



MILAN, ITALY

Rev. Michael Brown

Dear brothers and sisters,

These are not easy days. Many are carrying real burdens amid global conflict, rising costs, political tensions, and uncertainty about the future. It is easy to feel unsettled, even overwhelmed. And yet, God's Word calls us back to a glorious reality: "The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice" (Psalm 97:1). Not will reign. Not might reign. The Lord reigns—right now. While the world often seems unstable, Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling over all things for the good of His church.

Here in Milan, we continue to see encouraging reminders of that truth. Here are some that we have witnessed this year:

We are grateful that **Francesco Pinelli was ordained as an elder** at Chiesa Riformata Filadelfia. As Francesco has already been serving faithfully, please pray that the Lord would give continue to give him humility, wisdom, and a deep love for Christ and His people.

One of the highlights of our year was our second annual Family Retreat in Cecina, Tuscany, together with the Chiesa Presbiteriana di Pistoia and Chiesa Riformata Redenzione di Bergamo. Over three days, we worshiped, studied the Psalms, prayed, sang, rested, and enjoyed fellowship as families in Christ. We pray that the fruit of those days will continue to grow in our churches and homes.

Our **men have been gathering regularly** to consider biblical manhood: What does Scripture teach us about being men shaped not by the expectations of our culture, but by Christ? We are encouraged by a growing desire among our men to lead, serve, and strengthen one another in godliness.

Ad Fontes, the podcast I host with Rev. Vincenzo Coluccia and Rev. Gavino Fioretti continues to grow and reach new listeners. Through conversations on Scripture, theology, church history, and the Reformed faith, our desire is to help Italian-speaking Christians encounter solid biblical teaching.

Our **Ad Fontes publishing ministry** is also growing, with four titles now in print. My wife, Janie, continues to play an indispensable role in this work. She helps with the editing and technical side of the podcast, produces our sermon videos, manages the church's social media presence, and leads the women's book study, while she continues her own demanding work teaching English to foreigners.

At the center of everything remain the **ordinary means of grace**. On Sunday mornings, I am preaching through the Gospel of Luke; in our catechism services, we are studying the Canons of Dort; and in our midweek Bible study, we are working through 1–2 Kings.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generous support. You are truly partners in what the Lord is doing here in Italy. And amid whatever challenges you may be facing, may this same truth strengthen you: Christ is reigning. His Word is at work. His church is being built.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike





BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Rev. Mihai Corcea

Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings from Bucharest! I am writing to share an update on how the Lord has been blessing our church-planting ministry in this part of the world. After a slow start to the year, we were encouraged by several joyful occasions this summer.

In June, we celebrated the baptism of a covenant child. These occasions also provide valuable opportunities to speak with visiting extended family members, many of whom are encountering Reformed theology and practice for the first time. In July, we spent several days together on a church retreat in the mountains, enjoying a welcome time of rest, fellowship, and extended teaching.

During our family vacation, we traveled to Milan, Italy, where we visited Chiesa Riformata Filadelfia and Rev. Michael Brown and his wife, Janie. It was a joy to worship with the saints there and reconnect after several years apart. We were encouraged to see the ministry flourishing and grateful for another opportunity to learn from their experience.

With summer drawing to a close and families returning to the city, we have resumed our Sunday school classes and are preparing for a new season of outreach. Both adults and children are studying the Heidelberg Catechism, with a particular emphasis this year on encouraging adults to memorize the catechism.



We also have some exciting news about a possible permanent home for our congregation. Over the years, we have shared with you the challenges of finding a suitable meeting place in Bucharest. For many Romanians, an unconventional worship space presents a significant cultural barrier. A recognizable church building can help people from an Eastern Orthodox background feel more comfortable visiting. For the past several years, we have rented a Hungarian Lutheran church building. It has served us well, but the rent accounts for approximately 20 percent of our annual budget, and its availability for the long term has become uncertain.

Over the years, we have also received gifts designated specifically for our meeting-place needs. A recent generous donation has brought our building fund to approximately 70 percent of the estimated amount needed to purchase land and construct a church building in one of Bucharest's suburbs.

A permanent home would help reduce our annual expenses and move us closer to becoming self-supporting in the future. It would also allow us to put down deeper roots in the local community and provide an enduring place where people can hear the gospel and find refuge in Christ amid the troubles of this world.

As we consider undertaking this project next year, please join us in praying for wisdom. We are deeply grateful for your faithful prayers and generous support, through which you share in this ministry. We ask you to prayerfully consider continuing your support as we take these next steps.

Warmly in Christ,
Rev. Mihai Corcea

