



end-of-year
REPORT 2020

www.impattoitalia.org

What a year! To a certain extent it might seem that Covid-19 dominated 2020, but actually this too is God's year - He is firmly on the throne, rules supreme and transforms evil into triumph.

The brief, summarising report that follows, underscores and highlights that great truth. No, 2020 was not easy, plans were tossed out, uncertainty and destabilisation journeyed alongside us, and yes, we too have been battered and bruised. Yet, **we rejoice** all the more at the wonder of the gospel of grace. And we are still passionate to see true hope flood through our nation, Italy.

Impatto (A29 in Italy) is a growing family of church-planting churches. We are especially and encouraging and growing family of church-planting church leaders. What a privilege throughout 2020 to be able to journey together, celebrating joys and lamenting hard times. Though not being able to enjoy our full annual family retreat (*Relazione*), there was still intense and supportive contact between us. We left 2020 grateful for the fact that Impatto is a **growing family**, not *just* a network.

Since Covid hit early in 2020, with all the terrible devastation in our nation too, especially in northern Italy, meeting together as churches has been very different. Initially it was far from easy. Not everyone was technologically-savvy or even keen to meet virtually. The social implications (*yes, we usually hug and kiss!*) were difficult to cope with. We are thankful, though, that throughout the year community, prayer, creative missional initiatives (*cake-making, shopping for neighbours, online aperitivos, game nights...*) and an evident **work of the Spirit** in our many *valleys* are all things to celebrate with grateful hearts. Most plans, strategies and timelines have had to be redefined. Still, Impatto formally welcomed two new plants! Other plans to launch plants as soon as possible are in place, to welcome in several existing churches and to also finalize the assessment of at least one new church-planter.

Below is a selection of news from some of our churches...

“ **WHAT A YEAR!** ”

CHURCHES & CHURCH-PLANTING

IMPATTO today

- 14 fully-assessed church-planters
- 1 candidate planter (*nearing full membership*)
- 1 new candidate (*waiting to be assessed*)
- 2 new candidate churches (*waiting to be assessed*)
- 1 new church plant soon to be launched
- 15 Impatto churches and church-plants in Italy

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME OF THE CHURCHES

BUDRIO 'Chiesa La Piazza'

Celebrate: new people have begun attending regularly since we began meeting again in person.

Challenge: to keep the church united and, above all, maintain a missional vision as a community.

Pray for 2021: to strengthen the ties that have become 'loose' in the church! We are planning our first church retreat!



CONEGLIANO 'Chiesa La Vite'

Celebrate: the faithfulness of the believers during the pandemic as they stayed attached to Christ and to His church.

Challenge: to plant a church via zoom (not seeing each other in person for many months was very tough, especially when you're trying to establish the foundations of a new church...).

Pray for 2021: wisdom in pastoral care and a growing desire for believers to be active members in the body of Christ.



L'ISOLOTTO (FIRENZE) 'Chiesa Evangelica Riformata l'Isolotto'

Celebrate: in this unique year, God demonstrated an over-abundance of grace!

Challenge: there are members and friends of ours who are unable to use the technology or who have no access to it to join our virtual meetings.

Pray for 2021: that as a church we, CERI, might grow to be generous with our time one towards another and towards outsiders too.

FONTANAFREDDA 'Chiesa Biblica Serenissima'

Celebrate: 4 Italian adults saved and 8 new believers baptized!

Challenge: to advance in gospel outreach and proclamation while scrambling the whole year trying to just keep our church meeting together, organised, healthy, and alive.

Pray for 2021: that the many contacts we have made in outreach during this period of Covid-19 will produce fruit for the gospel and result in more people desiring to plant churches.

IMOLA 'Chiesa La Rocca'

Challenge: to encourage new people to become an integral part of the church and not only to attend.

Celebrate: grateful to God that even during the pandemic the church is growing. Some of the new people that have been added this year are of great help, especially in the area of worship. It is encouraging to be able to share this ministry with other people. This area is not only 'musical', but it is really and truly discipleship.

Pray for 2021: for the development of potential leaders in the church during this year. We are beginning to see a greater interest in sharing together the burden and joy of leadership.

PALERMO 'LifeHope'

Celebrate: the ongoing consolidation of LifeHope, with the inclusion of some new people too. We were able to explore and engage in creative online missional activities.

Challenge: to connect meaningfully with unbelievers. The initial contact is simple, but the 'next step' is less so. Applying the gospel to all of life is both an 'unlearning' and a 'learning' process. Far from easy for many.

Pray for 2021: a location/venue where we can gather, once we have that possibility. Others to strengthen the leadership/core team. Conversions!

PISA

Celebrate: it was a great joy for our church to be able to come together again to meet. We are grateful to have found a venue we can use. Above all to see the unity of the church grow.

Challenge: we lost some evangelistic zeal. Before the pandemic we were able to be in touch with different people through our meetings in the homes. Currently this is not possible.

Pray for 2021: that the church in Pisa might have strong roots, to be used by the Lord to bring other people to enter into union with the Son, Christ Jesus.





