

# Ricominciare (to begin again) ...

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

Has it ever occurred to you that “New Year’s Day” would be better placed on September 1<sup>st</sup> than January 1<sup>st</sup>? That is especially true here in Italy. August is the month of vacations and September is the month to begin again – back to work, back to school, back to a full church schedule. “Ricominciare”, Italian for “to begin again”, is a word that we have been seeing and hearing often over the past few weeks.

We waited to take our vacation in September (to avoid the August rush), and now that we have returned we are hitting the ground running. While the summer was a time to catch up and plan ahead, the fall will be quite busy. Here are just a few of the things that we have on our schedule for the coming months.

**Open Air** – This past Saturday evening we had the first of three open air outreaches for the fall (Sept 20, 27 and Oct 4). It is always a joy to proclaim the good news on the streets on Milan. Please pray for these outreaches.

**Youth Group** - The church youth group (a.k.a. SPOT) will begin again in early October. We will have several new students that are just entering middle school so we will be dividing the group for the lesson time, but still having our activity together. This year’s studies will be from the book of James, as we seek practical wisdom for our everyday lives.

In addition to the teens from the church, we

hope that their unsaved friends will continue to attend the monthly meetings. Although this year’s studies will not be directly evangelistic (as we did last year), there certainly will be times to speak of the Gospel both in the lessons and in the activity times. Here in Milan it often is a hard, lengthy process for someone to come to Christ for salvation. Please pray for God’s continued work in these teens.

We also will be transitioning the leadership of SPOT to others in light of our upcoming home ministry. There is already a couple that we will be working with to take over the practical aspects of the group (planning activities, transportation, communication, etc.) and we are praying about different ones to handle the teaching ministry. As nationalization of the church is always our goal, this is a great chance to continue that process.

**Puppets** – Lord willing we will be starting a puppet ministry team in the church this fall. One of our summer tasks was building a puppet stage (almost complete), now we will just need to train the puppeteers. We will be training a group of teens in basic puppet skills and then putting together a brief skit as part of the annual church Christmas celebration. We would also love to find someone to train as the leader of this ministry team.

**English** – And of course we will be continuing our conversational English classes. This is one of the best ways to make contact with the people of our neighborhood - contacts that the Lord can use to draw people to himself. We plan on having two 4 week sessions of classes this fall.

This summer we were invited out to the vacation home of one of our English students for a day. We enjoyed spending the day with this family who have become dear friends. The Lord also opened the door to speak of our relationship with Him.

**Home Ministry** – And finally, in addition to all of our other activities, we will be making our preparations for home ministry (a.k.a. furlough). It is hard to believe that we are approaching the

## Italian Info

August 15 is a major holiday here in Italy, and marks the high point of the summer vacation season. Most people are on vacation for at least that whole week. What does the holiday commemorate?

- A) Labor Day
- B) Italian Unification
- C) Memorial Day
- D) Immaculate Conception of Mary
- E) Assumption of Mary (into heaven)

Answer to last letter’s question:

*In May Milan beat Juventus (Turin) in the final of the European soccer championship.*

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*And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.*

John 4:37

end of our first term – time flies! Before we leave in January we will need to set up our spring schedule, take care of practical plans (such as finding a car), and pack up our apartment for storage (We decided not to keep our apartment while we are gone).





Lord willing, we will return to the States in early January and be staying in one of the Grace Chapel missionary homes. Our home ministry will be a time of reporting back to our prayer and financial supporters on our first term, seeking the additional financial support that we need (approximately \$1,500/month) and seeking to communicate enthusiasm for missions (the best recruiters for missions work are missionaries!). We look forward to seeing many of you during this time.

His Servants,






Scott & Sharon MacLean

### **Quickly Noted ...**

-  **Car needed!** – We will need a car for our year of home ministry (starting in January). We are looking for a reliable, mid-sized car, preferably with less than 100,000 miles, for a good price. If you know of any possibilities please contact us by e-mail, phone or mail (see contact info below).
-  **WWW.MACLEAN.8M.COM** – A new “Life in Italy” section on cooking – complete with some of our **favorite recipes!** Also new pictures and as always our latest news.
-  **Home Ministry Schedule** – As we set up meetings and plan our time of home ministry, we will keep an updated list on our web-site. You can find out when we will be in your area!
-  **UFM’s All Europe Conference (Oct 28 to Nov 3)** - This conference will be a time of encouragement, training and edification for the missionaries as well as a time to handle various items of mission business.

### *Prayer & Praise*

- ✓ Pray for our open air outreaches (Sept 20, 27, Oct 4). Pray for good turnout from the church and responsive hearts to hear the word.
- ✓ Pray for the youth group – good attendance, wisdom in preparing the lessons and the transition to new leadership before we leave on home ministry.
- ✓ Praise for the “seekers” that are attending services at La Radice Church.
- ✓ Pray for the beginning of a new puppet ministry team – willing hearts and hands, quick learning, and a future leader for this ministry.
- ✓ Pray for the English classes and our continued friendship with the students.
- ✓ Pray for an evangelistic piano concert by Sam Rottman on October 8 in Milan.
- ✓ Praise for progress we are seeing in our language skills.
- ✓ 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. This is especially true as we prepare to leave our apartment (and thus the friends we have made in the building) for home ministry.
- ✓ Continue to pray for wisdom as we continue to seek ways to increase national ownership of the church and its ministries.

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