

HOLLYWOOD TEMPLE

(Assembly of God)
EAST 69th and EIGHTH AVENUE N. E.
SEATTLE 5, WASHINGTON

June 19, 1947

RECEIVED

JUN 23 1947

Missions Dept.

N.P.	

Rev. Noel Perkin
Missionary Secretary
Assemblies of God
336 West Pacific Street
Springfield, Missouri



Dear Brother Perkin:

I have your letter of June 16, and I am very glad to know that you are back.

When Brother Vogler was in Seattle recently, he expressed the conviction that what is to be done in Italy should be done at once before the situation is lost to us. He wrote a letter to Brother Flower regarding the matter of financing my trip, expressing the conviction that if it were at all possible that \$1500.00 be appropriated. Perhaps Brother Flower has already taken the matter up with you. I have written Brother Flower and Brother Williams concerning my trip to Italy.

As I stated in my last letter, my reservation and ticket have already been secured, and I will be leaving Seattle for Rome July 28th, and returning from London September 14th.

Today I received a communication from the Italian brethren with nineteen signatures, and they stated they are anxiously awaiting my return to Italy. I am keeping Miss Altura busy translating some of my notes on organization and other vital subjects into Italian which will be mimeographed and taken with me for the conferences.

Persecution is still going on, especially in Southern Italy, and as I wrote Brother Williams in my last letter, some of the brethren are forbidden to preach the gospel because they do not have any written authority from an organized religious body. I received a letter on June 17 from one of the leading brethren in Sicily asking if he might receive a letter of endorsement from the Assemblies of God authorizing him to preach the gospel.

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"I am the Way,
the Truth, and
the Life."
John 14:6



As I go to Italy, I have a three-fold program in mind:

1. To give Bible study in various conferences concerning the doctrines of the Assemblies of God;
2. To endeavor to unite the Italian brethren into an organized body which is very essential if they are going to endure the coming pressure and persecution;
3. To take up with Premier DeGasperi and other Italian officials the matter of the persecution of our Italian brethren.

In connection with this, I am now in possession of letters from the Governor of the State of Washington, the Mayor of Seattle, and a number of senators and Congressmen as well as outstanding religious organizations such as the The Council of Churches, the YMCA, etc., which will prove helpful not only in getting access to these men of authority but also in bringing pressure to bear. Also, I have a letter from the Italian consul here in Seattle who has written the government officials in Rome informing them of my coming and asking their cooperation regarding my mission there.

I believe I am going to Italy at the most psychological time as the Italian Government at present is endeavoring to be very friendly and diplomatic toward our government, inasmuch as they will ask for a loan of over \$200,000,000. Italy is in a desperate state indeed and need help, and, no doubt, they will do everything in their power to befriend America. As an immediate move to that end, all Communism has been ousted from the government.

I do feel deep in my heart that God is in this; if I did not, I would not even try to make the trip because it means a lot of hard work and going there at the hottest season of the year. However, something must be done now or never. I feel greatly in need of much prayer for this trip as it is of utmost importance.

No doubt, you discovered that the general feeling on the part of the Swiss, Italian, and French brethren is that they would like to have some organization. They have been just a little hesitant because of the pressure brought to bear by the Swedish brethren and George Jeffreys and his clique. However, I think this can be overcome when they realize that we American brethren have no ulterior motive in mind, but are constrained by the love of God to give a helping hand at this most critical time.

In my last letter from Dr. Gigliotti, he states that although he felt some things were accomplished, yet he is not altogether satisfied. I believe that a minister representing the Pentecostal Church will have more bearing upon the Pentecostal

situation than Dr. Gigliotti, who, more or less, represented the Protestants as a whole. The Protestants as a whole are not greatly molested in Italy, only those who are not organized, such as the Pentecostal brethren and a small Seventh Day Adventist group.

I am wondering, if I should not be successful in organizing the Italian brethren to the extent that we hope, if it would be possible to invest in me the authority to meet with individual pastors in Italy, who would want to become affiliated with the Assemblies of God for the protection of their ministry. I have received letters from Italian brethren who wish to affiliate with us. I wish you would take this matter up with the brethren.

Now regarding the money allotted for my trip, you may send it to me to be used for the purchase of my ticket to and from Italy.

I think, also, I should have an official letter from headquarters stating that I am being sent officially as a representative of the Assemblies of God in America in behalf of the Pentecostal Churches in Italy relative to religious freedom and relief.

May the Lord bless you.



HHN:ec

Your brother in Christ,

Henry H. Ness