

IL RAMOSCELLO

ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY BREZZANO - CHRISTIAN SOCIAL WORK
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Naming of the playground in Travale in Maria's name

On the anniversary of Maria Meier's death, the playground in Travale was named after her. The initiative came from the mayor of Montieri, Nicola Verruzzi. Just one week before the date, the approval for this came from the higher office, quite Italian bureaucracy. Because everything was done on such short notice, Federica could hardly keep up with the work of painting the railings of the playground and the fence of the tennis court. That's why I helped her in one day. I worked together with Daniele, who with his impairment could only work for a maximum of two hours at a time. He got going and told me many things. So I could get to know the work of the Cooperativa better. Boris joined us in the afternoon.

The next day was already 2/16/2023! Werner Dallapiazza and Jürg Geilinger also traveled to Tuscany for this event. Slowly the square filled up with almost a hundred people. Two policemen in uniform held the coat of arms of Travale. Residents of the surrounding villages of Travale, Montieri and Gorfalco were present. Friends of the former Christian community near Pisa were also there. Nicola Verruzzi, visibly touched, opened the celebration with the simple words: he had not prepared anything big, but invited those present to say a few words about Maria. The first to speak was Manuela, Maria's daughter. It is important to her that the work of the Cooperativa continues, she ended her words. Many were close to tears. Federica and Daniele also expressed gratitude for Maria's great help in their lives. I also gave a brief testimony about the help I received in therapy at that time and that I was healed through Jesus Christ.

Marianna, a resident of Travale, read a poem about semplicità. It was about the simple life, the way Maria had chosen to live, the way she approached people without big platitudes. Maria was appreciated by many residents and was in lively communication with the mayor. Marco, the pastor of the community of Pisa also spoke. Werner testified to those present that we of the sponsoring association continue to support the work in the field. Pastor Paul Schäfer, who had



presided at Maria's funeral a year ago, also spoke. Beatrice Monti, who had known Maria for thirty years, came with Paulo, who was eighty years old. She praised Maria's great commitment throughout the years. After all the speeches, the covering of the name plate was removed. We remained silent in front of it for a while. Marianna placed the bouquet of flowers she had brought under the shield. At the end, Nicola Verruzzi once again addressed those present. His voice became louder and clearer: we should say goodbye to selfishness and help each other instead. If someone falls, we should help him up. Actually, he preached the gospel of charity. It was incredible.

Lia Härtig had prepared a very fine Italian menu the day before at Casa Schalom. So we still had fellowship with Beatrice and Paulo and Paul Schäfer. It was a successful celebration.

Corinna Schmidt 

Hello dear friends

I am happy to tell you about my visit to Israel last November. In July we had guests from Israel in Brezzano, a group of women from the Machaseh Social Work in Jerusalem. They invited me to come to Israel. We wanted to discuss together how we can continue to work together.



I also wanted to visit all the men who had ever been in therapy in Brezzano. I wanted to see how they lived their lives, and for me, most importantly, if they had not abandoned the faith.

Also I wanted to explain to them that Maria was no longer with us.

It was a very good trip, I really enjoyed visiting all these men. There was Roman, Yochai, Arinam and many others.



Lena showed me 21 year old Eliran in the house of Machaseh. He had adopted all his siblings because their mother had died and his father is in a mental institution.

For this young man and his siblings, we want to somehow provide a vacation time in Brezzano. I really hope that we will continue in the work with Israel.

Thank you very much, God bless you all

Boris 

Heavenly networking continues

In September Ramoscello I told about "heavenly contacts, Giuseppe Conte (Napoli) and Bonnie Rose (Rome), both active in houses of prayer. This February we attended an Israel conference in Napoli. Giuseppe Conte of "HOP Italia" organizes such a conference every year during the Shoah memorial days.



This was a good opportunity to see some Zoom friends in real life. Together with Ahmad, our roommate from Iran and Corinna from the board, we first drove to Boris in Brezzano. We picked him up and traveled together to Napoli. There we met Lia, who welcomed us warmly at the "Centro Levitico Ghilgal" by the sea. One by one the other guests moved in, speakers of the conference and friends. We met the brothers Enzo and Giuseppe Conte and their Mama Anna and immediately took them to our hearts. Giuseppe told us how the House of Prayer came to be, a moving story that touched us deeply. His heart burns for reconciliation and unity among the different churches and free churches.

Again we experienced the bond in Jesus as a blessing. There were about 20 of us, almost all of whom we met for the first time, mostly from Italy and Israel. The conference itself was held at *Chiesa Cristiana Evangelica San Giovanni a Teduccio*, a parish strongly connected to Israel. Every year it hosts the seminar. A surprise was the worship, a mix of Hebrew and Italian from passionate Neapolitan hearts. The theme of the days was "The most urgent mission - to share

the Gospel, to the Jews first and then to the nations".

After the conference we stayed as a small international family for three days. We were able to move to an apartment in Caserta, where Lia



also lives. This belongs to the House of Prayer, which is also in Caserta. One morning we met with Giuseppe, Enzo and Mama Anna at the House of Prayer to pray and sing together.



Meeting in Siena

Spring is "revival time" - "there's something in the air" we say, we feel that something new is breaking out. How do you feel, dear reader? Do you also feel that God wants to bring something new? I want to keep my heart open for his work.

