


# Good Fences (or walls) ...

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

“Good fences make good neighbors.” That line from the Robert Frost poem kept running through my head as I walked through the neighborhood near our house. I was “doing distribution” - dropping tracts and coupons for our book table into mailboxes. It was a gorgeous, sunny day as I walked from gate to gate, eyes scanning continually for the oft-times hidden mailboxes.

I was finishing up a little section of Domodossola that we had not gotten to when one of the teams was here. The nice thing was that it was a zone with mostly single or double houses with individual mailboxes. That meant each tract would have to be handled (and thus maybe read) by the people who lived there. With apartment buildings I have to leave the tracts in a common “publicity” box where they are more easily ignored.

But what really stuck me on this particular day were the fences and the walls. Which is why that one line of the poem kept running in circles inside my head. I suppose it goes back to medieval times and walls around castles, but all of the houses here have walls around them. And as often as not noisy dogs inside the walls, but that’s another story.

It reminds me of the walls they often build around their hearts as well, especially when it comes to spiritual things. So few have any interest in the things of the Lord. They hide

behind their walls. Not exactly content with what they have, but not willing to open themselves up to hear what we would like to tell them.

But there is a hole in every wall – the mailbox. And the Gospel tract we drop through that hole is powerful. If we didn’t believe that we’d have left Italy long ago. It has the power to penetrate the most effective defenses and bring them into a right relationship with the God of the universe. Powerful stuff that message!

As I headed back home, legs tired but heart happy, I saw a lady pull our tract out of her mailbox and start to read it. The moment of truth – what would she do with the message that she read? As I walked on I prayed that she would understand and that the power of the Good News would change her soul and her eternal destiny. Would you pray with us for those who receive these tracts?

In other news .... There’s not much new. ☺

We continue to reach out through our book table, through relationships, through youth events. We’ve had a few outreach type events for the youth so far this year (sledding and making American desserts). We have another one (bowling) planned for this weekend.

On February 13 we had a Valentine’s Banquet for the couples in the church and other friends from outside the church. It was a fun and uplifting evening for all who came.

Scott’s service at the ambulance continues to open doors to share and get to know people. For example, this past Saturday at the book table he recognized and greeted some folks he had met while on duty earlier in the week. I don’t think they would have even noticed my table if we had not already met.

Nothing new has opened up regarding a meeting place. For the time being we continue to meet in the home of our co-workers Davide & Alida. Please keep praying that the Lord would guide and provide in this area.

## ITALIAN INFO

Approximately, how many (legal) foreigners live in Italy?

- A) 1 million    B) 2 million  
C) 3 million    D) 4 million

Answer to last letter’s question:

*Here in Italy you need to dial 118 (B) if you have a medical emergency. 115 is the number for the fire dept. and 112 for the police.*

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth;” - *Romans 1:16*

We are planning and looking forward to resuming our “outdoor” evangelistic activities such as children’s clubs in the park, open air evangelism, or just sitting next to someone in the piazza on a warm day and telling them about Jesus. We will also be hosting a prospective missionary who will be visiting with the various CrossWorld ministries in June. Pray that the Lord will direct this young lady as she seeks His will regarding possible service here in Italy. May and June promise to be busy months.

Finally, we are also looking forward to our time of home ministry assignment. We hope to see many of you while we are in the US from June 29 through October 27. We’ll have more details in our next prayer letter, but in the meantime you can see our updated schedule on the “Home Ministry” page of our website.

We appreciate your continued prayers as we serve the Lord here in the Ossola Valleys.

His Servants,



Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

### *QUICKLY NOTED ...*

- 📖 **On our Website** – HMA schedule, new pictures, the “other story” (about the dogs – see “PL Extras”), and borrowed English words that don’t exist (see “Life in Italy”). And remember to stop by the website often for updates and prayer requests.
- 🚗 **Vehicle Needed** – We will need to find a good (and hopefully inexpensive) car to use for our time of home ministry. We’ll be putting at least 6,000 miles on – and that’s just the big trips! If you know of an available car we could purchase or borrow, please get in contact with us.
- € **The Lord’s Provision** – It has been a blessing to see how the Lord has provided for our financial support needs. Despite the crisis, and losing some support, God has used an unusual number of one time gifts to keep our account in good shape.

### *Prayer & Praise*

- ✓ Praise for good conversations – in the park, at the ambulance house, at the book table, in homes, etc. These conversations are the things that make our day (or our week 😊).
- ✓ Pray for a Jehovah’s Witness with whom I have been having regular conversations. I am seeking to create doubt and raise questions about what he has been taught is true, but yet does not fit well with the Bible. There are many JWs who live in our area.
- ✓ Praise for how quickly details have fallen into place for our time of home ministry.
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would guide, give wisdom and unity, and provide as we continue to look for a place where we can meet on Sunday mornings as a church.
- ✓ Pray for our “outdoor” evangelistic activities as they start up again with the warmer weather.
- ✓ Praise the Lord who provides for all our needs! (Phil. 4:19)
- ✓ Continue to pray for the witness of two teens in our youth group to their unsaved family members.
- ✓ Pray that God would open a door that we may be able to speak forth the God News of Christ. (Col. 4:3)
- ✓ 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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