



Impacting ITALY
through Church Leaders

ITA News update

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Praise God for His faithfulness in 2008

You should have been there!

Two hundred men and women participated in October at our largest ever Intensive Training FOCUS Conference. The second evening we had a prayer meeting where in turn we had church leaders and missionaries of the different regions stand up to pray for each other. Italy has 20 regions and we had people from 19 regions present! What a privilege to Impact the whole country!

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

THE ACADEMY GROWS

Every year we are humbled and amazed with God's faithful provision. God continues to bring new students and continues to provide for the necessary funds for staff travel and the upkeep of our facilities.

In 2008 we had eight classes. Our year always begins with a new group of Expository Preaching students. Pastor Kreloff does a great job introducing these students to the subject as they begin the two year program. These students will come twice during the year to learn how to prepare and deliver their sermons. It is always exciting to see them come in and by the end of the course have a greater understanding of the importance of being faithful to God and therefore to the Biblical text.

these students who over the course of these years have studied diligently, done their homework, and participated in our classes.

In June we began a new course in Church History. During this two year program each student will study the history of the church from Pentecost to the Reformation.

Every course we begin brings new excitement and new students eager to improve their ability to teach the Word of God.

As we look back at the year 2008 we are grateful for eight different professors that took the time to train these faithful Italian men and women.

For 2009 we have exciting news! Three new classes are starting. One course in **Bible Backgrounds** will help the students have a better grasp of the cultural, historical and geographic setting of the Word of God. The Word of God needs to be first of all understood as it was declared in a certain time to specific people, in a certain place, and for a specific reason. **Expository Teaching** for both men and women will be starting in August. This one week course will prepare them to teach Bible studies and Sunday School. And finally, a course in **Theological English** will begin in June. We are excited that it will be taught by Johnny Gravino. Johnny and his family have now returned to Italy. After a few months with their sending church in Rome they will join us in Sicily where Johnny will take over the responsibility in our Academy and minister in our small Church plant in Acireale.

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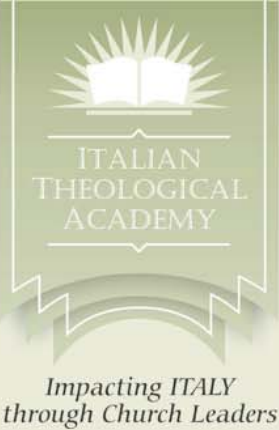
- New exciting programs in 2009
- FOCUS 2009
- Want to come?



In May seven students completed the three year course in Systematic Theology taught by Phil Johnson, Executive Director of Grace to You. In August, 15 students finished the three year program in Bible Survey. What an achievement for

THE PUBLISHING MINISTRY

One of the reasons we are starting a course in theological English is because of the lack of good books in Italian. On our part we believe in the



importance of continuing to publish new books. We are blessed by our ongoing relationship with John MacArthur. Last year we published the third book of the *New Testament Commentary* by John MacArthur. Our prayer is that the commentary on *Titus* will provide the necessary teachings to the pastors as they establish godly leaders. This year we began working on *1 Timothy*, another commentary crucial for the stability of the local church and for the development of faithful leaders. Our goal is to publish the whole series of commentaries. We have begun this work by faith as we depend on the gifts of God's people to provide the funds for this ministry. **What an opportunity for a church or a family** to undertake the cost for the translating and publishing of a book! Please contact us if you would like to donate towards *1 Timothy* or more books of the series.

By God's grace this year we will publish a very important book by author Jerry Bridges: *Is God Really in Control*. During these unstable times a book that reminds us of God's loving sovereign control is going to be of great help to the Italian believers.

We also look forward to publishing *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever.

10 YEARS OF FOCUS

By God's grace in October we will have our 10th FOCUS

Conference. This year our speakers are John MacArthur, Steve Lawson, Tom Pennington, and William Standridge. The subject for this conference is "*Sola Gratia and Sola Fide*". In 2007 we had a marvelous conference on "*Sola Scriptura*" where the preeminence and the power of the Word of God were preached.

In a country where the reformation never took place and where the Roman Catholic Church has a dominant position, we believe that this kind of teaching will help the Italian pastors and their wives to remain faithful to the Bible and to the pure Gospel. These are precious truths for those that are true believers. During the Reformation many believers died proclaiming that salvation is only by grace through faith and we need to preach these truths with clarity and courage.

CAN YOU HELP?

Every year many of our students and conference participants desire to participate but do not have the money. Most of our students are serving full time in small churches and working at least part-time to cover their expenses. They take their vacations and they come faithfully, but they need a scholarship. A scholarship for one of our courses is only \$300.00 and for our FOCUS Conference is \$150.00. **We try to never to turn anyone away**, but we need your prayers and financial help.

CONSTRUCTION

This year we have made a hard decision! We will not begin any new projects until we have the funds to cover the cost for them. We need a new kitchen as right now we cook in a space that is only 8x12. Many times we cook for 50 people! We are also in need of a dining room.

Pray and ask God to touch some hearts, as we begin to plan for these new projects, to provide the necessary funds.

**We serve a loving
GOD that has
commanded us to
spread the Gospel
to all nations.**

**What is God asking
you to do in 2009?**

Pray?

Come?

Give?



WANT TO SEE WHAT WE ARE DOING?

We would love for you to come and visit us during one of our classes or during our FOCUS Conference!

You will need to cover your costs, but we will be glad to help you! We are not a travel agency so you will have to make the necessary arrangements, but feel free to let us know if you have a desire to come and visit with us.

Coming to one of our events will change the way you understand our ministry and will increase your passion for Missions!

We have classes almost every month from February to November. Our FOCUS conference is in Chianciano (North of Rome) October 5-9.

For more information contact us at: dstandridge@auroramisson.org