

We couldn't wait to tell you!

## PRAISE GOD!

God has been doing wonderful things at the Italian Theological Academy in the past few months. We are so grateful to God for His provision and help. In February the living quarters for our professor was completed. In April we had our first class in Systematic Theology with 12 students. In May and June three prefabs were brought and placed on the grounds. In June a Short Term Team from the United States prepared the cement slab for the laundry area.

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### REJOICE WITH US!

#### THE ACADEMY

On April 24th we started the new Systematic Theology Program. This program is comprised of a one week class each year for three years.

God provided us a great professor Phil Johnson who is the Executive Director of Grace to You. On Monday morning 12 excited students were ready for classes to begin. Phil did a masterful job in teaching a course that was profound, but at the same time very clear. This year Theology Proper and Bibliology were the subjects studied. Every day classes start with expository preaching from the Word of God. Phil began a series on the book of Galatians through which he will be preaching for all three years. Many of the students expressed with gratefulness the joy they had in understanding areas of theology that had never been clear to them before. We know this program is of incredible value to these men to be able to understand correctly the Word of God and to protect them from mistakes when they teach in their churches. Men from eight different churches in different parts of Italy participated. We received a letter from an elder of one of their churches expressing gratitude for the way these classes impacted the men that participated.

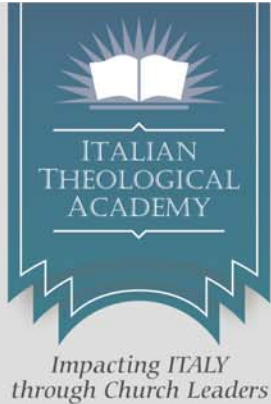


#### CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

We were able to use for the April class the remodeled quarters for the visiting professor. Having a place for the professor to stay allows him to interact more fully with the students. We are so grateful for all those who have given generously towards this project. PRAISE GOD three new prefabs are on the grounds now! In the past few weeks the first three student lodging duplexes have been put in place. We hope God will provide the funds for four more by summer 2007. We are encouraged to see how things are progressing in our facilities. The dorms are strategic for the ability of the students to use their time more profitably when they are studying with us. The weeks of study are very intense with classes starting at 9 am and ending 9 or 10 pm.

#### SHORT TERM TEAMS

Short Term teams are strategic in our ability to do much of the needed work at our Academy. We are so grateful for Harbor Shores Church in Noblesville, IN that did all the work and provided the funds for the cement slabs where we are placing the dorms. God has used greatly Christ Covenant Church from Warsaw, IN with their teams in improving our facilities, including the cement slab for the laundry. We count it a blessing to work with teams and know that God has used their time in Italy to bless and challenge them in their understanding of mission work in Italy.



## ITA STAFF

### **Fortuna family**

We are grateful to the Lord for the smooth transition between the Fortuna family and the Gaunts. Peppe has been doing a great job and along with his father, has been able to do all the hook ups for the new septic tanks. Since we did not have to hire someone else to do it, this has saved us a lot of money.

### **Albanesi family**

Marco and Simona are packing all their belongings as they plan to move to Acireale in July. Marco is already keeping in contact with all the students and helping with some of the planning for the housing and transportation.

## BIBLE SURVEY PROGRAM

We look forward to the last week in July when we will begin our Bible Survey Program. Dr. Grisanti from the Master's Seminary will be teaching. His syllabus is being translated in Italian and our 24 students are excited to be taught by him. We look forward to having Johnny Gravino also with us to translate some of the sessions. Johnny is an Italian believer from a church in Rome that has finished his second year at The Master's Seminary. Johnny and his family plan to work in Italy with us after he finishes his seminary education. Johnny will be instrumental, God willing, in helping us develop the Academy when he arrives in Italy. Please pray for Dr. Grisanti, Johnny and all our staff as we prepare for this very important class.

## OUR STUDENTS

We continue to receive great reports from the churches as our students are having a great impact in their preaching. At this time we have 56 students enrolled in our classes. Please continue to pray as our students use the material they receive in class in their ongoing ministries in their churches.

## FOCUS 2006

Continue to pray for Dr. John MacArthur, pastor Tom Pennington and Bill Standridge as they prepare for the conference. The commentary on Romans chapters 9-16 is in the final stages of preparation for printing; pray that all goes well and that it will be ready in time to be distributed at the conference. Pray that many will come to the conference and be challenged in their ministry to be faithful in witnessing and preaching the Word of God.

## Pray with us:

**For our 56 students.**

**For four more prefabs needed to complete phase 1.**

**For the financial support of the Fortuna and Albanesi families.**

**For all our speakers at the FOCUS Conference.**



## OUR AUTHORITY!

**O**ur emphasis at ITA is the authority of the Word of God. As mentioned in our last news

letter we want to highlight some of the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church so you can better understand the environment our Students are working in. One of the greatest differences between the RCC and what we believe is our source of authority. According to the RCC Catechism there are 3 equal authorities. They officially affirm:

*The sole church of Christ (is that) which our Savior, after his resurrection entrusted to Peter's pastoral care, commissioning him and the other apostles to extend and rule it... this church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in the catholic church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him (CCC816). It is clear therefore that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture, and the magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in their own way, under the action of the Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls. (CCC95). For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power he can always exercise unhindered (CCC882).*

As you witness to Roman Catholics it is very important that you clarify where your authority comes from and that God expects us to use only His Word as the basis for all we believe. As you understand what the RCC believes it becomes more clear why the ITA is strategic for the training of the Italian pastors. Pray for them as they minister in a hard country!

