


Reflecting Light ...

January 2007 update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving in Italy with  CrossWorld

Brrr. The winter months sure can be cold up here in the Ossola valleys. But at least we get some sunshine for a few hours each day to take the chill off. Until recently the nearby town of Viganella didn't get any sun in the winter time. From November 11 to February 2 each winter no sunlight reached the village because of its location deep in a narrow valley.

But that has all changed now. The town made international news in December when they unveiled a large mirror (8 x 5 meters) placed on the other side of the valley. This computer controlled mirror now reflects the winter sun right into the heart of the town. We hope to stop by and see the town and the mirror sometime soon (it is just a few kilometers from us).

As I thought about this town and mirror the other day, it struck me that we are doing much the same thing here in Domodossola. Spiritually the towns of the Ossola valleys are very dark places. People stumble around in the darkness, trying to find their way and lacking the warmth and life that only a relationship with God through Jesus Christ can bring.

But as the Son hits our lives, it is reflected into the lives of those around us. It is our desire that others see the love and work of God in our lives and that they too trust Christ and become other reflectors of God's light in a dark place. And like the mirror is controlled by a computer to

keep the light shining in the right place, we desire that God directs us and brings us in contact with those who are ready to receive God's light.

Perhaps I am taking this analogy too far, but it is really important that we get to know people here in Domodossola so that they can see what God has done in our lives. There are a few ways in which we have been seeing that happen over the past few months ...

Our kick off event for the youth group gave them a chance to invite their friends to a afternoon of Frisbee golf and a picnic. Scott was also able to explain the Gospel in a way that several of the visitors seem able to understand.

Just recently we had our annual Christmas party for the youth and we had several visitors at that event as well.



In between the events, we did have one girl who started coming to youth groups and has been asking some good questions. Please pray as the kids in our youth group reflect God's light into their circle of friends.

I (Scott) continue to have a book table each week in two local markets, as well as occasionally in the markets of other nearby towns. One day in mid December when we were giving out Scripture calendars in one of these other markets, I strolled through the market looking for a Christmas gift for Sharon. I realized that I knew quite a few of the vendors that I saw on my way through the market. As I stopped and chatted with some of them, and

ITALIAN INFO

What is the maximum speed limit on the "Autostrade" (Italian highways)?

- A) 110 km/h (68 mph)
- B) 120 km/h (74 mph)
- C) 130 km/h (81 mph)
- D) Unlimited

Answer to last letter's question:

Italy went wild with celebration after the Italian soccer team won (A) the World Cup.

"... so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"
I Peter 2:9 (NASB)

gave them Scripture calendars, I realized that getting to know these vendors was an unexpected side benefit of all those mornings spent manning the book table.

The Swiss lady that has been giving out calendars for 30 years let us help her give them out this year in Domodossola. This was a very good thing because the people that know and trust “La Svizzera” as they call her, now know that there are people that believe the same way right here in Domodossola, and that we have a book table in the market each week.

Some time ago Sharon met another mother while out walking with Karis. Since she was also an American we decided to get together for Thanksgiving dinner, along with Fil and Sandra. We were also invited to get together with them and some of their friends just before Christmas. At one point during the evening we had a good discussion about why we are here. It is great to have these opportunities to get to know new people.

Scott has gone through the first part of a course to be able to volunteer with the ambulance service here in Domodossola. Thanks to his previous experience in this area, he was able to pass the exam (despite it being in Italian) and will now begin 100 hours of an internship with the ambulance service. This too is a wonderful opportunity to get to know people and to reflect the light and love of God into their lives.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support. You are an important part of what goes on here. On those days when we get discouraged by the lack of progress, it is an

encouragement to us to know that you are praying for the work here. Please continue to pray.

His Servants,
Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

Scott & Sharon MacLean



*Our “new” car.
Hey Karis – that’s not YOUR seat yet!*

QUICKLY NOTED ...

- 👁️ **On our web-site (www.snsMacLean.net)** – New pictures, the story of our “new” car (an adventure and a blessing) and a life in Italy section on New Years in Italy. And, as always, we will try to update our latest news on the site monthly.
- 👁️ **Grandmother Trip II** – In mid January we will be traveling to the US to let Karis visit her grandmothers. We will be in both the Philadelphia and the Tampa area during these weeks. Since she is almost 2, it was our last chance to fly with her on a “infant” ticket (10% of adult price).
- 👁️ **Team Coming** – We were excited to hear that one of our supporting churches, West Rockport Baptist Church, will be sending a short term team to help us in June.

- ⌚ **Happy New Year!** – Although we do not do a Christmas prayer letter anymore (December is just too busy), we do want to wish you and yours a blessed and joyful 2007.



Hope your Christmas was wonderful!

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Pray for a mighty working of God in the Ossola Valley – that He might be glorified.
- ✓ Praise for the friendships we have developed and pray that we might have opportunities to reflect the light and love of God through our lives and words.
- ✓ Praise for Scott passing his ambulance exam.
- ✓ Praise for the several hundred Scripture calendars which we were able to give away in the month of December.
- ✓ Pray that these calendars might be used, read, and that the Word may find fertile hearts.
- ✓ Praise that we were able to meet some of the contacts of the Swiss lady who has been giving out Scripture calendars for 30 years.
- ✓ Pray that there might be a harvest from all this seed which has been sown.
- ✓ Pray that the tracts distributed in the mailboxes might find receptive hearts.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would provide prepared hearts to take part in our spring Bible study. We had no takers for our fall study.

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