

The Valleys

An update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving with CrossWorld in Italy – Fall 2005

“How can you ask God for faith when you don’t believe that God exists?” That was the question put to me by Ale (not his real name) one evening after a Bible study. We had just sat and talked for over an hour about the Bible, prophecy, evolution and faith. Ale, who is dying of cancer, is good friends with the Falcone family (our co-workers). It has only been since his illness however that he has had any interest in talking about spiritual things. He is an example of the tens of thousands of people who live in the Ossola valleys, except he has a big advantage. At least he knows a true Christian and has heard the Gospel. The large majority of these people do not have even that!

That is our concern as we have the privilege of working here in the valleys of Ossola. From what we have heard there are about 100,000 residents who live in these valleys, about 20,000 of whom live in Domodossola. As best we can tell, there are less than 100 professing Christians. It is almost overwhelming! Over the past couple of months, in addition to moving, settling in and getting to know our co workers, we have been praying and thinking about how we can reach these people with the Good News of Jesus.

Part of our involvement will be with the small church which is here. Scott will take his turn preaching and we will work with the youth group (including outreach events). Sharon is

helping with the Sunday School (which is held on Saturday afternoon). And we are helping with investigative Bible studies with the contacts that the Falcone family already have here in Domo. And of course we are looking to share Jesus with the friends that we get to know in our new neighborhood.

But that is only a part of the work. There are many people to reach who have not heard! Our plan at this point is a combination of several strategies. (Please pray as we continue to plan and seek the Lord’s direction in this area.)

We are in the process of designing a pamphlet (which Filippo will re-write in normal sounding Italian). We hope to distribute this in thousands of mailboxes throughout the valley. Since the valley is so big, this is a process that will likely take years before we reach every little village in the valley. In addition to the Gospel message, the pamphlet will include an offer to meet together and study the Bible and our contact information (including the markets where we will have a book table). We are praying that these tracts will be read and that the hearts that God has prepared will contact us to hear more.

In addition, as we go about distributing these tracts, we hope to have opportunities to speak with people that we meet on the street. We are praying for some Divine appointments with spiritually thirsty hearts. We will also keep our eyes open for places where we can go with a sketch board to do open air evangelism, or places which would be good places to meet people (perhaps using survey evangelism).

Another tool we will be using is a book table that we will have in various markets. This will be an ideal contact point for interested people. Seeing as the church still meets in a home, it may be a bit daunting for a new person to show up at a home of strangers early on a Sunday morning. The book table provides a convenient place for them to come, get to know us and ask questions, as well as offering excellent evangelistic books.

ITALIAN INFO

While gas prices have soared in the US, prices in Italy have increased as well.

Recently we paid €1.35/liter for gas. Approximately how much would that be in \$ per gallon?

- A) \$6.22 B) \$6.75 C) \$1.68
D) \$4.87 E) \$5.17

Answer to last letter’s question:

A surprising 36.5% (D) of Italian men 30-34 still live at home with mom (90% of men aged 20-24 do)

“I am under obligation ... for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also...”
Romans 1:14, 15 (NASB)

We will have the book table at the Saturday market in Domodossola (the main market for the valleys) every week (weather permitting) as well as regularly at other large markets. We will also visit the smaller markets in the outlying villages for a few weeks at a time. Usually this will be as a follow up after we have completed distributing the pamphlets in that area.

We covet your prayers as we continue to plan and put into action this plan for evangelism. We can make our plans, but we desire the Lord to direct our steps. Will you pray that He will guide us to souls that He has prepared, and that He will prepare the way as we take the Good News to many who have not heard it before.

On a support related note, we are still lacking prayer partners. It is our desire to have an average of 100 people a day praying for us. If you would like to be a part of our prayer team, please let us know.


Our financial support (which was at a break even level when we returned) took a hit as CrossWorld substantially increased our monthly contribution to the home office. Even with our wonderfully inexpensive housing and reduced salary, we will no longer be getting enough financial support to break even. Would you please pray that the Lord would raise up the additional financial support that we need.


Thanks so much for your continued prayers and support. We are counting on you to stand with us as we start out on this new exciting path that the Lord has placed us on.


His Servants,



Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean




 **Update your address books!** – Make sure you have updated your address books to our new address in Domodossola.

 **On our web-site (www.snsMacLean.net)** – Come and take a visit of our apartment, see the latest pictures of Karis, and hear the latest on the continuing saga of getting our documents.

 **Prayer Updates** – Between our regular prayer letters, we sometimes send out prayer updates with urgent and timely prayer needs. The e-mails come out once or twice a month (at the most) and are only about a page in length. If you would like to start receiving these updates, send us an e-mail and ask to be put on the list.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Praise for a safe and good move to Domodossola.
- ✓ Praise for excellent coworkers here in Domo who are well connected in the town.
- ✓ Praise for the Lord's direction that has placed us here in this valley.
- ✓ Pray for wisdom as we plan how to reach these valleys with the Gospel.
- ✓ Pray that the pamphlets we distribute would be read and kept.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would direct us toward "thirsty souls" whom He has prepared to hear the Good News of His Son.
- ✓ Pray that we would be granted the permissions we need to have book tables at various markets.
- ✓ Pray that we would be faithful witnesses for the Lord as we get to know our neighbors.
- ✓ Pray that the additional financial and prayer support which we need will come in.

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