


Raising the Dead

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

Can these dry bones live?

I stood in the market and listened to the cacophony of sounds. I heard people speaking German, French, of course Italian, and even a bit of English. It was an absolutely beautiful day, sunny and warm, yet not too hot - a perfect spring day to browse the market. So it was very crowded with folks who strolled among the clothes, toys, plants, cheeses, rotisserie chickens and who knows what else one might find. Some even stopped by my book table.

I had started the day off having a long conversation with a skeptic who wanted to try to convince me that the Bible could not be trusted. Not exactly a promising conversation, but skeptics need to hear the Gospel too. So I kept bringing the conversation back to the Gospel while he kept steering the conversation to odd questions like "What if God decided to un-create Himself?".

After twenty minutes of this we parted company on friendly terms and I sat down to read a book. I often find that folks are more likely to stop for a look if I am not watching, so I often will read a book while watching out of the corner of my eye for prospective customers. I was reading "The Soul Winner" by Spurgeon. The title of the chapter caught my eye - "How to Raise the Dead". How fitting!

It spoke of how the soul winner's job of raising

ITALIAN INFO

In April national elections were held in Italy. Who is now the Prime Minister of Italy?

- A) Romano Prodi B) Silvio Berlusconi
C) Walter Veltroni D) Umberto Bossi

Answer to last letter's question:

In comparison to the USA, high speed internet service in Italy generally costs less (B) and usually it is faster as well.

the spiritually dead is no less of a miracle than bringing the physically dead back to life. When he touched on the vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel, I found it quite appropriate.

God has placed us in a valley full of "dry bones". The crowds I saw walking through the market, while physically alive, were spiritually dead! Can they live? Only the Lord knows. Our work is simply to let them "hear the Word of the Lord."

Can these dry bones live?

We raced out on an ambulance call to one of the small towns high up the side of one of the valleys. We did our best, but the elderly lady didn't make it. When I looked at my records later that day, I realized that I had placed a tract with a clear presentation of the Gospel in her mailbox a couple of years ago. Might she have found spiritual life before her physical death? Only the Lord knows.

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Youth group was over and as we went out the door we said "See you tomorrow." to Fil and Sandra. Then I added, almost as an aside, to an unsaved lad who was there "And if you want to come tomorrow morning you are certainly welcome." He came, one of twenty that crowded into the living room that Sunday morning. He had heard the Gospel before - several times - and he heard it again that morning. Fil pulled him aside and spoke to him after church.

"You know what you need to do." He reminded him. Later that week, with tears in his eyes, the boy told Fil that he had now placed his trust in Christ alone for his salvation.

The teen's father kicked him out of the house for two days when he heard that his son had "changed religions". He is now back in the home, but with very strained relationship with his father. Can this man, who is more concerned with his standing in the community than his son's eternal soul be brought to life? Only the Lord knows.

"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, ... and, lo, they were very dry" - Ezekiel 37:1-2

Can these dry bones live?

Davide and Alida, the couple in whose living room we have church, bought a house in a nearby town and will move this summer. We will keep renting the apartment they are in now and use it as a meeting hall for the church. Changing the living room into a meeting room will create more space - space for new life. Who knows, maybe room for a belligerent skeptic, someone who found a tract in their mail box, the family of a newly saved teen, or any of the others to whom we have had the privilege of speaking the Word of the Lord. They too can live!

Can these dry bones live?

We certainly can not bring them to life - any more than I could have resurrected that lady up in the small town. But we can, and we do, proclaim the Word of the Lord. And He alone is the one who can turn a valley full of dry bones into "an exceeding great army".

His Servants,

Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

QUICKLY NOTED ...

- ✉ **Updates and Prayer Letters...** Occasionally our e-mail updates or prayer letters get blocked by filters or simply lost in cyberspace. We try to send out at least one a month. So if it has been a while since you have seen one, visit groups.google.com/group/Pray-for-the-MacLeans to see what you might have missed. (There is also a link to this from our website).
- 👥 **The Team is coming! ...** Don't forget to pray for the team from Lusby, MD who will be with us from July 4 - 15. You can see their blog on the web www.missionitaly2008.blogspot.com
- 🌐 **Visit our website ...** Stop by at www.snsmaclean.net to see new pictures, get a update on our support situation, hear our latest news, or just to learn a bit more about Italy.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Praise the Lord for a safe trip back to Italy and a good adjustment back to the work here.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would provide for our prayer and financial support needs. Both are short of where we would like them to be, but we are trusting the Lord to provide.
- ✓ Praise for the teen who recently trusted Christ.
- ✓ Pray for the family of this teen to accept his decision and for them to come to faith in Christ too.
- ✓ Praise for good conversations at the book table and pray for more.
- ✓ Praise the Lord for the growing Tuesday ladies Bible study as well as the Wednesday night Bible study in Luke.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would use His Word to breathe life into the souls of those who attend these studies.
- ✓ Pray for the summer team from Maryland who will be with us July 4-15.
- ✓ Pray for ongoing medical situations that both Scott & Sharon are facing.
- ✓ 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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