


Working with People ☺ / ☹

March 2011 update on the ministry of Scott & Sharon MacLean serving in Italy with  CrossWorld

“Hi Scott. I’m afraid I can’t get together with you this afternoon. I have to go to a job in Verbania. We’ll have to meet sometime next week.” It was the second time that my friend had cancelled out on me this week. We had planned to get together to discuss some Bible reading we had been doing and encourage each other in our walk with the Lord.

“Hi Sharon. Can you tell Scott that Giuseppe (not his real name) can’t meet today for the Bible study. He is not feeling well.” Another cancellation for the same afternoon - Sigh! Suddenly my quite full afternoon was quite empty. I was able to get some administrative stuff done, which was good – but not as satisfying.

Earlier that week, on the other hand, just as I was finishing up for the day, a friend from church stopped by to chat. We talked about soccer, life in general, and about how to reach out to his unsaved family. A wonderful, unexpected moment to encourage, and be encouraged, by this relatively new believer.

There are different types of work that fill up our days here in Domodossola. Study, planning for outreaches, administrative type tasks and even outreaches such as children’s clubs in the park are all relatively easy to put on the schedule. They are important parts of the ministry that are nice, neat and for the most part controllable– and

they give a certain satisfaction.

Then there is a whole other part of ministry: working with people. That is not nearly as neat and clean, and certainly not controllable. It can wreak havoc with your schedule, not to mention your emotions. People can encourage and give great joy ☺ in the ministry, or they can disappoint, ☹ or even just disappear (well, not literally, but you know what I mean). Working with people is a greater risk – but also a much greater reward. And when you boil it all down – it’s the heart of what we are doing here in Italy.

All of the other tasks that we perform – are all aimed at bringing us into disciple making relationships with people. Making disciples of Jesus Christ is the whole reason we are here. Yes, we are church planters – but what is the church but a gathering together of disciples of Jesus.

Making disciples includes introducing unbelievers to Jesus. Presenting the bad and the good news of the Gospel; and praying that the Holy Spirit brings conviction to their hearts.

Making disciples also means walking alongside other believers and encouraging them in their walk and their witness (and letting them encourage you). It means equipping them to make disciples too – so that they can supplement and eventually replace us as disciple makers in this spiritually dark valley.

At a CrossWorld conference we attended a few years back, we were encouraged to ask the Lord to give us people on both sides of the cross (i.e. saved and unsaved) that we could disciple. It has been our joy since that time to see the Lord provide answer that prayer, bringing us into good discipling relationships. It is a blessing to spend more time working with people.

And we would ask you to pray for us as we invest our time in the ministry here. There are many good things, and many necessary things that all ask for (or demand) our time. We want to make wise choices and seek to invest the

ITALIAN INFO

What was banned in Italy as of January 1, 2011?

- A) Foil balloons B) Plastic shopping bags
C) Drop-side cribs D) Nuclear energy

Answer to last letter’s question:

Turin (A) was united Italy’s first capital in 1861. On March 17, 2011, Italy had a special holiday to celebrate 150 years of a unified Italy.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you, – *Matthew 28:19-20a (NASB)*

limited time that we have in the tasks that will give the greatest benefit. For example, I recently had to decide if I would agree to teach an “Emergency English” class again (which I decided to do). Pray that this investment of my time will bear fruit.

Pray also for our warmer weather ministries that will start up again in the coming months. As we do each summer, we are planning children’s clubs in the park, open air evangelism, and just going out and talking with people about Jesus. Pray that the seeds scattered through these ministries will find fertile soil, and that as a result we will see even more people come to be disciples of Jesus here in the Ossola Valleys.

Thanks much for your prayers. You are an important part of the work here – and we appreciate it!

His Servants,



Scott, Sharon & Karis MacLean

QUICKLY NOTED ...

- 📖 **On our Website** – In the “Life in Italy” section, I’ll talk about our “gas discount card”, and in “PL Extras” more about 150 years of unified Italy and a surprising link between an Italian hero and the American Civil War.
- 📊 **Support increase** – We are thanking God for recent increases in our pledged support. We are now at 80.2% of full support!
- ♥ **Upcoming Wedding** – Scott’s sister Heather will be getting married on July 9! Scott & Karis will be travelling back for the wedding. Congratulations Anthony & Heather!

Prayer & Praise

- ✓ Praise for the people that God has placed in our lives. It really is a joy to be able to serve God in disciple making.
- ✓ Pray that God would work in us and through us to touch the people with whom we have regular contact.
- ✓ Praise for progress on our adoption. Only one small legal hurdle remains before we can begin our year of “pre-adoptive” custody.
- ✓ Pray that an “Emergency English” class that Scott is teaching will provide opportunities to build relationships and share the Good News.
- ✓ Continue to pray for a couple with whom I am meeting to study the Bible. We will be reaching an important part of our study in the coming weeks.
- ✓ Pray for the possibility of getting a free piece of land on which to build a church building.
- ✓ Praise for continued growth in our Sunday morning attendance. We are still few in number, but the living room is getting crowded.
- ✓ Pray for wisdom as we consider what to do about crowded Sunday mornings (i.e. another place to meet).
- ✓ Praise for recent increases in our financial support!
- ✓ Pray that the Lord would cause us to increase and abound in love for one another and for all men. (1 Thessalonians 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	c/o MacLean 814 Little Shilo Rd. West Chester, PA 19382 ☎	CrossWorld 10,000 N Oak Trafficway Kansas City, MO 64155 ☎ 816-479-7300