


# Halfway...

Winter 2008 update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving in Italy with  CrossWorld

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are already over halfway through our time of home ministry. While we are enjoying our time here, we are very much looking forward to getting back to Domodossola. We have heard exciting reports on what has been going on during our absence.

The best news we heard is that one of the guys that has been coming to youth group trusted Christ as his Savior. Hooray! The youth group has also been going quite well. One week they had 12 youth show up (our core group is only 5)!

We have also heard ...

- ✓ There is now a mid-week Bible study with some of Alida's co-workers.
- ✓ The Ladies Bible study which started last spring has been growing.
- ✓ The Club 252 is going well and at least one new student this year has been coming consistently.
- ✓ And an unsaved man married to a woman who occasionally frequents our church has come to a few Bible studies with Davide.

It is great to hear these updates, even if there have also been some small problems (like one of the youth who seemed interested in the Gospel has stopped coming to youth group). We are anxious to get back.

## ITALIAN INFO

A major resource of the Ossola Valleys is hydro-electric. What percentage of Italy's electricity is produced by hydro-electric?

- A) 5.8%   B) 13.4%  
C) 18.3%   D) 22.2%   E) 31.7%

Answer to last letter's question:

*To protest high grocery prices, Italians staged a one day pasta strike (A). They did not buy any pasta on this day.*

But before we can get back to Italy, we have to complete our time of home ministry. We started things off with a bang in October and November, visiting eight of our supporting churches (and quite a few individual supporters) in the first eight weeks. After a slightly slower pace in late December, and a trip up to Nova Scotia to visit a supporting church and family, we finally have a few weeks to spend time at our home church before things start getting busy again in February. From that point on we will be quite busy right through our planned departure in April. For details on where we will be when, see the back of this letter or visit our website.

We will also have the joy of seeing Scott's younger brother Dan get married in March (a small family wedding is planned). It works out well that he will be getting married while we are on home ministry. Just about the whole family will be here for the wedding, so the event will also double as a family reunion. Karis will have a blast seeing 10 of her 12 cousins all at once!

But there is still some work to be done before we can get back to Italy. Our support figures are lacking and we are praying that the Lord brings in the support we need so we can go back to Italy on April 9.

Most serious is our need for prayer support. After calculating the numbers on the reply cards from our last prayer letter, and cleaning up our mailing list from those who did not reply, our prayer support has dropped to 68.1%. We are seeking, on average, to have 100 people a day praying for us and the work in Italy. So, if you pray for us daily, almost daily, or regularly – and did not send us a reply card (or a reply e-mail) since our last letter, please let us know so that we can update our support figures. And if you are not a part of our prayer support team yet, but would like to be, please contact us and let us know. **WE NEED YOUR PRAYER SUPPORT!**

We also have some needs in the area of financial support. The Lord has provided some of our needed support already, but we are still about

*“And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.” - Acts 14:27 (NASB)*

\$1,220/month short of full support. We can live comfortably on less than full support, but the weak dollar has made this more difficult. We figure that we need a bare minimum of an additional \$308/month in order to be able to afford to return to Italy in April. If you want to help with this need, either through a one time gift or through pledged support, please let us know. And please pray that the Lord would provide for this need.

We look forward to seeing more of you in the coming months.

His Servants,

*Scott & Sharon MacLean*




Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

### *QUICKLY NOTED ...*

- ☒ **Prayer Card Enclosed...** at least for those of you who got this by snail mail. For those of you who get our prayer letter via e-mail, you may be able to find one of our prayer cards at your church (especially if your church supports us). **We would also be more than happy to mail out a prayer card to anyone who would like one – so let us know.**
- ☒ **A Big Thank-you ...** to those who returned our reply cards. We appreciate you taking the time to do this. Less than 40% of the reply cards we sent out came back.
- ➔ **Upcoming visits...** – February 6 – Calvary Monument Bible Church, Paradise, PA  
 – February 10 – First Baptist Church, Claysville, PA  
 – February 17 – Calvary Bible Church, East Stroudsburg, PA  
 – February 24 – Community Bible Church, Brooksville, FL  
 – February 26 – Community Bible Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, FL  
 – March 1-5 – Faith Bible Church, Vineland, NJ  
 – March 7-9 – Grace Chapel, Havertown, PA

### *Prayer & Praise*

- ✓ Pray that we might be able to encourage others and create excitement for God's work of missions as we share with churches and individuals.
- ✓ Praise for safety in the 10,000+ miles we have travelled so far during home ministry.
- ✓ Pray for continued safety in our travels during this time.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would raise up the additional prayer and financial support we need to return to Italy. Praise for the support which He has already provided.
- ✓ Pray for the many missionaries who are facing financial difficulties due to the extremely weak dollar.
- ✓ Pray for the work that is continuing in Italy in our absence.
- ✓ Praise for the Ladies Bible Study which is growing! Pray for this outreach!
- ✓ Pray for one youth who is no longer coming to youth group. She had seemed quite interested in the Gospel in the past.
- ✓ Praise for a youth who has trusted Christ as his Savior!
- ✓ Pray for a great working of God in the Ossola Valleys. May He draw many people to Himself and build His church!

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