

# Ann and David MacFarlane

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## Prayer Letter

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### April 2009

My dear friends,

At last I have two straight legs. It seems so strange to see them in the mirror. I want to thank you all for your prayers for us while I was in hospital.

I have been out for a month now and back at work here at Santeramo. We thought we had seen the last of hospitals for a while but Ann was asked to go in after a visit to the doctor. The doctor advised her to go in as soon as possible and thanks to the help of an angel in our church (Mariangela) Ann was admitted on Sunday 15 March. After some tests they decided that she should stay in for a small operation and she was back out on Thursday 19th. She has to go back in 20 days for her results. We praise God for his everlasting presence and peace and healing that he gives us daily.

Now I have some news that will be a shock to many of you. Ann and I are leaving Santeramo at the end of September. We have accepted a call to pastor two churches at Reggio in Calabria. We have known since our Baptist assembly in June last year that the pastoral situation here in Italy was not good. There are 29 pastors for around 120 churches. Since June and subsequently hearing of all kinds of changes that would be happening, we were finding it harder to justify our staying at Santeramo. Our aim has always been to serve the Union here to the best of our ability and to do what was best for the Union. We were invited down to the church just for a visit and to see what God was saying to us and to the churches. After much prayer and thought we felt that it was right to go ahead and say yes to the churches. They both had their meetings and both were 100 per cent unanimous in calling us to Reggio. As you can imagine, the church at Santeramo was shattered but after many tears and deliberation they knew that it was for the best that we were going. The church project will still go on and we will keep our interest and support even when we have gone. We had our annual church assembly and the church unanimously agreed to continue the vision for the new



church despite the fact of us leaving. I will still be giving you news and updates on the progress of the work. The OK from the union has not been given yet but I believe they have been waiting to see how the church would react to our leaving. Please pray for the church at Santeramo. The new pastor will have to have two and maybe three churches and will not be able to have the same input as we have been able to do.

We are coming home in June and we will be visiting our link churches in Kettering, Accrington and Glasgow and we will be able to share more than on the churches in Calabria.

#### Prayer points

- ◆ Pray for the leadership at Santeramo.
- ◆ Pray for new people to come and encourage them.
- ◆ Pray for the ones who are resisting baptism.
- ◆ Pray for us as we contemplate another move. We thought that Santeramo was the last.

*God bless you all love from Ann and David.*

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