

Mediterranean Missions

Harvest Partner Connection

July 2018



Letter from the General Overseer's office:

Dear Harvest Partners and Friends,

I want to personally thank you for your time, prayer and support of the ministry of Overseer Bishop Ximo Gregorio and his lovely wife, soul-mate and co-worker, Judy. I well remember the first years of their Christian faith as they were discipled in our local church in Germany, at that time, a small house group. Judy and Ximo, as gifted and talented musicians had such an understanding of the world and from the beginning of their faith a deep desire to communicate the Gospel to everyone they met. They were instrumental in the planting of our early German Speaking church in Lange, just a hand full then, and now more than 150 in the church. They sang and performed pantomime with us on the streets and preached everywhere they went, opening their house to the whole world to minister to them. They are dear companions in the faith and friends to Wanda and I for than 35 years. After a few years in our ministry in Germany they followed a call to return to Spain where Ximo is from and where Judy had lived many years. Already then, they spoke numerous languages fluently and they began mission work from their home at that time on the eastern coast of Spain.

Their mission work led them to numerous countries to preach, teach and minister in music. To only name a few, they ministered in Finland, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Ukraine, France, England, Greece, Cyprus, Israel, and the Czech Republic and to several other continents. Some years ago, they began traveling on my behalf to Italy, Malta, and Bosnia Herzegovina, where they eventually became Overseers over the past several years. All the while they raised their wonderful son who is a blessed musician in his local church with his wife and children, and their special and very amazing daughter who still lives with them. Their ministry is a testimony of hearing the call of God to go and disciple the nations. Their gifts of preaching teaching, music and language, are tools that God uses everywhere they go.

Most are aware of the numerous testimonies of healing from Ximo who has now battled severe cancer three times with great victory and healing. It has paid a toll on their lives and ministries, but they relentlessly continued to recover and minister. In fact, in the midst of this, they took part time courses and were some of the best students of the Lee University /Tomlinson college distant studies program and more recently joined the Leader of Leaders consortium with Gordon Conwell where with a few more credits they will both receive their masters. We are so proud of them and thankful to minister with them. Ximo's last bout with cancer has been the most challenging. Even though he is healing well physically, there are still numbers of challenges physically and otherwise. Since Ximo's last surgery just a few months ago, he has had to undergo, several times, of cure and convalescence in the hospital and has not fully recovered yet. In April, it became clear to me that they were struggling from day to day with the aftermaths of this recent battle with cancer and were completely exhausted. In counsel with Global Missions who have been involved with many of you supporting their ministry through Harvest Partners, with the Finance department, as well as with the General Overseer, the General Presbyters and the European Shared Leadership Team, I felt deeply impressed that the only way for them to get healing and overcome their exhaustion after months of struggle, was to grant them a time of sabbatical for recovery. In June of this year, they began a one year sabbatical. They will no longer receive an expense for ministry but we are doing our best to see that they have support through May 31, 2019. A number of faithful partners, and fellow workers have pledged to make this happen. In the meantime, they will have the much-needed opportunity to heal, recover from exhaustion, and to re-appropriate some aspects of their lives, the mortgage on their home and to consider other financial possibilities for the future without more stress. After one year, I will with them evaluate again their health and calling and we can address again where they may best be able to employ their gifts and calling.

We have made a decision this year that Bosnia, and Malta will no longer be supported from missions but will become preaching points for us, as God opens the doors more clearly. The work in Italy has prospered and grown and we are so grateful. There we will continue to need support and help as the young new pastors and congregations need some more training support and guidance. An Overseer will not be appointed this year for Italy and it will come under the care of the European Shared Leadership Team from my office. Several will help to do training and support the work there as we seek a suitable overseer for this nation and others in the region.

Mostly, I want to thank all of you for your amazing faithfulness to the ministries in this area and particularly to Ximo and Judy for their ministry which has blessed us continuously. I am confident the Lord himself sees them as faithful servants and stewards of the work and gifts He has put in their hands. They will continue to minister some in their nation where they live and, as they recover, now and then in other areas, but they will not be appointed at this Assembly and due to these health issues, will not be attending the International Assembly 2018. As to your partnership, you can contact Cathy Payne, Coordinator of Global Missions and remain partnered at some level with us as we support Ximo this year for recovery as well as the growing work in Italy under the care of our European team. We understand if you wish to move your support elsewhere and welcome you in that case to consider other nations in our area should you choose to do so.

The work done here on the front line, is impossible without your partnership, friendship, prayer and support. We are indeed your debtors and are daily aware of your multiple forms of support to the work God has called us to.

Many Blessings to all,

Clayton Endecott
General Presbyter for Europe, CIS and the Middle East



We want to sincerely thank you for the persistent companionship of missions here in Europe and your moral and financial support, visits, letters and advice. "Two are better than one" says the Preacher (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) and we could not have done what little we have done on our own. We hope always to be able to partner with wise, encouraging and loving fellow-believers in whatever stage of life and ministry we may be. As much as we identify with serving others, we are all just "beggars" telling other beggars where to find the 'bread of life.' Please feel free to remain in contact and we hope to send some word in the next months. We are curious to see what God will do now. Whatever it is, He will certainly be by our side.

God bless you,

Ximo and Judy Gregorio, Overseer of Italy, Malta and Bosnia



WAYS TO GIVE:



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