

January 2008



Greater **E**urope Mission

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Serving in Italy

When dreams come true at last, there is life and joy.

Proverbs 13:12 TLB

Anno Nuovo

Vita Nuova
A New Year
A New Life

I learned this Italian expression recently as I was preparing a Bible study for the weekly group at Montefiascone. It was a good opportunity to talk about how God provides us with new starts, with new opportunities and dreams that can bring changes for the better.

God has been helping our church to look forward because 2007 ended with some difficult changes. Two missionary families have left the church. One family returned to work with Montefiascone's "mother church" in Monterosi. The other family, after serving for only one year in Italy, has returned to the states. This change in leadership has caused difficulties for several months. Now, as the New Year begins, I see the Italians embracing fresh ministry opportunities in this little church.

This change has also presented some new opportunities and responsibilities in my ministry role. One important task for me is to be an encouragement to Christians here in the same way that many of you have been an encouragement for me. It would take too long and be difficult for me to share all that has happened during the past year. Yet, I want you to know that your prayers, letters, gifts and calls have been an important and powerful encouragement, sustaining me through this challenging period. I thank you and want you to know that many Italians echo my gratitude to you.

Recently, one of the women in the church reminded me of Barnabas' role in the early church. He was a true encourager. Barnabas was not necessarily the most visible worker, but he supported many that spoke in front of thousands. He never was one of the twelve disciples, but he served the Lord faithfully to help God's family grow. Many Italians may never see your face, hear your voice or feel your embrace. Yet, without your support, prayers, and many acts of encouragement, the ministry here would not be same. Thank you for lifting me up so that I can reach out to the Italians here.

Making Christmas decorations for the church

Prayer Updates



For too many months, I have been asking for prayer regarding Internet availability at my home. Thank you for praying...this problem seems to be solved! My American telephone number, 714-453-9890, is working again.

In November, the High School Board of Education met and decided not to continue the program that I was involved in last year. However, the high school teacher that I worked with requested permission for me to be able to visit occasionally in her classes.

It is complicated in the Italian school system to have visitors in the classroom. Thankfully, the school director was receptive to this idea. Now I am able to visit all of the high school English classes. Last year I spent weekly time with one class of students. Now I am able to visit all 6 classes periodically. I will not be able to teach my own lessons, which I did previously, but I will have contact with many more students.

Daniela, the teacher that I work with at the local high school and I have met numerous times for tea. As Daniela and I have talked through teaching lesson plans, we have become friends. We have spent time chatting about our lives and exchanging many questions about each other's culture. To celebrate Christmas she and I went out for a nice dinner and exchanged gifts. I was able to give her a copy of Rick Warren's book The Purpose Driven Life in Italian. A notation on the book cover states that the book has been a best seller in America. Daniela seemed very pleased with the gift and she explained that she had been looking for a new book to read during the school break. This relationship has been another opportunity for me to share Christ's love and see an unexpected blessing and answer to the prayers for the work at the high school.



Dinner at my home following weekly prayer group



Pray for...

- Renewal (again!) of my Visa, "Permesso di Soggiorno"
- Building more relationships with youth at the high school
- The Rees Family as they adjust to life in the states after serving for a year in Italy
- All the new roles Italians and I will be taking on in Montefiascone church

Praise God for...

- Internet at my home
- The opportunity to work in the local high school
- Prayer group continues to meet weekly at my home
- New focus for the church as we move forward in this New Year and new life
- Great supporters!

May God bless your dreams in 2008 as we joyfully serve our Lord,

Amy Williams

P.S. Please keep praying about my Internet. My connection malfunctioned on the morning that I tried to send this letter to the printer.