

2006 A TIME OF EXCITING CHANGES!

THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to the Lord for the hard work and love that the Gaunt family has displayed over the years in the ministry in Sicily. They have faithfully taken care of the facilities and the grounds when the school was just a dream. Tom and Peg and their children have welcomed and led many teams from the U.S. that have prepared the way for the Academy to begin. Pray for them as they transition back to the U.S., probably in July. Find out about the Fortuna family on the back page and pray for the changes taking place.

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REJOICE WITH US!

THE ACADEMY

This is a special year as we begin our two new programs. As you pray for our ministry, it is important that you understand what kind of students come to our Academy. The majority of Evangelical churches in Italy are led by lay pastors or elders, most of whom have never received any kind of formal Bible training. As you can imagine, those who are trying to manage a family, a full time job, and a church, are overworked and pushed to the limit. Our Academy is providing an incredible help to them as it is addressing many of their needs. First of all, it is giving them the training necessary to do the hard work of preparing their messages; for this reason, Expository Preaching is the core of every Program we offer. Secondly, the Academy is providing resources, through our publishing program, that will help them in their sermon preparation. And lastly, it is providing much-needed encouragement through our conferences as the participants come together and meet other men who are going through the same struggles and problems as they are. For many years, so many of these men have been isolated and alone in their small ministries.

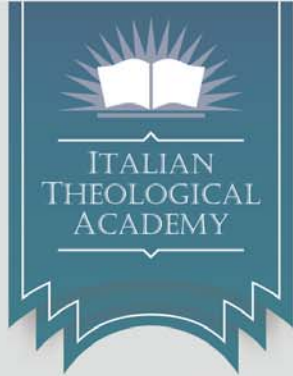


SCOLARSHIPS

Most of the men enrolled in our Academy have to take a vacation from work to participate in our classes. Many of them are from small churches that are struggling to pay their own rent and utilities for the church, and cannot also support their pastors. That is why, many times, we need to provide scholarships to make it possible for them to participate. In the picture you see three men from a small group in Villalba, near Rome. These men are working together to plant three churches. Mario, the man in the middle, has established the main church and now is working with Fabrizio and Stefano to begin two new works in towns close by. Their church paid for their airfares to make it possible for them to begin our Expository Preaching Program, and we are providing, through generous givers, the scholarships necessary for their tuition. This year we have received requests for 16 Scholarships and we are trusting God to provide the \$ 4,000.00 needed.

PUBLISHING

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, work is continuing on the translation of *The MacArthur N.T. Commentary*. Translation began in 2004; we started with the first volume of the book of Romans and were able to complete and distribute this at the Focus Conference in 2005, at which John MacArthur spoke on Romans 8!



Impacting ITALY
through Church Leaders

Presently, we are working on the second volume of Romans, and we are asking the Lord to enable us to have it ready by our conference in October. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen Bill and Maria Teresa Standridge as they oversee the translation and editing of this work.

FOCUS 2006

Preparations are in full swing for our annual conference. This year the theme is "For the Love of God Compels Us." Our main speaker will be Dr. John MacArthur. He will be preaching from Romans Chapter 10, on the subject of evangelism. As we have mentioned before, Italy is truly a hard country to minister in. Because of the power and influence of the Roman Catholic Church, Italy has been a very discouraging place for many that have worked for years and years without much fruit; one of the great dangers of this situation is the temptation to dilute the message in the hopes of making it more appealing to the unbeliever.

Another of the dangers is to seek compromise with

doctrinally unsound churches, or worse, with unbelievers, in the hope that greater numbers would have a greater impact on the lost. Our desire with our conference is to redirect all to an understanding of the sovereignty of God, and to encourage all the church leaders present to depend on God for the message, the method, and the results. Pray that the FOCUS Conference from October 3rd to the 6th will be a great blessing and challenge to all who will be present. Rev. Tom Pennington, from Countryside Bible Church, and Rev. William Standridge, a veteran missionary of 56 years of ministry in Italy, will also be our speakers. We covet your prayers for the preparation of this important conference.

CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

We look forward to continued partnership with churches here in the States that are willing to send short-term teams to help us in our efforts to complete and improve our facilities. This summer we trust God to be able to begin the work for the kitchen and laundry room.

NEXT EDITION

In our next edition we want to introduce a new section about understanding the Roman Catholic

Church. We continue to be amazed at how many believers in the United States fail to recognize the false doctrines that are taught by the Roman church. As we minister in a country where 98% of the people profess to be Roman Catholic, we need your prayers. Our desire is also that you will be challenged to reach out and share the true Gospel to those entrapped by the Roman Catholic Religion around you.



GREAT ADDITION!

Last month we

we introduced to you a new couple who will be working with us. Now God has brought to us a second couple who will be the caretakers of our facilities! Giuseppe and Viviana Fortuna are from Sicily and have been serving the Lord in different capacities in the last few years. Giuseppe has finished our Expository Preaching Program. We are confident that God is going to use him and his family as they partner with us. The Fortuna family has already moved into one of the apartments we rent while they are being trained by the Gaunts, who they will be replacing. The Gaunts have been faithfully taking care of the facilities and have assisted with all the logistics involved in maintaining the Biblical Training Center property as well as the three rental apartments. Please pray for this transition time, and for the financial support needed by the Fortunas as they come completely by faith, asking God to provide for their needs.

Pray with us:

For all our students.

For the short-term teams

that will be working with us.

For all our speakers at the

FOCUS Conference.

For the Albanesi & Fortuna

families as they work with

us and raise their support.