



26 May, 2004

Dear Friend of Amy Williams,

I have asked Amy if I could write a letter to you to express my family's *excitement* that she will soon be joining us and our *gratitude* for your interest in her ministry. As Greater Europe Mission's Field Director in Italy, I cannot tell you how very delighted I am that God is sending Amy to put her shoulder to the wheel here. You cannot imagine the spiritual needs here.

Whole provinces (about the equivalent of a county in the U.S.) are virtually devoid of any viable Gospel presence! Italian leaders and foreign missionaries are a scarce commodity. This country is crying out for help, and we praise God that He is responding by sending us Amy who is so uniquely gifted and suited for making an impact here.

I thoroughly believe that the most spiritually open group of people in Italy is her young people. Their parents are among the millions who are turning away from the Roman Catholic Church in Italy, leaving this generation without spiritual moorings and seeking hope in everything from Tarot card readers to New Age spirit guides. They turn out in droves to learn English at our summer English camps and then weep as they share their stories of lost dreams and as they watch skits about Jesus' sacrifice for them. This is a lost generation, often neglected by the Italian protestant church, but searching for the hope that only people like Amy can offer them.

Though I am no youth worker, I myself have created and lead our Italian church's youth group through which several young people have come to know the Lord. This group has developed into a breeding ground of young church leaders who now lead worship, perform special music and skits, and teach in the youth group and in the church itself. I've also had the privilege of offering a youth ministry workshop for youth leaders all over our region and creating a website which offers training to youth workers and encouragement to young people. Doing all of this on my own on a very part-time basis, however, has shown me how desperately we need full time Christian youth workers, equippers of Italian youth leaders, and organizers of youth-focused, evangelistic English Camps.

Amy's own life-changing experience in a youth group as a teen, her background as a youth leader and discipler on the mission field in Romania, and her past organization of Romanian short-term outreach teams gives her **a wealth of experience and passion that will be of vital impact for the Lord's work in Italy.** Our Italian church and Italian mission family cannot wait for her to join us here!

I would like to personally urge you to, **first and foremost, pray for Amy.** Incredibly, 9 out of 10 missionaries in Italy quit by the end of their first 4 year term. Prayer and encouragement can keep Amy here for the long haul. **Second, she needs people who can give sacrificially** to help her enter into the work God is preparing for her here. One-time gifts are essential for her to ship her belongings, buy an inexpensive car, and set up an apartment. More than that, however, regular, faithful, prayerful giving is a necessity. *Italy needs her here just as soon as possible!* A **third** need is often forgotten. Amy needs you in her "rooting section." She may have times of discouragement while raising her support because she feels the urgency of the work here and sees how God wants to use her but is unable to be here yet. A phone call, a hug, or a smile can ease the load. Beyond encouragement, you can be in her "rooting section" by raising this need before others. **Would your church, small group, or a friend like to hear from this remarkable woman?** I know it would lift her spirits to hear you say, "I've got an idea of someone you can talk to!"

Would you please take a moment while this letter is still in your hands to ask the Father how He would have you be involved in Amy's vital ministry? Perhaps He would lead you to make a commitment to pray daily for her, to give a specific amount every month or year or to give a special gift today, or perhaps the Lord is bringing to mind a circle of friends that you could help introduce to this exciting ministry.

Frankly, we are desperate to have this wonderful woman joining our team. The need is urgent. Therefore, if you have any questions regarding the ministry awaiting Amy, I want you to feel free to contact me by phone (011-39-0761-65-0221) or e-mail (Michael@MissionePerTe.it). I would be personally grateful for whatever help you could be to them.

I am convinced that God is preparing a special work in Italy for Amy, and **I am praying that you would partner with her so that she will soon be proclaiming Jesus to Italian young people who have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel** and equipping others to share their faith as well.

Your Servant Because I'm His,

Michael A. Carlson

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