

# Encouragement

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

One of my (Scott's) regular responsibilities is to lead worship. This does not involve any musical skills (thankfully), but rather a series of Scripture readings and brief meditations interspersed with times of singing and prayer. One Sunday a few weeks ago, I felt quite disappointed in myself after the time of worship. It seemed to me that I did quite poorly with my Italian and that the meditations were not quite clear in what I wanted to say. After the service a lady approached me and asked for my notes on the meditation because the Lord had used it to encourage her and she wanted to share it with her niece. Then, as I went outside, one of the MKs told me that my Italian skills were really improving and that I had done a great job. So much for my self-evaluation skills! ☺ But isn't the Lord good to provide encouragement just when we really need it! It is also good to know that the Lord can use us, despite the limitations we still have in our language abilities.

We would like to bring you up to date on the past few months. Our Christmas outreach went well. We had standing room only for our annual Christmas program, including many guests. Together we enjoyed a children's program, a concert and a special Christmas parable. Our theme for the evening was light as we considered the Light of the World whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

The monthly youth group meetings have

continued to go well. The teens have been faithful in attendance as we have continued our series on what we believe. In the past few lessons we have studied Jesus, His identity and His life. The whole series has been building up to our next lesson, in which we will study the saving work of Christ. We would greatly appreciate much prayer for the next meeting, which will be held April 5. Scott will be clearly presenting the Gospel and asking the teens to make a decision. There are 5 teens (friends of one of the MKs on the team) that have heard the Gospel numerous times, but we are specifically praying that this will be the moment when they make a decision for Christ. If we continue the youth group as it has been, this will be the last year for them to attend. Please pray for this meeting.

Yesterday (March 16) we held our annual Women's Brunch. It was a real encouragement to us to see the ladies of the church take ownership of this evangelistic outreach and do almost all of the planning. There were 78 ladies who came, over half of whom were visitors. Ten ladies expressed an interest in a Bible study. Praise the Lord for this interest and pray for us as we seek to follow up on these requests.

English classes are continuing and providing continuing opportunities to share the Gospel. In a recent class there was only one student. Our co-worker was able to talk for a half hour with him about the claims of Christ. We now frequently run into other students around the neighborhood and have built good relationships with many of them. Please pray for open hearts and open doors to share the Gospel with these students. A new five week series of classes begin tomorrow (March 18).

Spring has arrived here in Milan and the weather is already beginning to warm up. We are looking forward to doing open air evangelism in the center of town again this summer. We hope to use both sketchboard and mime as tools to proclaim the Gospel, and perhaps even to have a short term missions team join us in this outreach.

## Italian Info

What percentage sales tax is charged on purchases in Italy?

A) 5% B) 10% C) 15% D) 20% E) 25%

Answer to last letter's question:

*The main crop grown in the countryside around Milan is rice (C). Because rice is grown in standing water, the second major crop is mosquitoes!*

The current political situation could greatly affect these opportunities. Please pray for wisdom in planning these outreaches, and that we would not be hindered in our plans to proclaim the Gospel in Milan. As we finalize these plans we will send out e-mail updates and post the news on our web-site, but as of now we have planned outreaches for the last three weekends of May.

The Root Center Church is at a significant point in its growth and we are seeking the Lord's wisdom as we take steps to increase ownership and involvement in the church, including in the church leadership. Please pray that the Lord would guide us in this important time.


Thank you so much for your continued support in prayer and finances. You are an encouragement to us!

His Servants,




Scott & Sharon MacLean

### Quickly Noted ...




 **WWW.MACLEAN.8M.COM** – Pictures of our new church office, a new “Life in Italy” section and an interesting story about a Bible study group that got kicked out of the Roman Catholic Church.

**\$ Weak Dollar** – Did you know that the value of the dollar has decreased 25% against the Euro in the last year? This has caused a real financial strain for many missionaries here in Europe. Please pray for God's provision.

 **Look at your address on the envelope!** –Recently we had our address list checked to see if the addresses met US Postal Service guidelines. Most of the addresses were fine, but some of the addresses had problems. **If there is an asterix (\*) after your name,** the address we have for you was not approved by the USPS. (Hopefully you still get our letters!) If you could contact us by e-mail, phone or regular mail (see permanent address below) and confirm your address (including the Zip+4 code if you know it). Thank you!

### *Prayer & Praise*

- ✓ Pray for the April 5 meeting of the youth group. Pray especially for the five unsaved teens, who have heard the Gospel many times, to make a decision for Christ.
- ✓ Praise for the continued good attendance (and fun times) that we have had with the youth group.
- ✓ Praise for our annual Women's Brunch. Praise for national ownership, great turnout and interest in Bible studies by ten ladies.
- ✓ Pray for follow-up with the ladies that expressed an interest in the Bible studies.
- ✓ 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 wisdom in planning our open air outreaches and the needed permits.
- ✓ 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.

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