


Living in Tents ...

June 2009 update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving in Italy with  CrossWorld

Imagine that everything you owned was abruptly snatched away and you were left with just the clothes on your back (which happened to be pajamas). That is what happened to tens of thousands of Italians on April 6. The earthquake that struck near L'Aquila in central Italy destroyed thousands of buildings, and left thousands more "off limits" until their structural integrity can be determined. The large majority of these homes (95%) had no insurance to cover the earthquake damage.

Some of the displaced have gone to live with family. Others have been placed in sea side hotels. But many of the displaced are living in one of 170 large "tent cities". While the earthquake has slipped out of the international news spotlight, the needs continue. They hope to have temporary homes for earthquake refugees built by the end of September, but for now, the tent cities are home.

From June 13 to 21, Scott will be travelling down to L'Aquila to volunteer at one of the two tent cities which have been entrusted to the Brethren church. It will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect God's love to those who are greatly in need. We have also heard that there is a great interest in spiritual things among those in the tent cities. Many have gratefully accepted Bibles.

We trust that the trip will also be a good testimony to those we live with here in

Domodossola. The Bible tells us that demonstrations of love are one of the things that set us as believers apart from the world.

Please pray for Scott during this time. Pray for opportunities to make manifest the love of Christ and share His Good News in word and deed. Pray for safety and that his headaches will not be a problem during this time. Pray also for Sharon and Karis during Scott's time away.

Thank you for praying for the concert that we had on April 20. About 100 people showed up for the concert (despite rainy weather and another classical concert in town). Samuel Rotman gave a beautiful concert and shared his testimony in a clear and compelling way. Pray for us as we continue to seek to follow up with those who came. As is typical, while many enjoyed the concert, and may have even been interested in what he said, they are often reluctant to discuss spiritual things. Pray for open doors.

The baptism of two teens in our youth group (both from Christian families), is still in the works (nothing happens quickly here in Italy). We are looking at a date in August or early September. We are carefully planning the date to ensure that their friends can attend, including the family we told you about in our last few letters that does not want their daughter to get baptized. Please keep praying about this situation.

June and early July are good times for outreach. Our first children's club was rained out last week - the forecast for this week looks better. Other than the week that Scott is gone, we hope to have a children's club in the park every week until mid July. We will be looking at "Heroes of the Faith".

We hope to have some open air evangelism meetings in the town square, and also take advantage of the nice weather to just stop and chat with folks around town about the Gospel. Pray that God will give us boldness as we seek to share the Gospel in this way (Eph. 6:19-20).

ITALIAN INFO

What Italian company was recently named "the world's most reputable company"?

- A) Ikea (furniture)
- B) Fiat (cars)
- C) Ferrero (chocolate)
- D) Pirelli (tires)

Answer to last letter's question:

Of the estimated 40,000 cars that double park each day in Milan, only 61 (A), on average, get tickets for the violation..

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;" - Hebrews 12:28

On July 4 we hope to have a sports day outreach in the park with the youth group. This would be similar to what we had last year when the team was here. We are praying that many of the friends we made last summer will come. Most of these teens have heard the Gospel repeatedly. Pray the God would open their eyes to the truth of the message and their need to respond to it. (II Cor. 4:3-4)

Finally, please be in prayer about a meeting place for our church. The rental contract on the place where we have been meeting (Davide & Alida's old apartment), expires at the end of June. At the moment we are not able to afford the new asking price for the apartment. We are hoping for an extension on the current contract until the end of the summer (the landlord owes us a favor anyway), and then to find a meeting room from the city to use on Sunday mornings. Please pray that the Lord would grant us wisdom and guidance as we make plans for the summer and fall.

His Servants,



Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

QUICKLY NOTED ...

- ☼ **We now have a garden!** Stop by the “PL Extras” section for pictures and to read more about it. And you will also be able to read about the “rhubarb surprise”.
- 📞 **Residency Permits!** After waiting for almost a year (two years for Sharon), we finally both have our residency permits. They expire at the end of June, so we got them just in time to start renewing them again. ☺
- € **Economic Crisis?** We praise the Lord that even in the midst of this economic crisis, our support has remained somewhat stable. We have lost some support, but gained some as well. And the stronger dollar has helped as well. More details in the “Support” section of our website.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Pray for Scott as he travels to L'Aquila in central Italy from June 13-21. Pray for safety in travel and opportunities to reflect the love of God in word and deed.
- ✓ Pray for Sharon and Karis during this time that Scott is away.
- ✓ Praise for a wonderful concert with Samuel Rotman, and pray for us as we continue to seek to follow up with those who came.
- ✓ Pray for our open air evangelism, children's club and other witnessing opportunities that take advantage of the nicer weather.
- ✓ Pray for good weather and good turnout for our sports day outreach with the youth group on July 4.
- ✓ Pray for openness on mind and understanding in the parents of the teen who wants to be baptized. We will be inviting them to observe the baptism of another teen in the coming months.
- ✓ Praise for good conversations at the book table (there are a few regulars now), and pray that these conversations might bear fruit.
- ✓ 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 (Eph. 6:18-19).
- ✓ 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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