On April 1, a one-day seminar was held at the "Fondazione CantoNuovo" in Siena. Bonnie from Rome invited us to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to gather the different Christians so that they can get to know each other and



Spending a few days of vacation together, with Lia as our companion who took us to beautiful places, did us all good. For a whole day we drove along the famous Amalfi Coast and enjoyed the sun despite the icy wind. January/February are not the typical vacation months in Italy. Because we wanted to make new contacts and the conference took place around this time, we took the cold on ourselves. We spent two more days in Brezzano to have additional time with our friends.

For a long time we have had the impression that Casa Shalom should also become a place of prayer and worship. With the land that belongs to the supporting association, resources are available for self-sufficiency. We are still in the construction phase. We do not want to force anything. It needs trustful praying, waiting, being sensitive who is God calling to this place? It is a challenging and intense kind of life in such a remote area. It takes heart and hands, people who want to make sacrifices, to live community away from the hustle and bustle.

network. Unity in the Body of Christ according to John 17 was the theme. We were excited to see who we would meet. All the participants introduced themselves briefly. Werner, Boris and Lia told about the Comunità Brezzano. A great variety of small works, house groups and communities came together there. We made a few contacts that we found interesting for Brezzano.

Heidi Dallapiazza 



New Year at Shalom

"It was a gift to experience this New Year 22/23 with our Shabbat group in Brezzano, in the cozy Casa Shalom, with so much peaceful atmosphere, loving furnishings and beautiful nature.

During the year we exchange weekly Torah portions in the group via Zoom.

From different parts of Italy we came together now, from Milano, Livorno, Ancona, Lucca, Caserta, to be together, away from too much hustle and bustle, to share about biblical topics about Israel and also to celebrate Shabbat, which this year fell on New Year's Eve.

For some of us, Maria had been a dear friend and so we also combined the visit with a memento of her.

I am very grateful for the fellowship we were able to have among brothers and sisters, the encouraging life testimonies we shared, fine meals together, times of worship with sharing. Especially during the walks in the beautiful nature we had valuable and deep conversations. It was also so beautiful to walk in the woods and reflect on what we had heard during the sharing and to pray.

From the time of Casa Shalom I take treasures from the mountain to the valley.

May the Lord continue to richly bless the work and enable many to make a visit to Casa Shalom".

Lia Hertig 

"At the end of 2022, we had the opportunity to participate in a meeting at Casa Shalom together with other brothers and sisters.

We exchanged ideas about various topics that concern Israel.

We were able to share our experiences in a beautiful landscape, far away from the frenetic life we experience every day in our cities.

The tranquility of the place helped us a lot in our sharing and in our reflection and prayer. We had a very blessed time together".

Davide e Antonella 

"My name is Rachele Pascale and I would like to thank God and also the Comunità Brezzano for giving us the opportunity to be at Casa Shalom over New Year's 2022.

My experience in Brezzano at Casa Shalom: What can I say... the nature there is beautiful and a reason to say thanks to God. You can enjoy creation and praise and worship God in a deep way and be connected to Him and His creation. We had times of fellowship, not only spiritual (reflecting on the teachings of the Torah, the importance of loving Israel and praying for Israel), we also experienced beautiful moments cooking with other sisters.

I was able to meet my dear sister Lia and I admire very much the commitment of brother Boris, how he took care of us while we were guests at Casa Shalom, and also did many other strenuous things around the area.

My only regret is that there are not enough workers at the moment to take in people who are having difficulties. I hope that the work that Sister Maria has been doing can be continued again.

I wish you God's rich blessings
Shalom" 

Old treasures are unearthed

Together with Werner and Alessandro Pezzini, we stand by the stream just below the Casa Nuova and marvel at the natural stone walls and barriers that line the entire stream. A year ago, nothing of this or of the stream itself was visible, everything was overgrown with thorny bushes. In painstaking work, everything was uncovered to bring the work of previous generations back to light. "This stream always has water" Alessandro explains to us, "fruit trees will thrive here".

everything is tidy and you can feel that the old cultivated landscape is emerging again from the wilderness.



Then our view wanders across the road to the slope side. Here, too: Over more than 2 hectares the slope is exposed. Walls and terraces - also built by previous generations - have come to light. We are pleased that the old treasures of the Comuntà Brezzano are being lifted and made usable again.



Alessandro, with Daniela, his wife, has already planted hundreds of young trees. Treedom, an NGO, promotes reforestation with contributions paid per tree. The aim is to preserve and revitalize the ancient cultural landscape of the Metalliferous Tuscany.

Maria Meier-Krisch, in collaboration with Nicola, the mayor of Montieri, had set this up with Alessandro and Daniela. We provided them with the land on a leasehold basis. Now they live together with Boris in the Casa Nuova and enliven the Comunità Brezzano.

It is worth a visit, also in the exposed forest parcel with the 1500 - year old chestnut trees.

Jürg Geilinger 



WE THANK:

- for the good cooperation in the Board, as well as in the Comunità Brezzano
- for the new Commercialista der Cooperativa
- for Alessandro's und Daniela's commitment in the reclamation of the land
- for Federica, who is a great help in the Cooperativa
- for all the donations that faithfully come in
- for God's networking with places of prayer and Christians in Italy
- for the valuable visits to Israel that Bors was able to make
- for the friendships and contacts in Israel

WE ASK:

- that God shows us who He is calling into the community life in Brezzano
- for a good solution of the living situation
- for regular stays at Casa Shalom
- for a continued good flow of donations
- for wisdom on how the Board can support the Cooperativa well
- that the vacation stay for Eliram and his siblings will be realized

Without a note, we will use your donation where it is needed most.

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