

“Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.” Proverbs 3:5,6

Allow us to tell you how God made this verse come to life in a real and practical way for us this year! After a year of transitions, sleeping in various homes, packing-up, and moving to a new country of ministry, we entered a new season of life full of logistical questions. Everything from where exactly we would live to how we were going to navigate the bureaucratic paperwork process of living and ministering in Italy was unknown. Admittedly, we were nervous and a bit stressed-out about the practical matters of the big move, so we prayed and gave it to the Lord. And boy, did God work in mighty ways.

It all started last November when I (Mihai) traveled to Birmingham, England, for meetings with the Executive Committee of MemberCare Europe. While going around sharing prayer requests, I mentioned to the two other members of the committee the need we had to find housing in Genova. One of my colleagues from Switzerland mentioned she knew a couple in Genova who happened to have a small basement flat that they offer for guests called the “Angels Flat.” I said, sure, any connection would be helpful. Upon returning home, Tammy and I were discussing options for temporary housing and getting ready to possibly make reservations through Airbnb. We were not finding many cheap options. So, I decided to send an email to the contacts my colleagues mentioned in Genova. Honestly, I was not expecting much. But, man, was I ever wrong!

The next day I got an email response from Andrea and Aida Papini. In the email they mentioned that at the very same time that we were praying to find connections in Genova, for housing, etc., they had been praying for help in their church in Genova. Andrea, also a naval engineer, specifically wrote, “Just yesterday Aida and I were praying for God to send more workers to the harvest field here in Genova. And then we got your email. It seemed like a total answer to prayer.” Andrea and Aida offered us their basement apartment near the sea for two months to allow us time to get settled into our new city and find our own place. Tammy and I were overjoyed!

Andrea and Aida have been an absolute blessing. Without us even asking, they willingly and eagerly offered to help us with our Italian documents and even set up appointments with local real estate agents and bank managers to help us obtain a home mortgage. Not to mention, they gifted us their summer home on the sea to enjoy the Christmas holidays.

In many ways, we feel Andrea and Aida are kindred spirits. We instantly connected on multiple levels and have been able to have many deep and meaningful conversations. Already we have laughed and cried together. Both of them share our love for music, discipleship, and pastoral care. Not only did God answer our prayers in finding a place to stay, He went above and beyond in giving us friends.

Sometimes it can be hard to trust God and instead make our own plans. This is just one of multiple examples of how trusting in God truly did set our path straight. Please join us in thanking God for Andrea and Aida Papini.



Mihai & Tammy