


Blinded Minds ...

January 2010 update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving in Italy with  CrossWorld

“So, it seems to me that you are saying I am on the right track.” said my friend as we sat on the steps in front of the ambulance house. We had been talking for over an hour about spiritual things. Most of that time I had been stressing that her faith needed to be in Jesus, and not in “good things” like praying or attending mass. I explained that salvation is by grace, through faith – it is not something we must strive to earn. But all of what I said seemed to have fallen on deaf ears, or perhaps better, to have been missed by a blinded mind.

“No”, I replied, “the only right track is faith in what Jesus has already done.” But I still don’t think she got it. She did, however, make a point of asking me a few weeks later for the book I had offered to bring her from the book table.

A week or so later we had just finished the story at the kids club in the park, and it was time for the review game. They had really listened to the story and were getting the questions right one after another. I had made a big point during the story that one did not go to heaven by being “good enough”, but rather by trusting in Jesus.

“True or False”, I asked, “One must to be really good in order to be able to go to heaven.” “True” the one team quickly replied. “No, false” countered the other, “you need to be baptized and go to mass as well.” Although they had listened well, they missed that point. Perhaps I had not

been clear enough. Or perhaps their young minds had been blinded.

A lady who stopped by my book table in Villadossola told me she got messages from angels. She went on to tell me one of them said it did not matter what religion one believed in, because all religions “have God” in them. I explained that, no, Jesus is the only way.

“Oh yes,” she replied, “I believe that too.” As we went on in the discussion, she contradicted herself in similar ways several more times, and did not seem to realize that this was a problem. Was her mind simply blinded to the truth that I was sharing.

It can be easy to forget that when we witness, there are spiritual forces involved that go way beyond the words we are using. When that happens, it is easy to get discouraged or frustrated. But in 2 Corinthians 4, the same passage that explains how “the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not”, we are reminded that the “surpassing greatness of the power” in our message comes from God and not ourselves. These verses also remind us that He is the one who shines in the hearts. We can’t “un-blind” minds, but He can!

Our fall schedule was quite full of outreach events and opportunities to share the Good News with others. For lack of space, I’ll just hit a few of the highlights...

In November, three ladies from a supporting church came to help us put on a Thanksgiving dinner. There were a good number of guests who showed up. They enjoyed a traditional meal and listened to a presentation on the origins of Thanksgiving.

The ladies also helped us distribute tracts with a Scripture Calendar offer in two towns down the valley. Scott followed this up with a book table in the market for these towns for two weeks.

The youth group came up with the idea of a Christmas craft table in the market. They sold crafts that had been donated and that they had

ITALIAN INFO

What three digit telephone number do you call in Italy if you have a medical emergency?

- A) 911 B) 118
C) 999 D) 112

Answer to last letter’s question:

In 2008, 33,000 (C) illegal immigrants sailed from North Africa to the Italian island of Lampedusa.

“For God ... is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” - II Corinthians 4:6

made and donated the funds received to an evangelical orphanage in Sicily. Each person who purchased something also received a specially designed Christmas tract.

We are still without a meeting place for our church. We have had several seemingly good options fall through. For the moment we are meeting in the home of our colleagues, Davide & Alida. Seeing as they live well outside of Domodossola, this is not an ideal solution. Please continue to pray for the Lord's provision for this need.

Getting back to the concept with which I started this letter, we would appreciate your prayers for encouragement and for visible fruit. It can be hard to keep going when there is so little interest in spiritual things. It can be frustrating that the spiritual conversations we do have seem to have such a hard time "getting through", or when spiritual "progress" we have seen in someone suddenly seems to disappear. We don't want to become conditioned to "expect failure" in the work we are doing here.





Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer.

His Servants,






Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

QUICKLY NOTED ...

-  **On our Website** – New pictures, thoughts about praying for the lost (PL Extras), and eating pizza in Italy (Life in Italy). And remember to stop by the website often for updates and prayer requests.
-  **Moving?** - If you move, don't forget to let us know your new address. But perhaps more importantly, if you "move" electronically **to a new e-mail address**, make sure you get us that new address.
-  **Happy New Year!** – We wish all of you a blessed and joyful 2010 in the Lord!
-  **View our Street** – If you know how to use "Street View" in Google Maps, you can get a virtual tour of Domodossola and even see our house. In fact, much of the Ossola Valleys is now available in street view.

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Praise for some good outreaches this fall.
- ✓ Pray that the God would shine into the hearts of those who have heard the Gospel here to give the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would guide, give wisdom and unity, and provide as we look for a place where we can meet on Sunday mornings as a church.
- ✓ Praise for the hundreds of Scripture Calendars distributed in November and December.
- ✓ Pray that the Scripture Calendars which have been distributed in the Ossola Valleys will be read and understood.
- ✓ Continue to pray for the witness of two teens in our youth group to their unsaved family members.
- ✓ Pray that God may cause us to increase and abound in love for others in the church and for all. (1 Thess. 3:12).
- ✓ Pray for a great working of God in the Ossola Valleys. May He draw many people to Himself and build His church!

Direct Address:	Electronic:	Permanent Address:	Mission Address:
Via C. Ravasenga, 2 28845 Domodossola (VB) ITALY  011-39-0324-482-259	www.snsMacLean.net Skype name:	c/o MacLean 814 Little Shilo Rd. West Chester, PA 19382 	CrossWorld PO Box 306 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  610-667-7660