

Feeling at home ...

An update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean – Summer 2003

The other day I thought of the year long home ministry (furlough) that is coming up for us in January and realized that a year will be a long time to be away from here. Of course we are very much looking forward to the time with family, friends and supporters, but I realized that we really would miss being here. We find that we have settled into a routine, and are starting to feel somewhat comfortable with our place here.

Our April youth meeting went well, although there were no open decisions for Christ. God knows the hearts of these teens and we are trusting Him to bring the harvest in His time. We have seen evidence that the teens are interested and considering the claims of Christ. Please continue to pray for this group. We have one last meeting (which will be over by the time you get this), in which two of our leaders will give their testimonies. This is a great opportunity for our youth leaders as well as for the youths to hear what God has done in the lives of other Italians.

Pray also for the future of this ministry. We would love to have someone from the church who we could prepare to take over the leadership of the youth group when we leave for home ministry in January.

In May Scott was able, for the first time, to preach a message without reading all of it. This was a milestone of sorts for Scott in his

language abilities. Please continue to pray for progress in our language skills, especially for Sharon, who does not have as many practice opportunities.

In May we also had three Saturday evenings in which we did open air evangelism in the center of Milan. We praise the Lord that we were able to get the permits for this without problem and had three evenings of beautiful weather. Scott and a man from the church took turns preaching and we saw crowds of up to 50 and 60 people stop to listen to the Gospel. There were also good conversations after the messages. We plan to have three more of these outreaches in June and July (6/21, 7/5, 7/19).

We praise the Lord that there are several people who seem to be near making a decision for Christ (mostly ladies). There are a few who are attending the church regularly and others who are attending an evangelistic Bible study. Please pray for the continued work of God in their hearts. We would love to see not only these, but also their families come to be disciples of Christ.

Generally, the process of coming to Christ is a slow one here in Italy. So much of the cultural and religious baggage must be unloaded and worked through. Then there are often family considerations as well. Patience and persistence are very much needed!

The Root Center Church is at a critical point of its development. Until now the missionary team has really been leading the church. We are seeking to expand that leadership as well as continuing to encourage the development and use of spiritual gifts. This is a real step forward toward the process of nationalization. This first phase will take place over the next eighteen months. We covet your prayers for wisdom and unity as these critical steps are taken.

Please also pray for the financial situation of missionaries here in Europe. In the past year or so the dollar has fallen over 25% against the Euro. That means that everything here costs about 35% more in terms of US dollars. Our

Italian Info

In May, for the first time ever, two Italian soccer teams played in the final of the European championship (Champions League). Which team won? Which team lost?

- A) Inter B) Juventus C) Lazio
D) Milan E) Roma

Answer to last letter's question:

*On almost all items there is
a 20% (D) sales tax.*

*Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ,
and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

II Cor. 2:14

apartment for example cost us \$875 a month in February of 2002. This month it will cost \$1,198! This situation affects not only us, but all US missionaries in Europe. Please pray specifically for the Lord's provision.

We invite you to check out our website (www.MacLean.8m.com). We try to keep this updated with our latest news and prayer requests, as well as interesting information on Italy and the work here. Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances. It is an encouragement to us to see how you are involved in what the Lord is doing here.

His Servants,



Scott & Sharon MacLean

Quickly Noted ...

- 🖨 **WWW.MACLEAN.8M.COM** – New pictures, the “Life in Italy” section and an interesting story about a Bible study group that got kicked out of the Roman Catholic Church.
- ✉ **Moving?** – If you move, don't forget to send us your new address! Contact us by e-mail or send the update to our permanent address below.
- 🔄 **WWW.MACLEAN.8M.COM (Part II)** – If our site looks the same each time you visit it, you may need to click on the “Refresh” icon.
- 📀 **Free Bible Software** – We have found a good Bible program available for free download on the internet. They will also send you the program on CD for a donation. See www.e-sword.net for details.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Continue to pray for the youth group. We are seeking opportunities to speak to the teens one on one about their relationship with God.
- ✓ Praise for the continued good attendance (and fun times) that we have had with the youth group.
- ✓ Praise for good weather and good open air evangelism meetings.
- ✓ Pray for our upcoming open air meetings, especially that we would see a better turnout of people from the church.
- ✓ Praise the Lord for the evidence of His work in the lives of several seekers.
- ✓ Continue to pray for open doors and open hearts in our English classes.
- ✓ Praise the Lord for witnessing opportunities that He has brought about.
- ✓ Pray for open doors to speak with friends and neighbors of the Gospel, and for wisdom and boldness to take the opportunities when they come.
- ✓ Pray for wisdom as we continue to seek ways to increase national ownership of the church and its ministries.
- ✓ Pray for wisdom as we decide what to do with our apartment while on home ministry next year.

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