



2005 was truly a great year **FIRST CLASS GRADUATES!**

In September our first group of men completed our Expository Preaching Program. It was truly a dream come true! William Standridge, veteran missionary of over 55 years of ministry, preached a challenging message to those present. Then our Executive Director, Joe Aleppo, with tears in his eyes, distributed the certificates. These men had participated in our two year program under the teaching of Dan Dumas, Carey Hardy, and Rick Holland. We look forward to the impact they will have in the eight churches they represent.

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REJOICE WITH US!

FOCUS CONFERENCE

Every year, the Italian Theological Academy organizes a special conference. This past October, we were blessed to have over 125 men and their wives participate in the Focus Conference at Chianciano. Our subject was "Vivere Cristo" - "Live Christ". Our speakers were Carey Hardy and Larry McCall. Carey, one of the pastors of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA, brought his pastoral expertise in counseling, and spoke on the importance of living Christ in the family and how to develop Christian families in the church. Larry, pastor of Christ Covenant Church in Warsaw, IN, spoke on humility in ministry. Through his deep messages, he challenged all the participants to imitate Christ in their ministries and in the way they live out their lives. The conference was held in a beautiful hotel, surrounded by the rolling hills of the Toscana Region. It was a great time of fellowship for those present, many of whom minister alone in small towns, often far away from the nearest church or missionary. (There are 30,000 towns and cities in Italy without any kind of Christian witness.)



PUBLISHING

At our FOCUS CONFERENCE we were able to give all participants the latest book we have published. *Christian Living in the Home*, by Dr. Jay E. Adams, will be a great blessing to all who received it. Every year we try to publish one or more books that will challenge and prepare the leaders of the Italian churches in their daily ministry. In partnership with another publishing house we were also able to distribute *Keys to Spiritual Growth*, by Dr. John MacArthur.

THE ACADEMY

From the various churches represented by the first twelve graduates of the Expository Preaching Program, we have already received encouraging comments on the great improvement in the preaching of these men. One of the great weaknesses of the Italian Church has been the lack of teaching. Most churches have never been exposed to expository preaching and most members of the churches cannot imagine listening to preaching on the same book for more than a couple of Sundays in a row, let alone to a message that lasts more than 20 minutes! We believe that if Italy is to finally experience the Reformation that never reached them 500 years ago, it will happen only through sound teaching by godly men who teach, verse by verse, the various books of the Bible.



One of the greatest moments with the first graduating class was when one of the students, with tears in his eyes, asked to say something. After telling all those present that the classes had profoundly changed his view of Scripture and of preaching, he pulled out his notes from all of his previous sermons and ripped them up in pieces. He then went on to say that although in the past he had done his best, he wanted to begin afresh with a new view of God and preaching. By God's grace we are praying for this same impact on all of the men in the program. Six new students started the course in 2005. These men represent five different churches spread out in all of Italy.

2006 UPDATE

We are amazed at what the Lord is already doing this year! The Academy has added two new programs: Bible Survey, taught by Dr. Michael Grisanti, and Systematic Theology, taught by Phil Johnson. All of our programs are offered in one-week modules, since most of the

men enrolled have secular jobs and must use their vacations to participate in the Academy. Most of the churches in Italy are led by lay elders who have to juggle the responsibilities of family, church, and work. They are truly an example of dedicated servants, in the midst of many challenges and difficulties. At this time we have already begun our new Expository Preaching Program, with 17 new students enrolled. We also have 14 new students in the Systematic Theology Course and 13 in the Bible Survey Course. God is blessing beyond our expectations! Pray that God will continue to challenge the men enrolled, as they study to improve their ministries.

CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

We are completing the remodeling of the apartment for the visiting professors. Our hope is to also prepare the new kitchen and new laundry area. At this time we are using rented apartments for the student housing, but we hope to be able to purchase and place a few prefabs on site. The ability of the students to stay on the premises will greatly improve their study time.

NEW BOOKS

One of our goals is to produce study materials that the men can use in their sermon preparation. The translation of the Romans 9-16 volume of *The*

MacArthur N.T. Commentary is in its final editing stage and should be ready in time for our FOCUS CONFERENCE with Dr. John MacArthur next October. Also we look forward with anticipation to the publishing of *The MacArthur Study Bible* in September of 2007.



GREAT ADDITION!

God has blessed us with a new Italian couple. Marco and Simona

Albanesi have been approved by the elders of the Evangelical Christian Church in Rome to come as missionaries at our Academy in Sicily.

For many years, Marco was an elder in our partner church in Rome. For the past four years he has worked as the assistant director at an evangelical camp and conference center where Simona was the cook.

Marco will be the Italian administrator for all the activities organized by our academy and Simona will be our cook. They will both also be great additions to our church plant in Acireale.

Please pray as they raise their needed support and plan to move to Sicily in July.

Pray with us:

For our 44 new students.

For funds to purchase new prefabs for student housing.

For Dr. MacArthur and our conference in October.

For all of our professors as they prepare and travel.