2020 was also an important and encouraging year for us as a family of churches and church-leaders.

Some of the highlights:

PREDICA!

Almost 20 keen men, from 10 different churches are going through an *ad-hoc* 8-session preaching course. Done entirely online, it is a great opportunity to give teaching and then break into smaller cohorts during the biweekly 90-minute sessions.

COACHING PIÙ

We also launched a focused coaching project: *Coaching Più*. The first series (a trial run) with 3 participants (plus the moderator) was on the topic of ecclesiology. We were privileged to have the encouraging ministry of our good friend: Dr. Gregg Allison. It was uplifting and challenging and conversations were deep, significant, formative and in a number of instances truly prophetic - the right word in the right place at the right time!

PRAYER

One of the great opportunities of 2020 has been a growth in prayer. We were able to hold several online prayer events for the churches. These were encouraging. There were also additional opportunities for the church leaders to connect and share burdens and needs. One church, during lockdown, responded by meeting daily for several hours with a resulting deepening of relationships and dependency on God.

WEBINARS

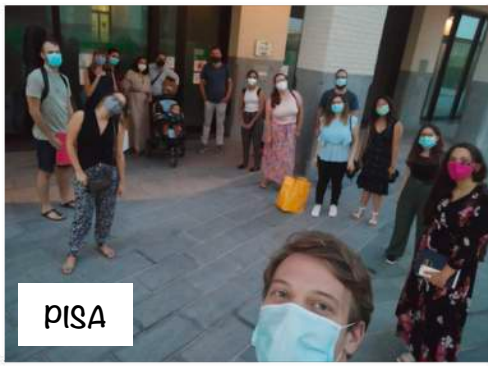
In 2020 we continued with regular webinars. Specific themes and series included: *Holy Rhythms*, the *Gospel and Ministry* and *Living church*.

IMPATTO TEAM

'An Impatto leadership Team works alongside me in leading the network. Areas of need and opportunity, assessment, coaching, training and support are all regularly discussed and action-plans identified. I am grateful for Elio, Gian Luca, Jutty & Rob.' (JD)

TRAINING

Important steps forward have been taken in developing significant and additional training opportunities.



ALBANIA

Impatto has continued to enjoy the privilege of twinning with gospel-work in Albania.

We are thankful for Andi and his family as they church-plant in Tirana. Several other Albanians are also in the process of being assessed, or are in the pipeline.

Danny and his family currently serve in the northern part of the country in a rural, Muslim-majority context. This is a very challenging work, but faithful gospel-seeds have been sown. We continue to pray for fruit to come forth and we rejoice that God has plans for this region of northern Albania.



A FEW WAYS TO CONNECT WITH IMPATTO

VISION TRIP

As travel gets back to normal, consider coming for an significant vision trip to get a feel for and a vision of Italy.

SHORT-TERM MINISTRY TEAM TRIPS

Bring a team and help us while gaining a lasting perspective and experience of mission in Italy.

INTERNSHIP

Consider joining an exciting, challenging and life-changing internship program (12-18 months).

EXCHANGE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Explore opportunities to come to Italy as an exchange student.

PROFESSIONALS

Increased smart-working opportunities mean you may well be able to do your job while based in Italy!

CHURCH-PLANTERS

With an estimated number of some 50 gospel-centered churches nationally (!) there is much need for church-planters, ready to give all! Consider joining a plant, or preparing to plant.

PARTNERS

We are praying for more significant partners to join us as we continue to see healthy, multiplying churches throughout Italy. We would be most glad to regularly fuel your prayers.

CHURCHES TO TWIN WITH US

Would your church be interested in a twinning project with Italy? Ideally a two or three year commitment to pray, give and send.

FINANCE

There continue to be pressing financial needs. Would you prayerfully consider how you can support us? This could be towards the general work of Impatto, but we can also highlight specific, exciting projects and real needs. You can find giving details here: (<https://www.impattoitalia.org/dona-1>)

JUST CONNECT IF YOU....

- are interested in learning more about the challenge and opportunity of mission in Italy.
- are coming to Italy on vacation
- have connections with Italy or Italians (*we have resources to help you be on mission too!*)
- want more news and information to pray through and share with others



PRAY

“As we move into 2021 we are excited as we face **new opportunities**. But let's not gloss over the **challenges**. To see church-members suffer loss, hardship, bewilderment... no easy thing. And we left 2020 under no illusions. The situation continues to be tense and complex. Uncertainty, on all levels, is high, with plans, clear vision and focus still sketchy. Some who had been on the margins of church, have faded away, though others have instead become more committed. All that to say that the common feeling among us all is: tiredness. It has not been easy and it continues to not be easy. Some church-plants have lost their **meeting-venues; financially** things are not easy (a number of ministries and ministers struggle).”

“**It is a daily choice to rest amidst the storm and learn to trust.**
Pray with us, pray for us!”



IMPATTO ITALIA

*A DIVERSE, GLOBAL FAMILY OF
CHURCH-PLANTING CHURCHES*

www.impactoitalia.org
info@impactoitalia.org