



Impacting ITALY
through Church Leaders

ITA News update

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What does God have to do with earthquakes?

Prepared for God's open doors!

On April 6, 2009 the city of L'Aquila and many surrounding cities were hit with a major earthquake. 293 people died and over 1,500 were injured. 47% of all buildings are damaged, leaving over 70,000 people without a place to live in.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

BELIEVERS ARE THERE!

William Standridge, Aurora missionary and pastor of an evangelical church in Rome is already at work.

The church in Rome for years has supported a work in the city of L'Aquila. Giorgio de Angelis accepted Christ under the ministry of William Standridge and after being trained in the church and serving there for a few years was sent as a missionary to start a church in the city that today is the center of the devastation of the earthquake. Over the years the little church there has grown to around twenty five people.

L'Aquila has always been a very hard place for the Gospel. It is known both for being very religious (over 100 Catholic churches are there), and also very academic with one of the major universities in Italy

being located there.

Praise God none of the believers have died, but most have lost their homes and are living in tents. Johnny Gravino, another Aurora missionary, has been there helping many by providing shelter and a place to eat meals.

As can be imagined there is a great opportunity to help fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and also to evangelize those that during times like this are more open to listen to the Gospel.

AURORA IS PREPARING EVANGELISTIC MATERIAL

William Standridge had already written an evangelistic booklet entitled "What does God have to do with earthquakes?" As one can imagine this is a

very pointed and clear presentation of the Gospel. By faith Aurora has decided to publish 5,000 copies to be distributed to those affected by this event. This book is used also by many other believers in other parts of Italy to share the Gospel during a time when there might be a greater openness to listen.



MANY HAVE CALLED AND WRITTEN

We are so grateful for so many who have written, concerned for our ministry and our missionaries. By God's grace all are safe. Many have asked how they can help both in prayer and financially.

There is no doubt that **prayer is the most important thing.** Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the right persons as materials are distributed and the Gospel message is preached. The church there has been given a tent and a special area where they can hold their services. One of our students had his unsaved cousin die under the rubble and has been able to witness to his unsaved relatives and friends.

We need to raise about \$2,000 for the materials we have published and we plan to provide more as needed. Most of the believers have lost their jobs and much of their belongings. Aurora plans to collect money and to provide for the needs through our missionaries there. If you would like to make a donation you can send a check to Aurora for the publishing of materials and earthquake ministry.

David Standridge plans to visit the believers there and will be available for more specific needs updates. He can be reached at:

dstandridge@auroramission.org

We know that we depend on a sovereign God that has everything under His wise control. All we need to do is serve Him faithfully!

