

# Mark and Diane Henzler



## Dear Partners in Prayer,

While the New Testament calls followers of Christ to always be prepared, we now face a new reality for which we must be prepared. And with this new situation we pray for the health of all our colleagues and supporters, especially for those in Florida where there are higher populations of retirees.

We cancelled our return flight to Italy the very day the virus began making the news in northern Italy, where we are based. I have acute eosinophilic asthma, and am high-risk for a respiratory virus. That, coupled with the fact that summer missions trips have been cancelled, prompted us to go ahead and do a furlough now. It has been 5 years since our last furlough, so the timing is good for that. Had we returned to Italy or even Greece, we would have been in “lock-down” anyway, so we can make better use of our time here. We are taking the month of March to deal with medical issues for both of us, and then expect to head up north in April where, in addition to visiting churches, Diane will be able to help our daughter with the arrival of grandchildren #s 2 and 3—twins!

Please pray for the refugee situation in Greece which is especially critical right now. Turkey has released many refugees to go to Lesbos, yet Greece is ill-equipped to receive even more. To make matters worse, volunteers who work with the refugees have been forced to evacuate the island. Not only does this mean there is less help for the refugees, but there is little Gospel work happening if they are not there. We also ask that you pray for our ministry partners still in Europe, the families Macris, Kleis, Howe, and Spoto; Melissa Baccarella, and so many more. They are working hard to follow whatever creative ways God shows them to minister despite lockdown situations. We are confident that God will use this to continue spreading the Gospel.

Something that impressed me in teaching a New Testament Backgrounds class, was how important the Roman roads created by Caesar Augustus were to enable the rapid spread of the Gospel in the first century. In the twenty-first century, the internet is the modern equivalent of the Roman roads system, untouched by any organic viruses. We are taking advantage of this time to create more evangelistic and study material which can be accessed online from around the world.

We are praying for God’s protection and provision for all of you in every way as we ride out the current crisis, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the author –and finisher– of our faith!

*Mark and Diane Henzler*

ABWE Resource Team: Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean

[mhenzler@abwe.cc](mailto:mhenzler@abwe.cc)