



Impacting ITALY
through Church Leaders

ITA News update

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Amazed by what the Lord is doing

New milestones in our ministry

The children of Israel used to build altars to remember the great works that God had done in their lives. As twenty-first century believers we do not build altars any more, we still need to purpose to remember the great works that God is doing in our lives and ministry. Remembering God's work promotes in the believer reverence and gratitude. We are surrounded by God's grace!

OUR PROGRAMS

OVER 100 STUDENTS

When our Academy began in 2004 with twelve students we knew that it was the Lord's leading.

God had given Joe and Georgia Aleppo the vision for a center for the training of church leaders in Italy. God provided the place in Acireale and the facilities necessary. After several years of housing the students in off-campus apartments, God provided through the generous donations of faithful prayer partners six prefabricated units where students can be welcomed and housed during the classes.

God has been faithful! We began with two classes in 2004 and now we have eleven classes. **From the twelve students in the first year, we have grown to 100 students now enrolled in our Academy.**

rificially come to Sicily to exemplify their love for the Lord and teach the classes. We look forward to three weeks of classes in the month of August with every day beginning with a message from the Word of God. We continue to encourage the students not to pursue information in class but to pursue God. We are truly humbled by what the Lord is doing in the lives of the students and grateful to God for his continuous work in their lives.

NEW DIRECTOR

It has been our long-time desire to have a resident professor and director for our Academy. **God has provided through Johnny Gravino the right person.** After living in Rome and serving in the Evangelical Christian Church "Berea" Johnny felt called to full-time missionary work. Following the advice of godly men he pursued an education at The Master's Seminary and God directed him to join Aurora to serve at the Italian Theological Academy.

God provided the funds necessary for his family's support and in January Johnny, Alexandra and their two children returned to Rome for six months to get immersed in the Italian culture and minister in the "Berea" church.

Then in July Johnny Gravino and his family moved to Acireale to begin their work at the Academy and in the church plant there.

Johnny will be a great asset for the ministry as he will be able to develop more courses and to follow the students as they minister in their churches in Italy.

THE CHURCH IN ACIREALE

Our desire is to see established in the city of Acireale, where our Academy is located, a local church that can serve as a light in a needy city and a model of ministry for our students.

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- God provides resident director
- 10th FOCUS Conference



Our desire continues to be to train men and women who will impact churches all over Italy through their increased love and respect for the Word of God. Over the years pastors from different churches and professors from seminaries have sac-



God continues to bless this effort as we see new people come and listen to the regular exposition of the Word of God.

We are grateful for our four missionary couples that work together in reaching this area with the Gospel.

10TH FOCUS CONFERENCE

We can't believe we will be having our **10th conference!** God has been so good as thousands have participated at our annual conference.

In the beautiful Tuscan region, in the city of Chianciano, from October 5-9, we will be blessed by the preaching of Dr. John MacArthur, Dr. Steve Lawson, Dr. Tom Pennington and senior missionary William Standridge.

For many in Italy our conference has become an appointment they cannot miss. The beautiful setting and the great food and accommodations are the least important things as men and women come to hear the Word of God preached with clarity and depth.

Last year, participants from nineteen of the twenty regions of Italy were present and were encouraged to continue to be God-centered in their ministry.

Your prayers and financial support allow us to finance this vital conference for the expansion of God's work in Italy. We welcome any one of you to come and participate as all the sessions will be in English or translated into English.

DEAR BROTHERS

We received this letter from a pastor...

I thank the Lord for the vision that he has put in your hearts for Italy. Since the beginning, in the year 2000, I received the benefits of the expository preaching ministry of many brothers that have come from the USA. Since then my ministry has received great benefits. I was able to participate in many FOCUS conferences and also participate in two classes of the Italian Theological Academy, Expository preaching and Church History. I cannot begin to tell you with words the influence that these courses have had in my life, but I can assure you that they have formed me theologically and biblically and have had a positive impact in the church that I lead.

We want to thank Aurora and our brothers in America for the scholarships we have received.

We thank you for what you have done and you will continue to do for the benefit of our church.

Another letter from a longtime missionary...

We are looking forward to October and the FOCUS conference. Many of our folks are looking forward to taking advantage of this opportunity to sit under the ministry of faithful men of God.

This year many of our folks began using the MacArthur Study Bible and have found it a great tool in their spiritual growth. We just want to say thank you, to you and all your staff for all you do to further the Gospel in this dear country.

May God continue to richly bless you and keep you.

PUBLISHING

Through your generous donations we were able to provide the booklets to be distributed in L'Aquila and continue to trust God to bring results.

At this time we are producing three books to be distributed at the FOCUS Conference: the commentary of *1 Timothy* by John MacArthur, *Is God Really in Control* by Jerry Bridges, and *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever.

**“I will praise thee,
O LORD,
with my whole heart;
I will shew forth
all thy marvellous
works.”**

Psalm 9:1



WE NEED YOU!

With the continuous growth a new need has arisen that requires both your prayers and financial support.

The Aurora Board has approved the construction of a dining room and a kitchen to provide the meals for our growing number of students and staff. The temporary facilities we have been using up to this point are now insufficient for the increasing needs and growth of our Academy.

The cost for the construction and furnishing of both the dining room and kitchen is going to be \$151,137. The new facilities will allow us to cook for and seat comfortably about 70 people. We are excited that the Lord has already provided about \$62,000 toward the goal. We realize that these are trying times financially for many and we assure you that we have made our plans in the most efficient way possible.

We ask you to prayerfully consider what the Lord would guide you to do.