

Imagine the excitement!

An update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean – Christmas 2004

Waiting can be a challenge. We have been doing a lot of waiting recently, and it is always exciting to see what you are waiting for draw near. As I thought about that, and meditated on some of the Scriptures about Christmas, the excitement that must have been a part of that first Christmas struck me.

I think particularly of two situations. The first is the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. After he got his voice back, he burst into a Holy Spirit inspired prophecy. You can hear the joy and excitement in his words (Luke 1:68-79) as he realizes that the long awaited Messiah has come.

Then I think of the shepherds in the field. After the shock of fear, they heard the wonderful words that Messiah had come! Messiah had arrived! And they could go and see! Imagine their excitement as they realized the long awaited Messiah – the One that the prophets had foretold hundreds of years before – had finally come. Imagine their joy as they spread the news to all they saw!

Think on that for a moment. It is so easy for Christmas to get lost in the busy-ness of the season – even being busy with good things. We wish all of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas – and that you will have the time to stop and experience anew the true joy and excitement of the incarnation!

Italian Info

In a highly publicized trial Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was recently acquitted of what charge?

- A) False bookkeeping
- B) Bribing a judge
- C) Bribing a tax official
- D) Illegal political financing

Answer to last letter's question:

When Italians hear we live in Philadelphia, they most often think of cream cheese (D)! In fact, the word "Philadelphia" is synonym for their brand of cream cheese.

We are enjoying being in the US for the Christmas season. Singing Christmas carols in church and hearing them on the radio, driving around and seeing houses festively decorated with lights, the Christmas Eve service at church and of course time with family are all things we missed while we were in Italy.

We are hearing great things from Italy. The church is growing – both in numbers and in their walk with the Lord. We hear of the Lord working in lives of believers and of people coming to Christ. Preparations are under way for four or five baptisms – Wow! And much of the practical work of the church is out of the hands of the missionaries – leaving more time for discipleship, training and evangelism. The home meetings are being run without direct missionary leadership and are functioning as a sort of laboratory for the believers to discover and try out their spiritual gifts. How exciting!

And we, of course, are longing to return. We have seen additional prayer and financial support come in during our fall travels, although not as much as we would have liked. We do still face substantial needs in this area (see the other side). But as we said earlier – God is bigger than our needs. We are trusting Him to open the right doors as we seek out who He has prepared to support us in prayer and finances.

On our web-site we have pictures and a summary of our fall travels. It was a joy to spend time with old friends and make new ones as we traveled as far as Illinois, Texas and Florida sharing what God has done, and what we look forward to seeing Him do in the coming years in Milan.

One thing we look forward to doing in Milan when we get back is continuing our conversational English classes. I recently read an article in the news which spoke of how the Italians are realizing they must learn English. It has reached the point where "English is not even considered a second language. It's something you speak as a matter of fact" and "English is the first thing employers ask about." That need to speak English creates great opportunities

*And the shepherds went back, **glorifying and praising God** for all that they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them. .Luke 2:20 (NASB)*

Financial Support: 72.3%



to help others and build relationships that can be used as bridges to introduce Jesus the Savior!

Would you pray that the prayer and financial support we need will come in so that we can get back to the work of reaching Italians with the good news of salvation? Thanks!

His Servants,

Scott, Sharon & ? MacLean

Prayer Support: 79%



Seeking an average of 100 people praying daily

Upcoming Schedule ...

- 📅 Mid February – Baby MacLean due to arrive!
- 📅 March 1 – Faith Bible Church, Vineland, NJ

📧 **Update your address books now!** If you still have not updated you e-mail address book, please make note of our new e-mail address at the bottom of this page.

🌐 **On our web-site (www.snsMacLean.net)** – Pictures from our fall travels. Plus – keep up to date with how our prayer and financial support needs are being met.

📌 **Out with the old, in with the new** – In just a few short days (January 1, 2005) UFM International will become CrossWorld. The other contact information below will all remain the name, but letters and gifts to the mission should be addressed to CrossWorld rather than UFM International.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Praise God for the wonder of the Incarnation.
- ✓ Praise for the baby God has given us (due mid February).
- ✓ Pray for a safe & healthy pregnancy.
- ✓ Praise for good visits with churches and individuals and safety in the many miles we traveled this fall.
- ✓ Praise for the new prayer and financial support that has come in recently.
- ✓ Pray for our support needs to be provided, both prayer and financial.
- ✓ Praise for the good news we hear from the Root Center Church in Milan. God is working!
- ✓ Pray for the growth of new believers at the Root Center Church.
- ✓ Pray for the home meetings that believers would find and exercise their spiritual gifts.
- ✓ Pray for the continuing process of nationalization at the Root Center Church.

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