

Impacting ITALY
through Church Leaders

ITA News update

Vol. II - Issue 2 - April 2007

More than a tag line!

Impacting Italy through Church Leaders

Our desire is to impact the evangelical churches in Italy through the training of their leadership. We continue to be humbled and amazed by what God is doing through the Italian Theological Academy. At this time we have sixty-seven students that represent twenty-two churches and live in thirty-four cities. It is an incredible blessing to know that so many different churches are being impacted by our students.

ARE YOU BLESSED?

EXPOSITORY PREACHING CLASS

In February, we had our new group of students begin the two year Expository Preaching Program.

Twelve students from as far north as Vicenza and Milan came to our class taught by Pastor Steve Kreloff from Lakeside Community Chapel in Clearwater, Florida. What an encouragement to see mature men, some have been in the ministry for many years, willing to learn how to explain in a clearer way the Word of God to their churches. This was truly an international class with a man from Africa, one from Switzerland, one born in Korea, one Italian-American, and the rest all Italians. All of them are serving in different churches throughout Italy.

We don't usually hear from the churches very quickly but we received an email about one of our students, infact the missionary that sent us Samuel, the African born pastor, wrote this: "I just wanted to let you know that we sent our 1st leader to the Italian Theological Academy's Expository Preaching Program . . . The feedback I am getting is glorious . . . I want to thank you for the vision, courage and care for the Lord's body to take such a lofty and much needed undertaking . . . It is our plan for all potential elders and pastors to go through this training prior to ordination . . . more of our leaders are coming!"

Are you blessed? We are!

FROM OUR STUDENTS

A few months ago Giacomo, one of our students from the city of Mantova wrote us asking permission to begin a class in his church to teach expository preaching to ten men. He felt that this would be a great preparation to encourage these men to come to ITA. We were encouraged to see that the members of his church have seen an improvement in his preaching and want to learn what he learned at ITA. Last week he wrote to us that another church from another city, Modena, has asked him to go to their church and teach them. He sent us the syllabus he has prepared for us to review before he starts teaching there.

Are you blessed? We are!

Mario, a pastor of a church of about sixty people has finished the first year of our expository preaching program. He is participating in our course with two young men from his church that he is mentoring. Together with these two men they are starting two new church plants in two different neighboring cities. He wrote us a note to encourage us because he says his church is really appreciating the results of the studies he is doing with ITA, as his preaching has improved and the two men are also growing in the Lord and in their ministry.

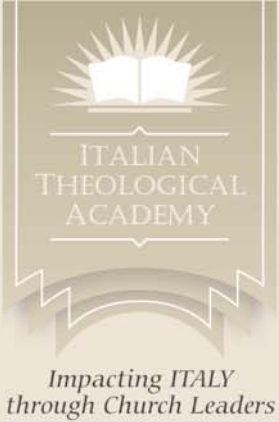
Mario, Stefano, and Fabrizio are able to come to ITA because of the scholarships they have received. We are so thankful for all those that give generously to our scholarship fund. Your gift of \$250.00 allows one of these men to come and participate for a whole week of classes. Your gifts and prayer support are vital for our students!

Are you blessed? We are!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Expository Preaching impacts churches
- Update on Construction
- Come to Italy with us!





OTHER PROGRAMS

We look forward to our other classes. New students are inquiring the possibility of joining our Systematic Theology Program. We look forward to this class taught by Phil Johnson.

Our Bible Survey Program is full as we look forward to our twenty-three students returning for one week of study with Dr. Grisanti from The Masters' Seminary in CA.

We expect to have a full class for our new Biblical Counseling Program that will begin at the end of August. Pray for the new students that will be beginning this three year program.

Are you blessed? We are!

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

We are so grateful to the Lord and to faithful donors for the four units we now have in place. We have already ordered by

faith a new unit that should be delivered by May and should be ready to house students for our large classes in August. We are trusting God to provide the \$33,000.00 needed for that unit. We are also asking God to provide the remaining two units needed to finish this phase of our building program and trusting God to provide the additional \$66,000.00 needed for them.

Housing the students on campus has greatly improved the ability for the students to interact with each other and the staff. It also allows them to be rested and ready for the eight hours of actual classes each day.

PUBLISHING

Everything is in place to have the Italian MacArthur Study Bible ready for our FOCUS conference in October. Our goal is to be able to have the presentation of the Bible during our conference and give one free copy to every participant.

We also look forward to being able to give the books *Safe in the Arms of God* by John MacArthur and *Famine in the Land* by Steve Lawson to all the participants. Through a generous gift we were able to reprint an evangelistic tract in Italian by John MacArthur, *The Glory of Heaven*. We still need to raise about \$8,000.00 to complete the project.

Are you blessed? We are!

ITALY TOUR 2007

Included with your newsletter is a brochure of the tour we are planning around our FOCUS Conference.

You don't want to miss it!

You will be able to see first hand what the Lord is doing in Italy and participate in the events you have been praying for. You will be part of the historic event of the presentation of the Italian MacArthur Study Bible.

You will be able to interact with the men you have been praying for and share in the enthusiasm of the ministry of the Italian Theological Academy.

Are you blessed? Well, plan to be there with us and you will be!



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MARY?

As one witnesses to Roman Catholics in Italy, one of the first questions is how we relate to Mary. As you enter the Catholic churches it becomes very obvious that Mary has a very prominent status.

Here are some of the official teachings of the RCC on Mary:

- ...Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her... May she be there as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise. CCC2677
- In a wholly singular way she (Mary) cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in order of grace. CCC 968
- Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix. CCC 969

The Bible teaches:

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

"And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1

May the Lord give you wisdom as you witness to Roman Catholics lovingly show them how Christ is the only mediator and Savior.

We are blessed by what the Lord is doing in Italy and we want you to know that we are grateful to Him for your desire to partner with us!
