

A Belated Merry Christmas!

An update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving with CrossWorld in Italy – January 2006

This was supposed to have been a Christmas letter, but somehow it is already early January as I sit down to write a few lines to you. We trust that you had a wonderful Christmas and may be richly blessed of God in this New Year.

We enjoyed our Christmas – with several “firsts”. Of course it is our first Christmas here in Domodossola. It is also our first Christmas with Karis. It was a delight to watch her figure out how to tear open presents and play with new toys.



And we enjoyed our first “Italian” Christmas dinner. Our coworkers, Davide & Alida Falcone invited us to stay after church for their Christmas “pranzone” (that’s Italian slang for big dinner). We sat for two and a half hours and enjoyed numerous courses of traditional Italian

Christmas dinner. YUM!

A couple of days before Christmas we had a Christmas party for the youth group. We had quite a few guests who came, including our neighbor. We chatted, snacked, played a game and even did a white elephant gift exchange – something new for them. I was able to share briefly about the real meaning of Christmas and God’s “unspeakable gift” (II Cor. 9:15)



Christmas eve I was at the book table in Domodossola. We were offering the Scripture calendars for free as a Christmas gift. We managed to give away fourteen in just that one day. In all we have sold or given away over fifty of these calendars to folks at the book table and friends. These calendars have a verse of Scripture and a meditation (often about the Gospel) for each day. **Please pray that they would be read.**

We now have a regular presence in the two largest weekly markets in the area – Domodossola and Villadossola. Just back in November we were granted permission to have a table in the Villadossola market. This was a real answer to prayer. Davide was somewhat doubtful that they would give us the permission, but God granted us favor in the eyes of the community.

We have almost finished distributing our first printing of 2,000 tracts. We designed and printed these tracts ourselves so that we could invite people to our book table, offer Bible

ITALIAN INFO

The Olympic games will soon be held in Turin (called Torino in Italian). What “colorful” nickname do the Italians use for their athletes?

- A) The Greens B) The Reds C) The Whites
D) The Blues E) The Browns

Answer to last letter’s question:

We paid a whopping \$6.22/gal. for gas back in October (at an exchange rate of .83). Prices have dropped and we paid just \$4.60/gal. this past weekend.

**“Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:14**

studies and have our contact information inside. Of course, we also made sure that the Gospel was clearly presented. We had hoped to get these out before the new year, but a chest cold and very cold weather kept me in a few days and slowed our progress. Seeing as there is an offer for the 2006 Scripture calendar in the tract, we hope to get the rest of them out this week. **Please pray that these tracts would be read, and that God would bring a response from those He has prepared.**

We hope to begin an evangelistic Bible study in our home in a few weeks (early Feb.). Of course we need people who want to come for this to work. **Please be in prayer about this as we invite friends and contacts to this study.**

In the coming weeks we hope to begin planning for the warmer weather of late spring and summer. This will give us a chance to get out and do sketchboard evangelism, children's meetings and evangelism in the parks.

We also hope to request a place for our book table in a couple smaller markets for a few weeks each. This would be as a follow-up to doing distribution in that area. Pray that these requests would be approved. In late January/ early February we will be spending a couple weeks in Florida to allow Karis to see her grandmothers and other family. It will be fun to be with family for Karis' first birthday. We are able to do this because we received a couple of generous personal gifts specifically designated for flying home to see the grand mothers (especially Sharon's mom for whom Karis is an only grandchild). We look forward to seeing several of you during our time there.

Thank you for your prayers for our financial support situation. In the past month we have seen several gifts come in and although we are still under-supported, we are back at a "break-even" level (support coming in = fund going out each month). The dollar has also slightly strengthened over the past few months and so we are getting by. **Praise the Lord for His provision!**

We also have picked up a few new prayer partners, but we are still below our target of 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.

We greatly value your prayers (Rom 15:30). Northern Italy is very hard to the Gospel. The soil is tough, hard and full of weeds. We need God's power to break through this hardness and open hearts to the Good News of His Son, the one whose birth we so recently remembered at Christmas. **Will you pray?**

His Servants,

Scott & Sharon MacLean

Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean



QUICKLY NOTED ...

- 🌐 **On our web-site (www.snsMacLean.net)** – Christmas pictures, Karis pictures, and the end of our document saga may be in sight!
- 🌐 **NEW on our website** – Take a guess at the answer to the “Italian Info” question. See how your guess stacks up against what others think. See the “Prayer Update Notes” section of the web-site.
- ➔ **Travel Plans** – We will be in Brooksville, FL from Jan 24 to Feb 7.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Praise the Lord for the gift of Christmas and a new year to serve Him. “Even so come Lord Jesus!”
- ✓ Praise for good conversations at the book table.
- ✓ Pray that we would be able to follow-up on these interested folks.
- ✓ Praise for permission to have a book table at the Villadossola market.
- ✓ Pray for permission to be granted at other markets in the area.
- ✓ Praise for a good Christmas party / outreach with the youth.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would direct us toward “thirsty souls” whom He has prepared to hear the Good News of His Son.
- ✓ Pray that the tracts we have distributed would be read and understood.
- ✓ Pray that we would be faithful witnesses for the Lord as we continue to get to know our neighbors.
- ✓ Praise the Lord for His provision for our financial support needs.
- ✓ Pray for His continued provision and the prayer partners we are lacking to be raised up.

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