \$50 and 15 at \$20 per month. **Will you please consider taking one of these slots?**

As you can imagine, with the upcoming move to Pordenone, we will incur further expenses. We are hoping to raise an additional **\$4,000 in one-time expenses**. With the church being a re-plant, there may be a need for some project funds as well. I will share more about those in the weeks ahead. Our goal is to **raise these funds in the next 3 months**.

For those of you that have been giving through **PMI**, Please note that they will continue to oversee donations **until June**. Donations can be given through the PMI

In closing we really believe that a solid church in the North-East will be a help for the furthering of God's kingdom in Italy. We also believe that promoting theological education and missions will further assist in the growing of Christ's church. **Please help us as we launch this new endeavor.**

In Christ,

Joel

Joel Rinn

Presbyterian Mission International



Until June

USA donations address at PMI

Conway Road 12330

St. Louis, MO 63141

or online via PayPal at

<http://www.pmiweb.org/donations.php>