


Small Things ...

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

The children crowded around me as I opened up my jars of paint, dropped a paintbrush in each and began to sketch the Bible story for club. “Ho colori come quelli a casa.” (“I have paints like that at home”) said one. “What are you drawing?” asked another. I told them they would have to wait and see, and that the Bible Club would begin in 5 minutes.

All of them were back a few minutes later as we sang some songs and played a game to learn the Bible verse. Quite a few of the parents were nearby as Sandra, our coworker, explained what the verse (Isaiah 53:6) meant. But because it was a cool fall day and we had gotten a bit of a late start, most of the kids and parents left before we finished the story on the sketchboard. A small, but good start to our new year of club.

It was a warm fall morning as we waited outside the church one Sunday and joked about Davide & Alida (our coworkers) telling us on the phone that they were “arriving”. It was the first Sunday since they had moved out and we had not gotten a key yet. A few minutes later we scurried around setting up the thirty-two new chairs and getting ready for the worship service. We did not even come close to filling all the seats, but there was a new visitor who joined us that Sunday. A small, but encouraging start for our new “sala”.

The day for our “sports day” kick off for our

youth group was way too cold (at least by Italian standards) for outside sporting activities, so we just met at our house for games and pizza. It was the youth who had come up with the plan for the outreach event and they are excited about reaching out to their friends with the Gospel. The “castagnata” (chestnut collecting) we did a few weeks later went a bit better. A small start to the year of youth group, but how exciting to see their willingness to reach out.

Two of the teens in our youth group have expressed a desire to be baptized. The parents of one of the girls, who are devout Roman Catholics, did not take the news too well. We are praying that not only will they allow her to be baptized, but that they will come and be part of that service. The parents of another of the new believers in our youth group (not one of the two who want to be baptized) are also interested in coming to the baptism. Will you pray that this upcoming baptism might be a first small step in these families coming to Christ?

“I go to Scott to do my confession.” joked my friend at the ambulance house (the one who stops by the book table each week). “Oh, really?” asked another. As I replied I was able to explain how Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. Just a small conversation that hopefully planted another Gospel seed in some hearts.

Small things - but things that encourage us as we serve the Lord here in the Ossola valleys. Small signs that God is at work. Small opportunities for a mighty God to show His power. We know it is not how big things are, but whether God is in it. Of course we would love to see big things happen, like lots of people coming to know the Lord, big turnouts at evangelistic events. And we pray and boldly ask God for such “big things”. But we are also faithful in the small things, rejoicing as we see God at work. Especially because what may start small, can turn out to be something rather big. Only God knows what fruit may come from those children at the Bible club in the park, from faithful witness in life and word at the ambulance house

ITALIAN INFO

Most Italians workers get a “tredicesimo” (year end bonus) every December. This bonus is equal to how much of their salary?

- A) One days salary
- B) One week’s salary
- C) Two week’s salary
- D) One month’s salary

Answer to last letter’s question:


Since a smoking ban in coffee bars and other public places went into effect then percentage of Italians smoking decreased from 26% to 24.3% (B)

“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice,” -Zechariah 4:10

and in the park, or from the testimony of a faithful teen in her family and home.

As we head into the Christmas season, we wish all of you a Christmas filled with joy, wonder and opportunities to tell others about Jesus who humbly came to this earth as a small baby. And we ask you to pray for us as we have Christmas programs with our children's club and youth group. We will also be distributing the "page a day" Scripture calendars to friends and neighbors as well as to folks who come to our book table. Scott will be distributing tracts and free calendar offers in the town of Villadossola in the coming weeks. Thanks very much for your faithful prayer and support of the work here.

His Servants,



Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

QUICKLY NOTED ...

- 📄 **Visit our website ...** Stop by at www.snsmaclean.net to get a update on our support situation, hear our latest news, or just to learn a bit more about Italy. In this month's life in Italy I talk about a big dinner I went to with the ambulance service.
- 🌐 We still **need more prayer supporters**. If you pray for us regularly and have not let us know, please do so, so we can update our total. And if not, would you consider becoming a daily or weekly prayer partner?
- ➔ It seems that **CrossWorld will be moving** from it's current location near Philadelphia, PA to Kansas City, MO. I'll share more details on our website.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Pray for the distribution of tracts with a free Scripture calendar offer in Villadossola during December. Pray that the tracts would be read and that people would come to the book table to claim their free calendar.
- ✓ And pray for other Scripture calendars we will be giving out to friends, neighbors, shopkeepers, etc. These calendars are a great way to get the Gospel message into homes throughout the year. I've already had a few folks ask me for the 2009 calendar!
- ✓ Praise the Lord for good turnout at our weekly Club 252 (children's club). Pray for the Christmas party they have planned later this month (Dec. 19).
- ✓ Pray for two evangelistically oriented Bible studies we have each week.
- ✓ Praise the Lord for two teens who desire to be baptized. Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of the parents of one of these teens - that they may come to her baptism.
- ✓ Pray for our youth group's Christmas party outreach (Dec. 21).
- ✓ Praise the Lord for good conversations at the book table and at the ambulance house. Pray that the Lord would continue to grant opportunities to speak for Him in these settings.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would give us the words, that we might boldly proclaim the Gospel in a manner worthy of such a great message.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would bring us in contact with souls He has prepared to hear the Gospel.
- ✓ 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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