

“ ..always abounding
in the work of the Lord.. ”



These words put our ministry, our witness, our purposes to the test:

Are we, and you, ALWAYS, day in and day out, in season and out of season, ABOUNDING richly, abundantly, over and beyond, serving the Lord? Paul's exhortation tells us why we should serve the Lord in this way: "...knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord". Nothing that I do is useless, fruitless, meaningless when I am serving the Lord according to His will. He even pays me for overtime!

Maria Teresa and I were embarrassed but also overwhelmed on June 2nd.

Three churches in the Rome area joined ours in a picnic (June 2nd is a holiday), and I was asked to speak in the forenoon. After the message, one of the young men who had helped found the church that was hosting us, came to the microphone and gave his testimony about the spiritual help I had given him in those years. Then another leader of another church did the same. I could not figure out what was happening!

They had planned a surprise celebration of our 60 years in Italy.

Altogether, the leaders of six churches gave their testimonies, as well as others from their churches, and even a lady visiting from Switzerland, who had known us many years ago. We would never have remembered our numerous chances to encourage and pray with these men, if they had not reminded us.

In July we had the joy of three days of ministry and fellowship

In a church founded over 30 years ago by two brothers who had come out of 7th Day Adventism, and had warned them to avoid all contact with other Christians because "there is a lot of false doctrine out there". The church now runs over 200 in Sunday services and has bought and transformed a former night club into a conference center for their converts. Pray that the Lord will help us encourage them into greater spiritual and Biblical maturity.

Our plans to visit you are going forward, but

...differently than we had planned. Thanks to all of you who phoned or wrote. The requests were so many that we have had to limit this trip to only Pennsylvania, for the month of September. Since we have responsibilities in Italy for October, we will have to plan to visit you and our churches in Michigan, Ohio and elsewhere, hopefully in the spring or early summer of 2011. We will contact you when we have more details, and please excuse us for not coming this fall to all of you who invited us.

Difficulties, surprises, problems are a normal part of the Christian life

...both for you and for us. Please pray for the Lord's protection, guidance and victory for us each step of the way.

We count on YOU being by our side,

Bill and Maria Teresa Standridge

